

# Českomoravská myslivecká jednota



22 March 2018

Dear Mr. Andrzej Duda, President of Poland and members of the Lower Chamber of Government,

I am writing you on behalf of the Czech Hunting Association, which organises over 60 thousand Czech hunters who are extremely concerned about the changes in hunting law in your country. Let us kindly explain, which consequences your Friday decision could bring in case you give a blessing to these shifts.

## 1) Restrictions on training of hunting dogs and falconry

- A newly-approved law would not allow the training of dogs with the use of wildlife. In essence, it is the end of training burrow-hounds, hound dogs, and even pointers. In the future, there would be a lack of hunting dogs, which would definitely cause distress to game. These dogs are used to track injured game. Without the work of hunting dogs, it will be very difficult to hunt wild boars, which are now a great threat for African swine fever and Aujeszky disease transmission. In the Czech Republic, the obligation to use hunting dogs comes directly from the law, and each hunting ground has to hold a certain number of dogs with different specialization depending on the species of game that occurs in the locality.

## 2) The Minister of Environment will nominate and the chairman of hunting association

- The Minister of Environment is voted for a very short time to be able to become familiar with the functioning of the hunting organization. An unstable political situation could lead to the obstruction of conceptual and long-term work of a hunting organization. In addition, in the Czech Republic, all hunting is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the agenda associated with it clearly falls under this authority. In the case of management, the Ministry of the Environment will lack the necessary discussion and view of the issues from other fields, namely forestry and agriculture, which are directly concerned with hunting management.

## 3) No sanctions for obstruction of hunting events

- In the case of unannounced and unplanned movement of persons in the territory where hunting is taking place, there is a risk of injury or even death. Hunting events have a strict

organization rules to be followed to ensure safety. Therefore, it is desirable that potential activists may be penalized for behaviour threatening their lives or the lives of others.

#### **4) Restrictions on youth taking part in hunting events**

- Hunting is an activity that requires a high level of professional competence. If juveniles are prevented from participating in hunting events, hunting training will be endangered, as well as ensuring a sufficient number of hunters for the future.
- The smallest children are being introduced to game management, learning about animals, plants, and correct behaviour in nature. They gain a positive attitude towards the environment and the animals that need to be cared for.
- Game management is an important bearer of traditions and folk culture. One of the conditions of keeping the traditions is that the skills in the given field are passed "from father to son", which is common in hunting.

#### **5) Ban on lead bullets from December the 31<sup>st</sup> 2019**

- There is no adequate substitution with the same properties and harmful effects. The negative impact of lead charges has been demonstrated only when hunting in wetlands for waterfowl, which is in the Czech Republic currently prohibited by legislation.

#### **6) Periodical testing of hunters every 5 years**

- The oldest generation will not be willing to undergo the tests, so the legal rules will eliminate the most experienced hunters.

**I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to the Polish hunting law because they are not in line with the Bern Convention and Article 2 of the Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: "*the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.*" And, above all, some regulations would endanger rational sustainable management of game as a component of our environment.**

Yours sincerely,



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