

European hunters call
for value of country
sports to be recognised
in new relationship
between the EU and UK



FACE – Federation of Associations for Hunting
and Conservation of the EU

Rue Belliard 205, 1040 Brussels – Belgium

T: +32 (0)2 732 6900

F: +32 (0)2 732 7072

E-Mail: info@face.eu



www.face.eu





Those who hunt, fish, and shoot play a vital role in conservation, contribute to the economic and social life of countries across Europe, and are an important part of the cultural heritage of communities and landscapes across the UK and the continent. People who take part in shooting and hunting, and share this boundless passion, benefit from mutually beneficial trade and travel opportunities between the UK and the EU and it is vital that these are able to continue and develop post Brexit.

In the UK alone shooting is worth £2 billion to the economy and supports the equivalent of 74,000 full time jobs. The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) estimates that hunting is worth 16 billion Euros to the European economy as Europe's 7 million hunters spend this amount annually on licences, leases, firearms, ammunition, equipment and travel. Their contribution also extends to society and to the conservation of nature with direct involvement in managing 65 % of the EU's territory, with activities related to habitat enhancement, reducing wildlife conflict and damage and monitoring, all of which support rural communities¹.

FACE and its UK members call for a new relationship between the UK and EU that recognises the high importance of country sports contributing to sustainability goals, and specific policies to protect trade and travel opportunities for hunters across Europe. These include:

- **The ability for hunters to travel from the UK to EU Member states, and from Member states to the UK, without any additional bureaucracy or costs.**

People who hunt, fish, and shoot currently benefit from visa-free travel opportunities between the EU and UK, and these should be continued and developed as part of any new relationship between the UK and EU. Hunting tourism is an important economic contributor in many rural communities across Europe, as well as allowing hunters to share knowledge and best practice, and enjoy new experiences.

- **Arrangements for the easy movement of shotguns and rifles.**

This should include the retention and recognition of the EU Firearms Pass (EFP) enabling EU citizens to travel to the UK and UK citizens to travel to EU Member states.

- **Frictionless and free trade with the EU in firearms, component parts and ammunition; and in game meat and gamebirds.**

Trade between the UK and EU is currently free from tariffs or customs checks which have allowed a strong and mutually beneficial trading relationship to develop in a number of important areas. The majority of firearms that are used in the UK are imported from countries within the EU, and Europe is an important export market for UK game meat.

- **Arrangements for the easy movement of working animals, such as dogs, ferrets and horses.**

This should include the retention and recognition of the EU pet travel scheme between the UK and EU states and the option to retain EU horse passports.

Ludwig Willnegger, Secretary General of FACE said: "Europe's 7 million hunters play a vital role in the management and conservation of Europe's natural environment; and contribute to the economic and social well-being of communities across Europe. The new relationship between the EU and UK needs to recognise the importance of hunting and avoid any restrictions which would damage this important sector."

Christopher Graffius, Chairman of FACE UK, said: "Whilst Britain has taken the historic decision to leave the European Union it is very important that the rights of those who shoot, hunt and fish are protected. FACE UK will be working with FACE to ensure that the members of the UK and the EU continue to have the ability to trade, travel and contribute the significant economic and environmental benefits that country sports offer."



¹ <http://www.face.eu/about-us/resources/events/the-economic-value-of-hunting-in-the-eu-conference>