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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Results of the meeting of directors-general on hunting and game management in the 28 EU Member States (Prague, 1 September 2015)
- Information from the Czech delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note received from the Czech delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 16 November 2015.

Results of the meeting of directors-general on hunting and game management in the 28 EU Member States (Prague, 1 September 2015)

As a hosting country, the Czech Republic would like to inform about the meeting of the directors-general of hunting and game management of EU-28 which was held on 1st and 2nd September 2015 in Prague, following the meetings organised since 2011 in Hungary, Finland, Romania and Malta. This year the meeting had the highest attendance when representatives from 15 countries participated and also a delegate of the international non-governmental organization representing hunters (FACE) was present.

Participants of the meeting discussed the best possible solutions to the topical issues through improved cooperation between Member States. They notably stressed that the overpopulation of hoofed game in Europe, particularly wild boar and red deer, has not only significant repercussions on the EU livestock sector and trade, but it also causes every year significant damages on agricultural crops, damages European forests and entails a high risk of epidemics and spread of diseases, such as the African swine fever and tuberculosis.

Practical approaches, suitable practices and hunting methods of game management and hunting in Europe were examined during the meeting, especially with regard to their potential to abate the negative impacts of the problems. Participants also shared ideas on the fitness check on EU Nature legislation, large carnivore populations and on invasive alien species. They all agreed on the need to deal with the issues uniformly and to adopt a stance on the problematics of game management. The purpose of this AOB point is to inform about the meeting of the directors-general of hunting and game management and at the same time point out the importance of the game management and hunting in Europe. Game management should receive more attention on national and international level as it is closely related to agriculture and other fields.

The agreed outcomes of the meeting are also available at:

http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/428572/Outcomes_of_the_meeting_of_the_Directors_general_of_hunting_and_game_management.pdf