



WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2014
DESTINATION FLYWAYS: MIGRATORY BIRDS AND TOURISM



Statement to Mark World Migratory Bird Day 2014

Mr Filippo Segato

**Secretary General of the European Federation of
Associations for Hunting and Conservation, FACE**

Since the beginning of times the phenomenon of bird migration has been a source of wonder and hope for populations depending on migratory birds for survival. The harvesting of birds generated cultures and hunting traditions that are an important component of our identity, but most of all it gave value to a resource – migratory birds – that today is under severe threat.

Progress has deeply changed our relationship with migratory birds. Sustainable hunting has replaced sustenance taking and today hunters are among the stakeholders who commit themselves to the conservation of birds' population and restoration of habitats along the flyways.

Habitat loss, intensive farming, air and water pollution and the declining economic value of our countryside are the greatest threats to birds, especially during their migration. Hunting today enshrines the principle of sustainable use. Hunters are aware of their delicate environmental role, combating every illegal practice. This is why they are at the forefront of migratory birds' conservation, working alongside other stakeholders, such as AEWA, in order to raise awareness on bird migration and ensure that healthy and plentiful birds' populations continue to fill our skies and our hearts with amazement in the future.

Filippo Segato

FACE Secretary General

