



Fédération des Associations de Chasse et Conservation de la Faune Sauvage de l'UE
Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU
Zusammenschluss der Verbände für Jagd und Wildtiererhaltung in der EU
Federazione delle Associazioni venatorie e per la Conservazione della Fauna Selvatica dell'UE
Federación de las Asociaciones de Caza y Conservación de la Fauna Silvestre de la UE



AM& GdT/G.2010-043

Brussels, 21 December 2010

Mr. Frank M Bond
P.O. Box 5333, Santa Fe
NM 87502-5333, USA

RE: Falconry, a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Dear President BOND,

On behalf of the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU and the national hunting associations which we represent, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) and the community of falconers on the immense success of falconry's official recognition as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity. This is a significant achievement not only for falconry but for hunting in general and one which you can all be proud of, particularly all those who worked to ensure that this bid was a success.

This holds a particular significance for both of us as we have had the opportunity to practice falconry and appreciate that well practiced falconry in all societies relies on this art form being passed from one generation of falconers to the next through the longstanding practice apprenticeship. The other essential aspect of falconry is that it takes individuals into the wild and builds a respect for nature. This in turn maintains rural roots and provides a social fabric in rural areas in world that is now predominantly and increasingly urbanised. These rural roots and respect for nature are vitally important if we are to meet the challenges of conserving our biodiversity and the ability for future generations to hunt.

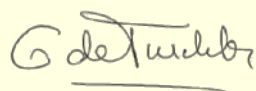
Falconry is, by its nature, a minority pursuit and this means that it needs recognition as an ancient tradition with a very long history in Europe that is not just relevant but indeed indispensable in today's world. It adds a rich dimension to our national, European and global

social fabric, contributing extensively towards the conservation of our natural environment, a more tangible heritage that also needs more recognition.

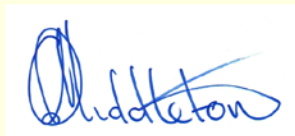
We are convinced that the full extent of this achievement will only be realised in the years ahead and in many ways, apart from offering our congratulations we would also like to thank you in advance.

We have many traditions and cultures but we are united in our common passion for hunting and nature, long live the art of falconry. In the mean time we wish all the falconers good flying!

Sincerely yours,



Gilbert de TURCKHEIM
FACE President



Angus MIDDLETON
FACE CEO