

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,  
FORESTRY AND FOOD

DIRECTORATE FOR FORESTRY,  
HUNTING AND FISHERIES

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## **International Symposium „Hunting at the Borders – Limits of Hunting“**

In its role as the current Presidency of the Council of the EU, Slovenia would like to express a warm welcome to this year's International Symposium with the theme of „Hunting at the borders – Limits of Hunting.“

First, I would like to thank the organisers who have prepared this important event, namely the Society for Wildlife and Hunting Research and the Museum of Hunting at the Stainz Castle.

The founder of the Joanneum Provincial Museum, Archduke John of Austria, was himself a passionate hunter, yet mindful of nature and animals. This year's international symposium, with its overarching theme of borders in relation to hunting, represents a tribute to Archduke John, who transcended borders through his groundbreaking approach to hunting.

The theme of 'hunting at the borders' is just as appropriate for the new and unique setting of the Stainz Museum of Hunting with its innovative and multi-dimensional approach to the presentation of hunting, which reflects the multitude of junctures between hunting and human civilisation.

One institution that is dedicated to transcending borders is the European Union, of which Slovenia is currently holding Presidency. As we all know, the EU has no 'common hunting policy'. However, there are two pieces of legislation within the EU that directly pertain to hunting in Europe. These are the so-called „Birds Directive“ and the „Habitats Directive“, both of which recognise the role of sustainable hunting.

In addition, there have been some recent developments within the Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habi-

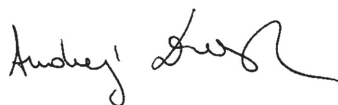
tats (the Bern Convention) with the adoption of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity in November 2007.

The Charter presents some non-binding guidelines for sustainable hunting in the management and conservation of biodiversity. In this context, the Charter recalls that if hunting is to contribute positively to the conservation of biodiversity, it needs to be perceived as sustainable by society from the ecological, economical, and socio-cultural points of view.

This is why discussing the limits of hunting is so important and the International Symposium „Hunting at the Borders – Limits of Hunting“ represents a welcome opportunity for this exercise.

As it is rightfully stated in the introductory note to the theme of this seminar, borders have the power to include and exclude. With the development of the EU, some borders are losing their power. But wildlife has no concept of borders. This is why it is all the more crucial for the concept of border to be recognised by man himself, hunter and researcher alike, for it is the border in the final end, which defines any kind of human activity, including hunting.

With this, I would like to conclude this short introduction and to express a sincere thanks to all the organisers of this seminar as well as to all the contributors.



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