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Press Release

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HISTORIC VICTORY AT THE SICILIAN REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COURT: THE 2026–2027 HUNTING CALENDAR HAS BEEN ANNULLED. HUNTING ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED THROUGHOUT THE REGION

Palermo, 30 October 2026 – With judgment no. 02953/2026 filed today, the Third Section of the Regional Administrative Court of Sicily has upheld in full the appeal brought by Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura Aps and LEAL Lega Antivivisezionista ETS, with external support from CABS, GREEN IMPACT and AGR odv, annulling the Regional Ministerial Decree No. 129/Gab of 21 May 2026 setting out the “2026–2027 Hunting Calendar” for the Region of Sicily. The Regional Administrative Court recognised the validity of the main ground of appeal: the unlawfulness of adopting the Hunting Calendar in the absence of an updated Regional Wildlife and Hunting Plan. The most recent planning document dated back to the five-year period 2013–2018 and, despite the obligation for a five-yearly review laid down by regional legislation (Regional Law 33/1997), the Region had never carried out a legitimate reassessment or updated confirmation.

As highlighted by the administrative judges, in light of current regional legislation and the precautionary principle enshrined in EU law, the judicial annulment of the decree means that hunting is immediately prohibited throughout the whole of Sicily for the current season. The Regional Department of Agriculture and the opposing parties were also ordered to pay the costs of the proceedings.

Statement by the Lawyers

Following the publication of the judgement, the defence lawyers for the environmental and animal welfare organisations bringing the appeal — Luca D’Agostino, Aurora Rosaria Loprete and Mariachiara Giovinazzo — expressed their deep satisfaction with the decision handed down by the Court:

“The judgement of the Sicilian Regional Administrative Court forcefully restores the rule of law and the primacy of environmental protection and biodiversity over hunting, in full accordance with the principles of Article 9 of our Constitution.

The judges have made it unequivocally clear that serious and up-to-date scientific wildlife planning cannot be disregarded. Attempting to regulate hunting on the basis of a wildlife plan dating back to 2013 — which has been obsolete for over a decade — constituted a serious procedural flaw and a breach of the precautionary principle.

The effect of this annulment, as set out in the ruling, is an immediate halt to hunting in Sicily for the current season. It is a crucial victory for the protection of wildlife and nature in Sicily, which we

hope will finally prompt the regional authorities to fulfil their duties of planning and protection before permitting any hunting on the island.”