

20th of October 2015

Permanent Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia

Rue Montoyer 47, Brussels
15.00 - 17.00

Interpretation: EN - DE -FR

Fitness Check of EU Nature Legislation For a Better Implementation?

Chaired by
MEP Karl-Heinz FLORENZ
President of the Intergroup Biodiversity,
Hunting, Countryside



Follow-up of the meeting
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Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside Intergroup

The Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity, Countryside activities and Forestry Intergroup was created in 1985 and is one of the oldest and most active parliamentary platform. It gathers MEPs from different political groups and various stakeholders promoting wildlife conservation, sustainable hunting and fishing, as well as the sustainable management of the countryside and cultural heritage.

The objectives of the Intergroup are to promote the role of hunting and other forms of sustainable use of wild species for biodiversity, wildlife management, rural development and forestry issues. Additionally, the Intergroup regularly focuses on cross cutting issues that affect socio-economic activities in rural areas and seek to build bridges between the civil society and decision makers.

Past debates and discussions have, for example, addressed issues such as forestry management, wildlife population, the future of EU water courses, the 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy and other thematic related to Natura 2000.

For the term 2014-2019, the Intergroup has been validated by European Parliament Conference of the Presidents and named the "Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside Intergroup".

Since 1985, FACE (Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU) provides the Secretariat for the Intergroup. In 2004, ELO (European Landowners' Organization) joined the Intergroup as Co-Secretariat, bringing expertise in countryside-related topics.

Biography of the Panelists



Nicola Notaro. Dr Nicola Notaro is a qualified Italian lawyer and holds an LL.M in European law (Bruges) and a PhD in environmental law (London). He was, for 5 years, Legal Adviser and then Team Leader for the international climate negotiations in DG Environment. Subsequently, he was appointed Deputy Head of the Water Unit and recently, he became Head of the Nature Unit in DG Environment, European Commission. Before joining the EC, Dr Notaro worked as a university lecturer on European Environmental Law at the University of Groningen (NL).

During the last 10 years he has lectured and published extensively in the field of environmental law (Universities of Maastricht, London, College of Europe Bruges, Montreal, Aarhus, Lille, Milano, VUB Brussels, etc.).



Seger van Voorst tot Voorst. Following his military service in the Dutch 'Wapen der Cavalerie', Mr. Van Voorst tot Voorst worked in various positions including at a clearing member company on the European Options Exchange (EOE) in Amsterdam, at a market makers company on the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE), as well as at a temporary work agency in

Amsterdam. After that he was the Executive Director of the PAN (Protected Area Network) Parks Foundation, a position which allowed him to work in various large nature areas throughout Europe. In addition, he was a 'Member of State' (Statenlid) for the Christian Democratic Party (CDA) in the Dutch province of Overijssel. Since 2003, he has been the Managing Director of National Park De Hoge Veluwe Foundation. He also holds several other positions and is a member of various boards and councils.





Philippe Plisson. Born in 1951 in Saint Caprais de Blaye, his village that he has never left, Mr. Plisson was teacher in Gironde for 18 years and has been actively engaged in the socialist party since 1977. He was elected mayor of St Caprais in 1983 and was constantly reelected since. He was also elected deputy of the 11th Constituency of Gironde in 2007 and reelected in 2012. Mr. Plisson is member of the commission for sustainable development and land

management; he is rapporteur on the Mission of Information on the greylag goose, President of the study group "Chasse et territoires", vice-President of the study group "Viticulture" and "Voies navigables et transports multimodaux/canaux".



Wouter Langhout. Based in Brussels, Mr. Langhout is EU Nature Policy Officer with the environmental NGO BirdLife Europe and Central Asia. He coordinates the work of the BirdLife Partnership on the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. He represents BirdLife in the Coordination Group on Biodiversity and Nature, the Expert Group on Reporting, the Working Group on Green

Infrastructure Implementation and Restoration. Mr. Langhout is the lead author of the report 'Half way there?' and a co-author of the EEA Report 'State of Nature in the EU'.

Before moving to Brussels he was working for the Dutch conservation NGO Natuurmonumenten on the management and monitoring of Natura 2000 sites in the Haringvliet area, including the development of a management plan for the island Tiengemeten and the monitoring of narrow-mouthed whorl snails in the coastal sand dunes.

Mr. Langhout was born in the Netherlands and holds an M.Sc. in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management at the University of Oxford.



Filippo Segato. Mr. Segato joined FACE as Secretary General in 2014. Italian of origin and German-educated, he has been working in Brussels since 2006 in EU advocacy for diverse interest groups with a focus in communications. With a university degree in Literature he is particularly interested in finding the right balance between nature conservation and the legitimate requirements of citizens with a stake in the sustainable use of natural resources. Mr. Segato is also a hunter.



Konstantin Kostopoulos. After postgraduate studies in economics in the UK and the US (1972-1978), Mr. Kostopoulos worked as a member of the team of Greek officials tasked with the negotiations for the accession of Greece to the European Community, particularly on agricultural issues. He also served as financial counsellor in the Greek Perm. Rep. to the EC in Brussels. For a period of three years (1985-1989) he took up duties as an agricultural expert in the FAO of the United Nations in Rome (Commodities and Trade Division). In 1994 he joined the European Commission (Directorate General for External Relations) and worked in the areas of technical and financial assistance to Eastern Europe and later in the negotiations on enlargement.

For the period 2004-2010, Mr. Kostopoulos was detached to the cabinet of the Greek Commissioner for the Environment, where he was responsible for economic and budgetary affairs, agriculture and regional development, the soil strategy, the LIFE+ programme and CO2 emissions.

After leaving the Commission in June 2014, he joined the ELO team to provide assistance, advice, and direction mainly for the Wildlife Estates Label project.

