



Trapping in the E.U.

Challenges & opportunities for trapping in Germany?

Dr. Yves LECOCQ

Secretary-General / Senior policy Advisor

FACE



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- Founded in 1977 – H.Q. in the heart of Brussels
- Secretariat: 10 full-time professional staff
- Promotes sustainable hunting, as a tool for conservation & rural development: “7,000,000 European hunters for Biodiversity Conservation”
- Advocates for the collective interests of its Member Associations from 38 European countries (incl. DJV)





European Union
(1958)
27 Member States



Council of Europe
(1949)
47 Member Countries





Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 19.09.1979)



- Article 6 = Special protection of **Appendix II** wild fauna species: wolf, brown bear, otter, lynx, wildcat, European mink...
- Article 7 = Protection (through regulation of exploitation, e.g. closed seasons etc.) of **Appendix III** species: European beaver, most *Mustelidae* (but not fox, muskrat, racoon, racoon dog, American mink...





Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 19.09.1979)



- Article 8 = Prohibition of “indiscriminate means of capture / killing”, listed in **Appendix IV (for mammals)**: snares, nets*, traps*...

*= “If applied for large scale or non-selective capture or killing”

- Article 9 = Exceptions!





EU & Hunting / Trapping?

Direct impact on hunting?

NONE

There is no “EU Hunting Policy”!

Competence (e.g. for hunting rights & systems) remains with Member States!

... but ...





EU & Hunting

... Significant indirect impact!

1° = EU *Environment* Policy



+ also EU *Internal Market*, *Consumer Protection*, *Agricultural Policies*...





Council Directive **79/409/EEC** of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds

"Birds" Directive





- Article 1 - “This directive relates to the **conservation** of **all** species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state... covers the **protection, management and control**... lays down rules for their **exploitation**”
- Article 2 - “... maintain the populations... at a level... taking into account of **economic and recreational requirements**, or adapt the populations of these species to that level.”
- Article 7 / **Annex II** species - “... may be hunted under national legislation... in accordance with... the principles of wise use and **ecologically balanced control**... not hunted during the rearing season nor during the various stages of reproduction...”

→ wood pigeon... + **1994**: starling & Corvids!





Article 8 / Annex IV: “...Member States shall prohibit the use of all means, arrangements or methods used for the **large-scale or non-selective** capture or killing of birds... - in particular: **...nets, traps...**”

Article 9: “Member states may **derogate**....:

- To **prevent serious damage** to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries...
- For the **protection of fauna** and flora





Sustainable Hunting Initiative

Commission's
interpretative *Guidance*
document - August 2004
(Updated in 2008)





Council Directive **92/43/EEC** of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

“FFH” or “Habitats” Directive

Article 2 - *“The aim of this directive shall be to contribute towards ensuring **bio-diversity** through the **conservation** of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the...Member States...”* “Measures taken pursuant to this directive shall take account of **economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.**”





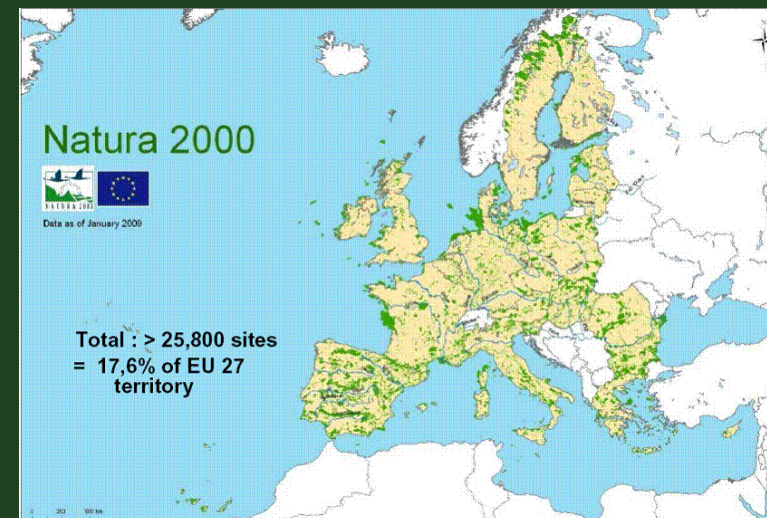
- Article 12 / Annex IV (b) species - “Member States shall... establish a system of **strict protection**...”
→ beaver (exceptions!), wolf (exc.), brown bear, otter, European mink, wildcat, lynx (exc.)...
- Article 14 / Annex V species - “**If... Member States deem it necessary**, they shall take measures to ensure that the taking in the wild of specimen... is compatible with... a **favourable conservation status**.”
→ beaver (**FIN, SW, LT, LV, EST, POL**), wolf (**N. SP, N. GR, N. FIN, LT, LV, EST, POL, SK**), pine marten, polecat, lynx (**EST**)...
- Article 15 / Annex VI - “In respect of... species of... Annex V and in cases... in accordance with **article 16 derogations**... Member States shall prohibit... indiscriminate means... in particular...”
→ **non-selective** nets / traps





