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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CODE OF
CONDUCT ON HUNTING AND IAS**

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IMPLEMENTATION REPORT ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON HUNTING AND IAS

The Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE), together with other partners and experts, contributed to the development of the **European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS**, which was adopted by the Bern Convention in 2013. This document presents seven principles that hunters and hunting associations should follow in order to contribute to the Bern Convention's European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. The need for such a strategy was expressed in the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, established in collaboration between FACE and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), and adopted by the Bern Convention in 2007.

Below are the seven principles of the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS:

1. Prevent releases of new invasive alien game species;
2. Prevent introductions and spread of invasive alien plants for game food and shelter;
3. Restock with alien species only if non-invasive or previously introduced in ancient historic times;
4. Select sources for restocking from populations with appropriate genetic and disease management;
5. Practice animal-aided hunting which minimises the risks of impacting native species;
6. Consider eradication and control as essential management tools to tackle IAS and support their implementation also when targeting game species;
7. Collaborate on monitoring and surveillance programmes on IAS.

After the adoption of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS, an initiative from FACE and IAF (International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey) was taken to report on the activities undertaken by Bern Convention Parties and national hunting associations to combat IAS under those principles. The second report, based on data gathered in 2016, contains information on 10 European countries (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom). This represents a more comprehensive assessment of the first implementation report, which was based on data from six countries in 2014. FACE aims to present the report to the Bern Convention Expert Group on IAS in Portugal in June 2017.