



# HUNTING WITH HOUNDS



THE CASE FOR EUROPEAN UNION  
LEGISLATION

# Laws about Hunting with Hounds vary in different EU member states



Austria: Hunting with hounds is illegal

Belgium: Hunting with hounds and beagles is legal

Bulgaria: Hounds used for flushing to guns

Croatia: Hounds used for flushing to guns

Cyprus: Pointers used as gun dogs

Czech Republic: Hounds used to flush to guns

Denmark: Hunting with hounds is illegal

Estonia: Hares and foxes hunted with hounds

Finland: Hares and foxes hunted with hounds

France: Hunting with hounds is legal

Germany: Hunting with hounds is illegal

Greece: Hounds used as gun dogs

Hungary: Hunting with hounds is illegal

Ireland: Hunting with hounds is legal

Italy: Hounds used to flush to guns

Latvia: Hounds used to flush to guns

Lithuania: Hunting with hounds is legal

Luxembourg: One year ban on hunting with hounds just announced

Malta: Hunting with hounds is legal

Netherlands: Hunting with hounds is illegal

Poland: Hounds used to flush to guns

Portugal: Hunting with hounds is legal

Romania: Hounds used as gun dogs

Slovakia: Hounds used to flush to guns

Slovenia: Hunting with hounds is legal

Spain: Hunting with hounds is legal

Sweden: Hunting with hounds is illegal, but flushing to guns is legal.

UK: Different legislation in different areas

# The EU was asked about its intentions regarding Hunting with Hounds in 2014

The practice of hunting with hounds or dogs is extremely detrimental to the welfare of wild animals due to the stress and suffering that it causes the hunted animal. From an ecological point of view, hunting with hounds or dogs does not offer any particular advantages with regard to species conservation objectives. From a legal point of view, although practically every European country has already prohibited it, this practice is still subject to particularly favourable conditions in certain Member States.

The Commission initiated debate on the principle of animal welfare at a European level, which is illustrated by the European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015 (COM(2012)6 final/2).

Can the Commission explain how it intends to ensure that the principle of animal welfare is observed?

Does the Commission intend to regulate hunting with hounds or dogs, or propose that the Member States ban this practice in light of how it is clearly inconsistent with respecting animal welfare?

## Here is their reply

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission

European Union institutions must stay within the competences conferred on them by the Treaties. Their power to improve animal welfare by law making and enforcement is limited to the policies mentioned in Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, i.e. agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space.

As a result, the Commission has no mandate to put forward specific policies for regulating the welfare of wild animals in relation to the hunting with hounds or dogs.

# Mr. Borg is wrong

- ▶ There is existing E.U. legislation designed to protect Europe's fauna and flora, so the E.U. is able to legislate in this area. Examples include

**Commission Directive 97/49/EC of 29 July 1997 amending Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds**

Council Directive 97/62/EC of 27 October 1997 adapting to technical and scientific progress Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

# Here is what article 13 actually says:

Title II of TFEU lists some key principles the Union should respect. Here an Article 13 has been introduced with the Lisbon Treaty. It states that: *"In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, **since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals**, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage."*

# Why the EU can act

- ▶ Hunting of all forms is a business activity carried out predominantly in rural areas
- ▶ Hunted animals are frequently 'farmed' to provide the hunters with quarry
- ▶ Hunting areas are usually managed to ensure a reliable supply of animals to hunt
- ▶ 'Pest control' is an excuse often used to justify hunting
- ▶ Hunting can, therefore, be defined as agriculture, which is within the remit of European Union legislation

# Why the EU can act

Hunting is a business.

There is at least the possibility of hunting facilitators providing services in multiple jurisdictions.

There is significant inconsistency in the regulation of such services across the internal market.

These inconsistencies should be harmonised and the only way to do this within the welfare requirements of animals is to ban all hunting with hounds and the practice of breeding animals (including birds) for the sole purpose of hunting them.

