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To: 
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***FACE meets Environment Commissioner Sinkevičius
on the Birds Directive***



Brussels, 9 September 2020 - Today, the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) had a productive meeting with the Environment Commissioner, **Virginijus Sinkevičius** where a range of issues linked to regional hunting, Turtle Dove and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) were discussed.

FACE President, **Torbjörn Larsson** together with **FACE staff**, delegates from the **French National Hunters' Federation**, the **Royal Spanish Hunting Federation** and the **Italian Hunting Federation** participated.

At the outset of the meeting, FACE reaffirmed its commitment to help promote implementation of the **Birds Directive** and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. FACE also highlighted the need to recognise hunters' contribution to habitat conservation, and the cultural significance of regional hunting practices to many rural areas in Europe.

On the **Turtle Dove**, both referred to the relevance of the international action plan and the work of the European Commission on adaptive harvest

management, launched earlier this year.

Commissioner Sinkevičius underlined that even if land use change is a key factor for the decline of the Turtle Dove in Europe, hunting should only continue if its sustainability can be ensured. In this context, FACE highlighted the progress being made to implement conservation measures at national level, ensuring that harvest is sustainable and that interest is maintained in the species.

Referring to moratoriums, **Dr David Scallan**, FACE Secretary General stated: *"We have seen moratoriums on huntable species resulting in them falling off the list of conservation priorities, and declines persisting. The opportunity for conservation success for the Turtle Dove should not be lost in this way".*

Both FACE and Commissioner Sinkevičius, agreed on the need for greater coherence between the nature directives and the CAP. In light of this, FACE clarified that its Members are active in calling for effective agri-environmental measures to promote the recovery of small game populations including Turtle Dove.

Both FACE and Commissioner Sinkevičius agreed on the need for greater dialogue on sustainable hunting and good cooperation moving forward.

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We ensure hunting remains good for hunters, society and nature.

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FACE is the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation. Established in 1977, FACE represents the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters as an international non-profitmaking nongovernmental organisation. FACE is made up of national hunters' associations from 37 European countries including the EU28. FACE is supported by 7 associate members and is based in Brussels. FACE upholds the principle of sustainable use and has been a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1987. FACE works with its partners on a range of hunting-related matters from international conservation agreements to local implementation issues with the aim of sustaining hunting across Europe.



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