



Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Extensive support from MEPs for the “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” Intergroup

On 10 September, 50 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from all major political groups pledged their support for the re-establishment of the “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” Intergroup. Since its first establishment in 1985, this Intergroup serves as the key stakeholder platform within the European Parliament, enabling open cross-political discussions between decision-makers, civil society and experts.

At the event “Dialogue on the Future of Europe’s Countryside, Sustainable Land Use, Hunting and Nature Conservation”, kindly hosted by MEP Juan Ignacio Zoido – Intergroup Board Member in the past term – and jointly organised by the [European Landowners’ Organization \(ELO\)](#) and the [European Federation for Hunting and Conservation \(FACE\)](#), the fundamental role of rural actors and the socio-economic importance of countryside activities was reaffirmed.

MEP Zoido welcomed all MEPs and representatives of stakeholder organisations. He underlined the importance of continuing the Intergroup, which historically provided major contributions to the political agenda during the previous parliamentary terms.

Jurgen Tack, ELO’s Secretary General said that: *“The Intergroup has consistently led the way in ensuring that the genuine, on-the-ground concerns of those living closest to the land are heard and considered in policy decisions. By keeping the European Parliament a strong advocate for all countryside stakeholders, we can ensure that the future of agriculture remains both realistic and effective”*.

Torbjörn Larsson, President of FACE, stated: *“Over the past five years, the Intergroup has gained support from over 120 MEPs—proof of its importance. For Europe’s 7 million hunters, it has been essential for addressing key rural and environmental issues. Now is the time to push for its re-establishment!”*

This event marked the official kick-off of our support campaign to ensure the voice of Europe’s countryside remains strong and influential in future policy decisions.

FACE and ELO, in collaboration with key MEPs from various political groups, are working tirelessly to secure broad support for the Intergroup’s re-establishment during this 2024-2029 parliamentary term.



50 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from all major political parties attended the event, organized by the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) and the European Landowners' Organization (ELO).





From left to right: hosting, MEP **Juan Ignacio Zoido**, and delivering the speech, **Jurgén Tack**, ELO's Secretary General

[View all photos here](#)

More information on the [Intergroup](#)

The European Parliament's Intergroup on "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside," known as the "Hunting Intergroup," was established in 1985. FACE and ELO organisations are acting as secretariat for the Intergroup. It facilitates discussions among decision-makers, the European Commission, stakeholders, and experts, highlighting the socio-economic importance of countryside activities.

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About the European Landowners' Organization (ELO)

The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) is a leading voice representing the interests of landowners, rural entrepreneurs, and rural land managers in Europe. ELO promotes sustainable land management practices, fosters innovation, and advocates for the recognition of landowners' crucial role in shaping Europe's landscapes and rural areas.