NATURA 2000

Network of protected natural habitats (15% of total EU territory)





NATURA 2000 = no intervention?





“ 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.”





Council Regulation **91/3254/EEC** of 4 November 1991
prohibiting the use of leghold traps in the Community

“Leghold Traps” Regulation

Article 1 - “...‘leghold trap’: means a device designed to restrain or capture an animal **by means of jaws** which close tightly upon one or more of the animal's limbs, thereby preventing withdrawal of the limb or limbs from the trap.”





- Article 2 - “Use of leghold traps **in the Community** shall be prohibited by 1 January 1995 at the latest.”
- Article 3 - “The introduction into the Community of the pelts of the animal species listed in **Annex I** and of... goods, inasmuch as they incorporate pelts of the species listed in Annex I, shall be prohibited as of 1 January 1995, unless the Commission... has determined that, in the country where the pelts originate... the trapping methods used... meet **internationally agreed humane trapping standards.**”
- Article 4 - “... The Commission... shall determine the appropriate forms for such **certification.**”

→ Beaver, Otter, Coyote, Wolf, Lynx, Bobcat, Sable, Raccoon, Musk rat, Fisher, Badger, Marten, Ermine





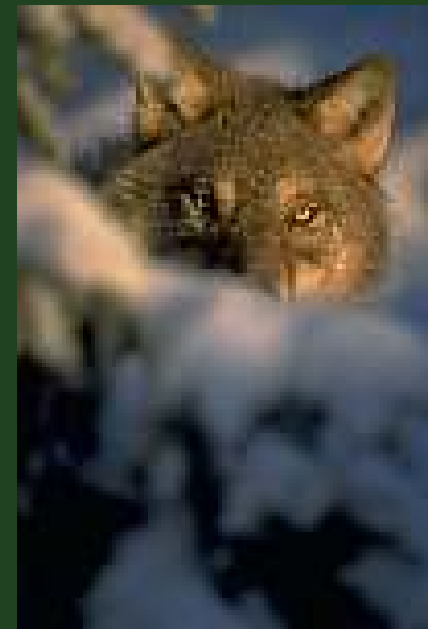
What are

“internationally agreed humane trapping standards”?

1992 /1995: work undertaken by the *International Organization for Standardization ISO* through its *Technical Committee TC 191* (with FACE as observer!)

Good progress made...but impossible to conclude international agreement

= because of systematic obstruction & lobbying by certain countries (UK, NL...) & **AW / AR** NGOs.





Animal Welfare / Rights Movement!

Scientific facts versus *Emotionalism?*

Fair lobbying versus *aggressive campaigning?*

Honest communication versus *misleading tactics?*

It's not only about ££, €, \$ \$

NOT HUMANE
Every recent veterinary report on Canada's commercial seal hunt proves the unacceptable cruelty continues.

NOT SUSTAINABLE
The excessive and irresponsible Total Allowable Catch set by the government has been surpassed by almost 100,000 seals in the past ten years.

NOT ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT
The hunt accounts for less than half of one percent of the provincial GDP.

NOT INVOLVED
Canada's Inuit hunt at different times of year, in different places, for different species of seals of different ages.

VOTE FOR A FULL TRADE BAN

IFAW.₆₁₀
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE





Animal Welfare / Rights Movement!

...but the countryside
(hunters, trappers, anglers,
farmers...) + other sectors
(pet owners & breeders,
riders, industry...) need to
be united in tackling this
challenge!





Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

1998 (AIHTS)

- between the European Community (Ratification 1998), Canada (1999) and the Russian Federation (2008)
- between the European Community and the USA
- **Applies to all killing & restraining mechanical devices used for trapping of wild terrestrial & semi-aquatic mammals of Annex I (19 species, of which 11 in the EU!)**
- **Requires traps & trapping methods to be tested / certified in order to meet “humane trapping standards”**





Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

1998 (AIHTS)

Since July 2008 the AIHTS has entered into force (following ratification by the Russian Federation)

AIHTS Parties must now follow **implementation schedule** for testing and certification of traps – deadlines are:

- Restraining traps = 3 to 5 years after entry into force (depending on priorities and testing facilities)
- Killing traps = 5 years after entry into force
- Plus 3 years for implementation by Parties

So far 4 years have passed





Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

1998 (AIHTS)

Standards have already been fully implemented in **Canada** and to a similar extent in **USA**



But what about the EU?





Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

1998 (AIHTS)

EU Actions

- **2004** European Commission presents ***Proposal for a Directive COM(2004) 532 final*** to implement AIHTS standards
 - November **2005 Proposal rejected** by European Parliament (by overwhelming majority – but for different motives; in part due to the lobbying efforts of FACE)
- **2006** EU tender for better knowledge as scientific basis for legislation
 - Awarded to leading UK scientific agency (FACE as one of the partners!)





EU study contract "Humane Trapping Standards" (2007 – 2009)

Final Report published Oct 2011:

- State of the art of research, science and application of trapping standards
- Information on trapping methods and standards in all EU 27, Canada, Russian Federation and USA
- Results of EU consultation "**Your attitude towards the regulation of trapping in the EU**"

report available (English only):

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/animal_welfare/hts/pdf/final_report.pdf





EU study contract "Humane Trapping Standards" (2007 – 2009)

Attitude towards the regulation of trapping in the EU?

- Of the 9 571 replies:
- **52% familiar with trapping/hunting**
- **21% familiar with animal welfare/rights activities**
- 10% animal research or conservation background
- 17% not possible to allocate

Which Member States replied?

France (4 562), **Germany (2 678)**, Finland (835),
Belgium (537), Sweden (381), UK (275) ...





EU study contract "Humane Trapping Standards" (2007 – 2009)

Attitude towards the regulation of trapping in the EU?

Q: Legislation governing trapping within the EU?

- 72% of trapping/hunting group said it should be **legislated at Member State level**
- 80% of animal/welfare group said it should be **legislated at EU level**





EU study contract "Humane Trapping Standards" (2007 – 2009)

Attitude towards the regulation of trapping in the EU?

Q: maximum acceptable period between capture in killing trap and death (or TIU = time to irreversible unconsciousness)?

- Only 6% found the **300 seconds** period contained in the AIHTS to be acceptable





EU study contract "Humane Trapping Standards" (2007 – 2009)

Proposals in report "Standards for killing traps" (AIHTS species only):

3 welfare categories:

- 'A' 80% of trapped animals have TIU max. **30 seconds**
- 'B' 80% of trapped animals have TIU max. **180 seconds**
- 'C' – AIHTS standard - 80% of trapped animals have TIU max. **300 seconds** (for min. 12 animals tested)

"In order to encourage the development of better traps it is proposed that where killing traps of different welfare categories are available to control the same species only those traps of the highest welfare category will be used"





EU study contract “Humane Trapping Standards” (2007 – 2009)

Proposals in report “Standards for restraining traps” (AIHTS species only):

- **3 welfare categories (A, B, C)** as for killing traps but based on levels of physical injuries
- Concluded that behaviour and physiological indices of welfare can not be used as insufficient information exists for wild animals





EU study contract "Humane Trapping Standards" (2007 – 2009)

Proposals in report:

