

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008



## *Promoting NATURA 2000 & Sustainable Wildlife Use*

FACE (*The Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation in the EU*) has embarked on a European project, **Promoting NATURA 2000 & sustainable wildlife use (hunting & angling)**. The project included the organisation of four regional workshops / training sessions in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. One of them – namely the **Mediterranean Workshop** - took place in **Arosio, Italy** (near Milan) on the **18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2008**. This workshop covered **Portugal, France, Italy and Malta**.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness on the role hunters and other wildlife users (e.g. anglers) can and should play in the identification, designation and, above all, the management of NATURA 2000 sites. Additionally it wants to increase understanding among a wide range of stakeholders (conservationists, local authorities, etc.) for sustainable hunting *inside* these NATURA 2000 sites, contributing in fact to the preservation and management of habitats and species.

For this, speakers from different sectors and stakeholder groups, including hunters, interactively addressed and “trained” the mainly hunter dominated participants of the workshop (but also including anglers). The participants have now become the “**focal points**” for this project and will act at local, regional and national level to raise awareness on sustainable hunting inside NATURA 2000 sites amongst a wide range of stakeholders and the public.

The “**focal points**” from the *Baltic, Black Sea / East Mediterranean, Central European* and *Mediterranean* Regions - which were all covered by the four workshops - now form a network of *National correspondents* and have been offered supporting communication material, including an on-line forum for sharing experiences and answering questions.

Given the importance of clarifying that sustainable hunting (and angling) is fully compatible with the aims of NATURA 2000 (see Mr. DIMAS and EU Commission statements below), the Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK), just as it had done in 2006 when it fully supported and participated in another FACE European project regarding NATURA 2000, also participated at the workshop in Italy.

The FKNK’s “**focal points**” for this project are Mr. Lino FARRUGIA and Mr. Joseph LIA.

FKNK Council



*"I would like to correct one of the **common misconceptions** about NATURA 2000 which is that once a site is designated all economic activities have to stop. This is simply **not true** and it is unfortunate that this **myth** continues. The NATURA network consists of living landscapes in which farming, **fishing**, forestry and **hunting can continue**."*

**Stavros DIMAS – Commissioner for the Environment**

*EU Nature Policy – Challenges in a changing world*

14<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Furthermore:

The EU Commission recognises that:

- *"..many of our favourable habitats are the result of traditional land use and their conservation is dependent on traditional practices and skills."*
- *"..many sites in NATURA 2000 network are valuable precisely because of the way they have been managed up to now. In such cases it will be important to assure that these sorts of activities can continue in the future."*
- *"..some of the most important wildlife sites in Europe have survived the pressures of development and destruction due to the interest of wildlife users, such as hunting and angling."*