

Denmark Leads Ethical Hunting Practices with Bowhunting Legalization for Large Deer Species

The European Bowhunting Federation (EBF) announces a groundbreaking development in Denmark's hunting regulations. Effective January 1, 2024, bowhunting for large deer species, such as red, fallow, and sika deer, will be legalized. This decision aligns with Denmark's commitment to ethical and sustainable wildlife management.

In February 2023, the Wildlife Management Council (VFR) consisting of hunters, anglers, fishermen and farmers associations, environmental and animal welfare groups, recommended this change, which then smoothly passed through consultation, reflecting a consensus across various sectors.

The Danish Technical University's (DTU) study on animal welfare aspects in bowhunting has been a pivotal factor in this policy shift. This 4-year-long study highlights that skilled and responsible bowhunting meets high animal welfare standards.

Kirsten Andersen, Chairman of the Danish Bowhunter Association (FADB), shares her excitement: "This landmark decision is a beacon of hope and inspiration for bowhunters across Europe. While we in Denmark now have the privilege to hunt the full range of deer, it's encouraging to see the growing momentum in countries like Norway, Sweden, and others where bowhunting organizations are actively working towards similar opportunities. This positive movement across Europe reflects a growing appreciation for responsible and sustainable hunting practices."

EBF President Anders Gejer welcomed this advancement, stating, "This decision marks a significant progress in ethical hunting. The DTU's role has been crucial in ensuring alignment with conservation values and animal welfare."

Moreover, many European nations now recognize the benefits of bowhunting in their modern game management systems, citing its low environmental impact and minimal ecological footprint. Bowhunting is seen as a method that causes low disturbance to wildlife and their habitats, making it an environmentally responsible choice for sustainable hunting.

Denmark's forward-thinking approach sets a benchmark for combining traditional hunting methods with modern ethical standards. The EBF encourages hunters to stay informed about the new regulations to maintain responsible and sustainable bowhunting practices.

For additional information on the new regulations and bowhunting in Denmark, please visit the websites of the [Danish hunting authorities](#) and the [Association of Danish Bowhunters](#).