- Importance of 'best practice' guidelines highlighted

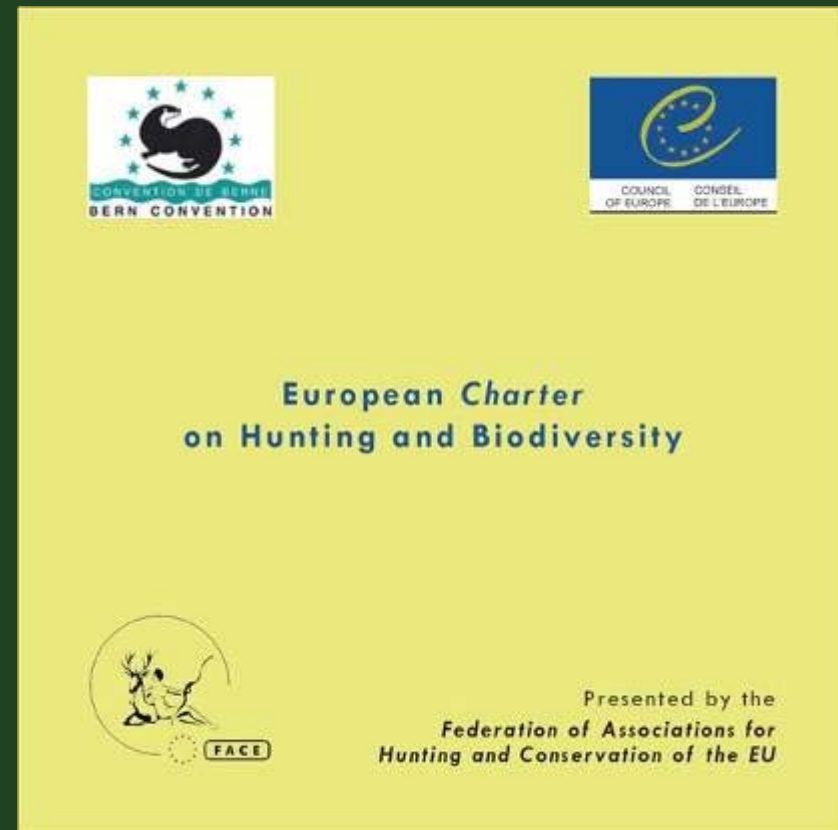
- A task for hunter/trapper organisations?





Provides a set of non-binding principles and guidelines...to ensure that hunting (incl. trapping) in Europe is practiced in a sustainable manner...

making a positive contribution to the conservation of species and habitats and the needs of society





Principle 3: Ensure that harvest is ecologically sustainable

Rationale:

...In some cases, limited and sustainable hunting of small populations may also serve to enhance conservation efforts on their behalf. Sustainable use requires regulation based upon the active use of reliable science and local knowledge

Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

- *Regulators and managers:*

...*Cooperate with hunters to develop and apply methods for simple and effective monitoring and management of populations, habitats and ecosystem services...*

- *Hunters:*

...*Work to integrate their activities into the adaptive management of populations and habitats...*





Principle 10: Minimise avoidable suffering by animals

Guidelines:

- Hunters:

- Show respect for game animals and strive to reduce or **eliminate avoidable suffering** where possible.
- **Learn** about animal physiology and the most efficient way to kill game while inflicting minimal suffering.
- Promote measures which ensure **proficiency** in the use of hunting techniques and implements.
- Strive to efficiently track down and dispatch wounded game.
- Do not use capture methods that cause high levels of stress or pain, and/or are unselective or involve mass-capture.
- Take care not to disturb species in ways that can have significant and detrimental impacts.





Next step(s)?

- **A new Proposal for a *Directive / Regulation*?**
- **A *Recommendation* by the EU towards Member States for “harmonised” national implementation?**
- **Individual initiatives by Member States (some already having banned all trapping...officially at least)?**
- **Nothing ? = unlikely as AIHTS is binding for the EU...**

FACE & Members continue to monitor the situation closely!





FACE's position on trapping

Trapping is a legitimate and indispensable activity for regulating wildlife populations

- *FACE supports the development in Europe of **certification systems** for trap-types based upon international standards within the framework of the AIHTS*
- *Options need to be examined for best instrument to implement trapping standards, but **any legislation at either the EU or Member State level should not impose impractical and/or unreasonable restrictions***





Black storck & Pine marten

<http://vimeo.com/22982341>





Europe = wide diversity of
landscapes, flora and fauna

+ diversity also of human
cultures and traditions

Socio-cultural diversity =
great asset & value



Subsidiarity !





Principle of *Subsidiarity*

- No uniform “European hunting / trapping Law”
- *Framework* of legal instruments and policies

“*European*” harmonisation?

= unrealistic + not necessary!

→ common *principles* (framework legislation) with *guidelines*





Communication – Communication – Communication

A clear, simple and honest message!

**Hunting = good for people, for
Nature & for the countryside**






Objectives of FACE:



- Ensuring realistic European legislation & policies
- Networking with European politicians, officials & other decision makers
- **Solidarity** among European hunters (all disciplines)!





Thank you for your attention!

