

EU legislation on hunting

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Geopolitics of Europe in a changing world

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In a world where animal protection is becoming an important part of our social debates, practices such as hunting are now more decried than ever. Various world organisations have put in place restrictions to regulate the practice of hunting . Among these institutions, the European Union has acted on several occasions to regulate hunting, while offering hunters a framework to allow the essential regulation of certain species. We will see the different legislations created by the EU to regulate hunting. It doesn’t exist documents about this subject in our corpus, I’m going to support my thesis with documents finds on internet that you can find at the end of the document.

**The reasons for the regulation**

Firstly, It’s important to understand that hunting was during prehistory, the unique way to feed humans. Nevertheless, the hunting has become a hobby after and a symbol of power for all the dynasties of Europe. With the growing of human population, the quantity of animals in the forest has decreased. The penurie of animals has create ecological problems and some species disappeared. It was important to regulate the hunting, and particulary in Europe. The hunting licence will appear in France in 1844 that will select who can kill an animal or not.

**The European directives**

When the European Union was created some laws appear to protect the animals in Europe. In 1979, the “bird directive” was create to protect the differents species of bird in the European forest. This law is considerate as the first European directive about hunting in EU (EEC at this time). After that numerous European directive were give to member states to control the hunting in the European territory, like in 2009 with the second “oiseau” directive. In 1992 the Natura 2000 program will totally change the hunting rules in the EU, numerous safe zone will be create to protect the development of endangered species, with a totally hunting interdiction. The EU have create also an hunting calendar to decide when the season of hunting is open, and when the hunting will be forbidden.

**EU against cruelty**

The EU give also some directives about the animal causes and the pain that they can feel. The EU gives directives about traditional hunting methods that can be cruel, like the “glu hunting” very popular in the south of France for the bird hunting.

**The limited power of the EU**

Nevertheless the EU directives are like “advices” for the members states and sometimes, countries decide to don’t respect those directive, like the French government who decided to authorize two traditional hunting methods ( “chasse aux pantes” and “chasse aux matoles”) who were forbidden by the “bird directive” in 2009. If the EU can give directives to the countries, the different governments can also say no and continue to authorize method of hunting in their territories.

**conclusion**

To conclude it seems obvious that hunting, even if it is sometimes necessary, must be regulated. The European union play a big role in this regulation with directives and project to regulate the most intelligently possible the hunting in Europe in order to satisfy all the actors. But sometimes the EU don’t have enough power to impose their directives because of the national sovereignty.

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