# Why the EU should act

- ▶ From the EU website:
- ▶ This puts animal welfare on equal footing with other key principles mentioned in the same title i.e. promote gender equality, guarantee social protection, protect human health, combat discrimination, promote sustainable development, ensure consumer protection, protect personal data.
- ▶ It needs, however, to be noted that the European Union operates under the principles of conferred competences and subsidiarity. So competences not conferred upon the Union in the Treaties remain with the Member States and under the principle of subsidiarity, in areas that do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Union shall act only if and in so far as the objectives cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States (Article 1, 4 and 5 of the EU Treaty).
- ▶ The mismatch of laws concerning hunting with hounds and breeding and releasing animals to be hunted in the different member states clearly gives the EU the power to act.

This is permitted in some EU member states



So is this



And this



# Hounds and other dogs are used in several different ways

- ▶ 'Hunting with hounds' usually means using a large pack of Hunting Hounds, Beagles, Harriers, Stag Hounds or Mink Hounds to chase and kill wild animals. A large group of hunters follows on foot or horseback
- ▶ Coursing usually involves two dogs at a time chasing and killing a hare
- ▶ Flushing to guns is the use of dogs, and sometimes 'beaters' to chase wild animals from cover so they can be shot
- ▶ Gun dogs are used to retrieve the bodies of wild animals and birds that have been shot
- ▶ Terriers are used to find and chase wild animals underground

# Hunting with hounds



# Hare coursing



# Flushing to guns (Driven hunt)



# Gun dogs



# Terriers

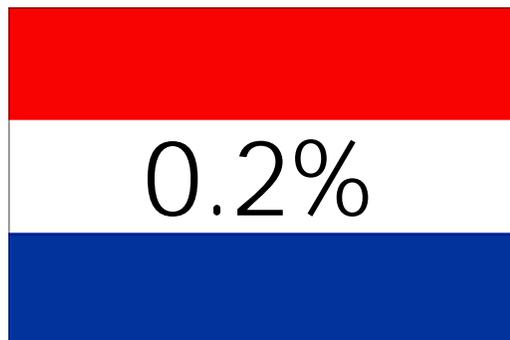
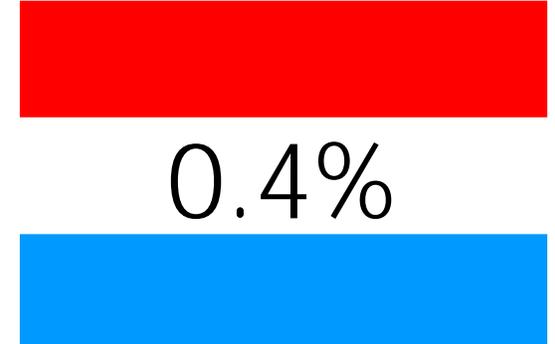


# How many people go hunting?

- ▶ The slides that follow show the percentages of the population who hunt in each EU member state
- ▶ The numbers are tiny in most countries
- ▶ The legal status of hunting is also shown

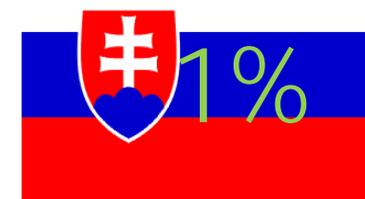
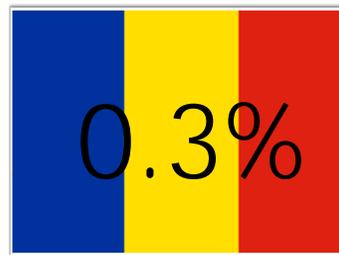
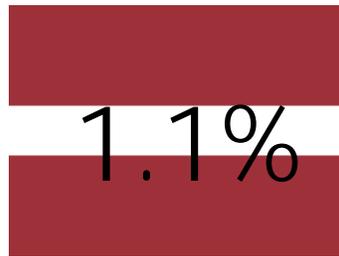
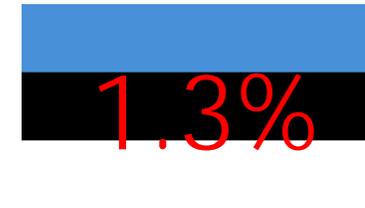
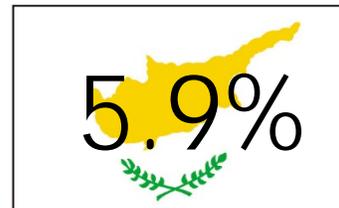
# The Good

