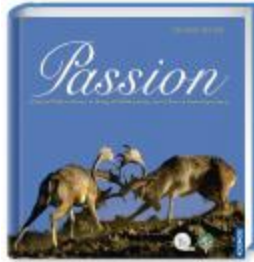




22nd January 2010



Big promotional campaign by the European hunters...

The national hunting associations and federations in the 27 Member States of the European Union presented to each of the MEPs from their country a collection of the most breathtaking wildlife photographs compiled in the splendid book by the photographer, Eugène REITER from Luxembourg.

The book, "Passion for hunting and wildlife in Europe", was presented at a reception organised by FACE (Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU) at the European Parliament in Brussels, with support from the Office of the MEP Veronique MATHIEU (EPP) and under the patronage of Joseph DAUL, Chairman of the EPP. Eugène REITER was also present at this event.

Before an audience of some fifty MEPs and parliamentary assistants, FACE President, Gilbert de TURCKHEIM, pointed out "the crucial role played by hunters to preserve biodiversity." He also talked about the social aspects of "hunting", thanks to which there is a greater appreciation for the countryside, and for its unifying role that bonds urban and rural populations who may not otherwise have the opportunity to interact. The Chairman of the EPP, J. DAUL, underlined that every day hunters would show their ability and interest in preserving wildlife and habitats.

Wildlife photography constitutes a wonderful way to present hunting to a sometimes sceptical audience. The diversity of species, so well illustrated in the book, is sustainable thanks to human interaction and to the rational regulation and conservation of their habitats by hunters. This concept is well explained in the book, in the various accompanying texts in English, French and German, and we hope with all our heart that the 736 MEPs will be touched by this book.

Lino Farrugia
Secretary
Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK)

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Notes:

The **Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK)** was formed on 17th September 1973, with the clear aim to preserve the Maltese traditional socio-cultural passions of migratory *hunnable* wild birds hunting and capturing with selective nets for the purpose of keeping the caught birds alive in captivity.

In 1987, the Federation joined FACE (The Federation of Association for Hunting & Conservation in the EU). On the 26th May 1989, the Federation was also accepted as a member of CIC (The International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation) and on the 6th July, 1995, the Maltese Federation was one of the founder members of AECT (The Association of Traditional Hunting in Europe). In 2008 the FKNK formed part of FACE Members within the Mediterranean basin to set up FACE MED and also became a member of ELO (European Landowners Organisation).

The FKNK is by far the largest NGO in the Maltese Islands with over 10,000 adult paid-up members in 2009.

Maltese hunters and trappers, and hunting and trapping related activities contribute €2,000,000 towards Malta's Gross Domestic Product per annum (2007).