



FACE position on bow hunting

Recognising that hunting with bow and arrow has a long and uninterrupted place in human culture and history;

Acknowledging that the EU Habitats Directive¹, the EU Birds Directive² and the Bern Convention³ do not prevent European countries from allowing the use of hunting with a bow and arrow and that this hunting method is explicitly recognised by the Council of Europe's Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity;

Further acknowledging that a growing number of hunters are taking up bow hunting and that more European countries are introducing hunting with bow and arrow;

Understanding that using a bow restricts hunters to a much shorter distance to game/quarry, which creates a challenging approach where natural elements often play a bigger role;

Further understanding that the attributes of bow hunting can recruit new hunters that would otherwise decide not to join the hunting community;

Recognising that bow hunting is a sustainable form of hunting, which contributes to wildlife management, including the prevention of game damages and animal diseases, especially in (sub)urban areas, where bow hunting can form another safe alternative method to manage species;

Acknowledging that a hunter with training and proper equipment can place a hunting arrow with sufficient energy and penetration for a lethal shot;

Taking into account the evidence, which shows that bow hunting meets animal welfare standards while noting that further research would be welcome on the safety dimensions of bow hunting (e.g. ricochet possibilities);

FACE and its Members, at its General Assembly on 7 September 2020, agree:

- That bow hunting is complementary to hunting with a firearm with its own benefits and characteristics that comply with the respective game/quarry species;
- To invite national or regional authorities to introduce legal frameworks to allow and promote bow hunting if proposed by the hunting community;
- To promote bow hunting on the European and international level, where relevant.

Adopted by the FACE General Assembly on 7 September 2020

¹ Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ([link](#)), more specifically Annex VI of that Directive.

² Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, more specifically Annex IV of that Directive.

³ Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats ([link](#)), specifically Appendix IV of that Convention.