Hunting with hounds is illegal in these EU member states, although gun dogs and terriers may still be used



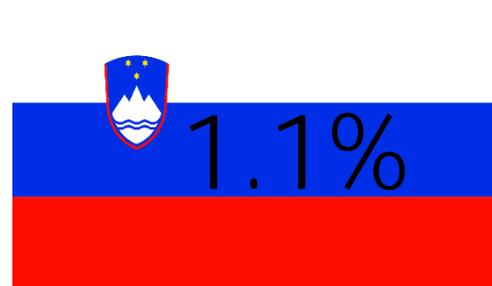
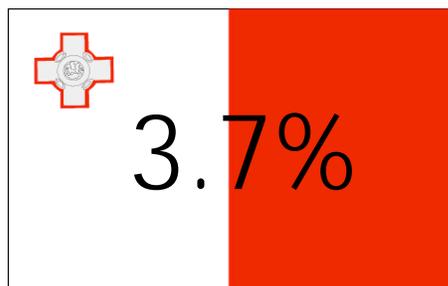
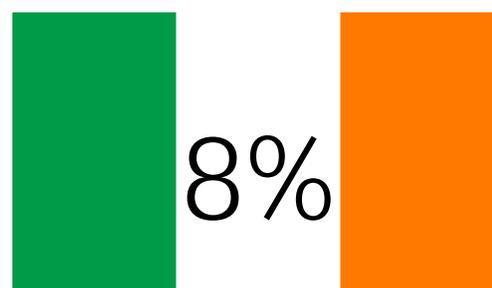
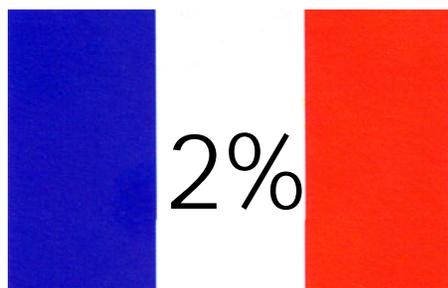
# The Bad

No specific legislation on Hunting with hounds. Flushing to guns, gun dogs and terriers common



# The ugly

Hunting with Hounds is legal. Other forms of hunting using dogs are widespread



## And the confused



Hunting with Hounds is illegal in England, Wales and Scotland, but the law is badly worded and poorly enforced, allowing hunts to continue unchallenged by the police.

Prime Minister David Cameron wants to repeal the hunting ban. In Northern Ireland, Hunting with Hounds is legal.

# How can so few people have so much power?

- ▶ This means that just 1.34% of the population of the European Union hunts
- ▶ Hunting is protected by law in many countries
- ▶ Hunters have disproportionate representation in supposedly democratic institutions
- ▶ Hunt sabotage is illegal in many places
- ▶ How have this tiny minority been allowed to gain so much influence?

# Several hundred thousand more reasons why the EU should act



In the UK alone, 11000 hunting hounds are killed by the hunts each year, most of them at less than one year old

Yet again, the EU hides behind article 13  
whilst thousands suffer and die



Between 50000 and 100000 Galgos die in Spain every year and a similar grim picture exists in Portugal, Italy, Malta and Greece

# Everywhere dogs are used for hunting they are abused



If the EU can't act to stop this suffering because of Article 13, it is time to amend Article 13 so that it can. Hunting, and all the cruelty that goes with it, has no place in the civilised societies of Europe in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

# We can win

- ▶ Campaigners in Luxembourg just achieved a three year ban on fox hunting
- ▶ Anti- hunt Luxembourg holds the presidency of the EU
- ▶ Since the Luxembourg ban over 100000 people have signed an online petition to ban foxhunting across the EU
- ▶ Sign the petition today and add your voice
- ▶ <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/155/421/388/ask-the-european-parliament-to-outlaw-fox-hunting-with-dogs-in-europe/?z00m=24356322&redirectID=1702847962>

Germany was the first country to ban hunting with hounds. Many others have followed. Please help us ban it across the rest of Europe

