



PRESS RELEASE

TUSCANY AND HUNTING: ASSOCIATIONS TAKE THE GIANI ADMINISTRATION TO THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COURT. WILD LIFE IS A PUBLIC GOOD TO BE PROTECTED, NOT EXPLOITED

Resolutions on the early opening of the hunting season and the culling of deer have been challenged: "These culls are unlawful and lack any scientific basis," the associations state.

Rome, 29 August 2026 — The National Pro Natura Federation, LEAL (Anti-Vivisection League) and OIPA (International Organisation for Animal Protection) – with the support of Green Impact, CABS (*Committee Against Bird Slaughter*) and AGR (Stray Animal Activists Group) – have lodged an appeal with the Tuscany Regional Administrative Court against Regional Council Resolutions Nos. 958 and 959 of 3 August 2026, by which the Tuscany Region respectively confirmed the **deer culling plans** in the A.C.A.T.E.R. districts and **authorised the early opening of the hunting season, by way of derogation, for starlings, pigeons and collared doves on 2 and 6 September 2026.**

The grounds for the appeal.

The associations contest the unlawfulness of Resolutions Nos. 958 and 959 of 3 August 2026 on the grounds of failure to incorporate the ISPRA opinion; and a breach of the EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC in the authorisation of the

the early opening of the hunting season by way of derogation for starlings, pigeons and collared doves; and the authorisation of red deer hunting (ACATER) extended indiscriminately to all sex and age groups, including females and young.

Some details:

- as regards the damage to crops deemed serious by the Region, the data show the opposite, namely that the figure amounts to approximately 70,000 euros to be shared amongst more than 50,000 farms, and is therefore a negligible sum, which in any case could potentially be offset by agricultural subsidies.
- As regards the collared dove, there is a real risk of confusion with the wild dove, which is strictly protected at international level because it is at risk of extinction.
- Furthermore, the Region would authorise the culling of female red deer and fallow deer even whilst the fawns are still dependent on their mothers: by killing the mothers, the fawns are in fact also condemned to a slow and inexorable death by starvation; thus, the Region would be promoting violence upon violence.
- Furthermore, the law requires that **non-lethal** measures (acoustic deterrents, crop protection, etc.) be adopted as a priority, leaving culling as a last resort, whilst **the Region of Tuscany is demonstrating that the killing of animals is its first choice rather than its last.**

The Regional Executive's legal responsibility in the management of the Res Natura.

This appeal forms part of a broader context of wildlife management by the Tuscan Regional Executive, which lacks strategic vision and a sound scientific basis: decisions are taken without any real consultation with the relevant technical bodies and the academic community. There is also a question of the Region of Tuscany's legal responsibility in the management of common resources: culls have been continuing for years without ever achieving their stated objectives, making it necessary to repeat them year after year – a cycle that confirms the structural ineffectiveness of an approach based on the lethal removal of animals.

The context

The appeal to the Regional Administrative Court of Tuscany forms part of a broader legal strategy to challenge hunting calendars and culling plans approved without adequate scientific basis, which has already seen the associations involved in similar appeals and technical-legal interventions in other Italian regions, as well as in opposing the national draft bill to amend hunting legislation (the 'Sparatutto' Hunting Bill). This course of action upholds the principle that wildlife management, as a common good, cannot be carried out without scientific rigour and compliance with European legislation.

The appeal to the Regional Administrative Court of Tuscany was prepared by lawyers *Aurora Rosaria Loprete, Luca d'Agostino and Mariachiara Giovinazzo*.

PRESS CONTACTS:

- ***For further information on the subject:***
Andrea Rutigliano (CABS): pre-season hunting and birds; mobile: 346 948 4460 cabs.italia@komitee.de *Ivan Mazzone* (AGR): deer; mobile: 366 973 2408 attivistigrupporandagio@gmail.com

- ***Other contacts:***

Pro Natura Federation: segretario@pronatura.it LEAL:

ufficiostampa@leal.it

Green Impact: gaia.angelini@greenimpact.it

Joint press release

Green Impact • Pro Natura National Federation • LEAL • CABS • Randagio Group Activists