

# HUNTING AND GAME PROTECTION ACT

*Prom. SG. 78/26 Sep 2000, amend. SG. 26/20 Mar 2001, amend. SG. 77/9 Aug 2002, amend. SG. 79/16 Aug 2002, amend. SG. 88/4 Nov 2005, amend. SG. 82/10 Oct 2006, amend. SG. 108/29 Dec 2006, amend. SG. 64/7 Aug 2007, amend. SG. 43/29 Apr 2008, amend. SG. 67/29 Jul 2008, amend. SG. 69/5 Aug 2008, amend. SG. 91/21 Oct 2008, amend. SG. 6/23 Jan 2009, amend. SG. 80/9 Oct 2009, amend. SG. 92/20 Nov 2009, amend. SG. 73/17 Sep 2010, amend. SG. 89/12 Nov 2010, amend. SG. 8/25 Jan 2011, amend. SG. 19/8 Mar 2011, amend. SG. 39/20 May 2011, amend. SG. 77/4 Oct 2011, amend. SG. 38/18 May 2012, amend. SG. 60/7 Aug 2012, amend. SG. 77/9 Oct 2012, amend. SG. 102/21 Dec 2012, amend. SG. 15/15 Feb 2013, amend. SG. 62/12 Jul 2013, amend. SG. 60/7 Aug 2015, amend. SG. 14/19 Feb 2016, amend. SG. 58/18 Jul 2017, amend. SG. 63/4 Aug 2017, **amend. and suppl. SG. 17/23 Feb 2018***

## **Chapter one. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Art. 1. The Act shall provide the relations, connected with the ownership, the protection and the management of the game, the organisation of hunting economy, the right to hunt and the trade with game and game products.

Art. 2. (1) (suppl. – SG 91/08) The game in the Republic of Bulgaria shall be private state ownership, except for the cases, referred to in this Act.

(2) The game shall be managed in hunting economic regions on the population principle.

(3) (new – SG 91/08) The game, purchased by the persons referred to in Art. 34, par. 1, item 3, 4 and 5, which is bred in farms and bases for intensive game management shall be of their ownership as long as it remains within the enclosed areas.

Art. 3. (1) The protection of the game as national asset aims at preservation of the genetic fund and the species diversity, increase and sustainable development of the game reserves, enrichment of fauna and preservation of the ecological equilibrium in natural environment.

(2) (suppl. SG 79/02) The protection of the game is a basic principle for the organisation of the hunting area and management of hunting economy, management of the game, its habitats, ecosystems and processes, conducted therein, and exercising of the right to hunting.

(3) The protection shall include the activities for preservation, guarding and control at managing the game and exercising of the right to hunting.

Art. 4. (amend. – SG 64/07) (1) (prev. Art. 4 – SG 91.08; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The organisation of the hunting area, the management of hunting economy and the control of management of the game shall be implemented by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

(2) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. - SG 92/09) For the implementation of the state policy in game husbandry the Executive Agency on Forests shall be supported by the hunting associations referred to in Art. 30, Para 1.

Art. 5. (1) Game in the context of the law are all mammals and birds – subject to hunting, which

live freely under natural conditions or a bred in fenced territories with hunting economic purpose.

(2) Subject to hunting are:

1. (amend. SG 79/02) mammals and birds according to appendix No 1;
2. mammals and birds, introduced in the country with hunting economic purpose;
3. dogs and cats got wild and wandering in the hunting economic regions.

(3) The mammals and the birds of para 1, bred and grown in zoos, zoo gardens and zoo centres, as well as these, bred in farms, till the moment of settling in nature, are not subject of hunting.

(4) According to the time of staying on the territory of the country the game shall be divided into local and migrating.

(5) (amend. SG 79/02) depending on the biological peculiarities, the regime of management and the way of hunting the game is divided into big and small, pointed out in appendix No 1.

## **Chapter two.**

### **ORGANISATION OF THE HUNTING AREA AND MANAGEMENT OF HUNTING ECONOMY**

#### **Section I.**

##### **Organisation of the hunting area**

Art. 6. The hunting area of the country shall include all lands, forests and water areas, dwelled by game or where there are conditions for its existence, out of the settlements, determined with general and detailed urban development plans or with surrounding polygons.

Art. 7. (1) The hunting area of the country is distributed into hunting economic regions regardless of the land entirety boundaries and the ownership of the lands, the forests and the water areas.

(2) (amend. SG 79/02) No hunting economic regions shall be detached on natural reserves.

(3) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) On the protected territories the management of the game shall be implemented according to their regime and management plan, and in the sites, immediately connected with the defence and the national security of the country – by an order, determined with an order by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry in coordination with the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Defence.

(4) (amend. SG 79/02) The area of the hunting economic regions depends on the basic kind of game and shall be determined under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law. In the territory, belonging to one settlement – village, shall not be detached more than one hunting economic region.

(5) (new – SG 79/02) The hunting economic regions shall be:

1. (amend. – SG 91/08; amend. - SG 92/09) hunting economic regions of the hunting companies under art. 29;

2. (amend. – SG 43/08) hunting economic regions of state game husbandries;

3. (amend. – SG 91/08) hunting economic regions of enclosed areas;

4. hunting economic regions of game breeding sections.

(6) (prev. (5) – SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; suppl. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. - SG 92/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The boundaries of the hunting economic regions shall be determined along permanent terrain forms and facilities, complying with the boundaries of the territories, belonging to the settlements, and shall be approved with an order by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry upon proposal by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

(7) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. - SG 92/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The proposals for modification of the borders between hunting economic regions of state game husbandries and game breeding areas of the hunting associations shall be made by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry upon proposal by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

Art. 8. (amend. SG 79/02) (1) (amend. – SG 43/08) State game husbandries, game breeding sections and bases for intensive management of the game shall be established for increase of the game resources, protection of the game diversity and preservation of the genetic fund.

(2) (amend. – SG 43/08) The boundaries of the state game husbandries, the game breeding sections and the bases for intensive management of the game shall be determined along durable terrain forms and facilities regardless of the boundaries of the territories, belonging to the settlements and the land entirety boundaries. Their total area shall be up to 15 percent of the hunting area of the country.

(3) (amend. – SG 91/08) The establishing in the hunting economic regions of enclosed areas of an area exceeding 100 hectares shall be co-ordinated with the Minister of Environment and Waters.

(4) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests shall give a permit in writing for establishment of enclosed areas within the boundaries of the hunting economic regions after an environmental assessment of the zones of the network "Natura 2000".

(5) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09, suppl. - SG 17/18, in force from 23.02.2018) For the establishment of the enclosed areas of par. 4, the persons managing the game shall submit an application to the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests. The application shall be submitted personally, by proxy, electronically under the conditions and by the order of art. 5 and 22 of the Electronic Government Act or through a licensed postal operator.

(6) (new – SG 91/08) The application of Art. 5 shall contain justifications for establishment of the base, capacity, type of fencing and reference register of the fence limits.

Art. 9. (amend. SG 79/02) (1) (amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011; amend. – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011) The state game husbandries according to appendix No 2 are local subdivisions of the respective state enterprises as per Appendix No 1 of the Forestry Act;

(2) (amend. – SG 43/08; suppl. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011; revoked – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011)

(3) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Regions of activities of the state game husbandries, envisaged in Para 1, shall be defined with an order by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

(4) (amend. – SG 43/08; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

(5) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 80/09; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

(6) (amend. – SG 43/08 revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

(7) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 80/09 amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011; revoked – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011)

(8) (amend. – SG 43/08; revoked – SG 91/08).

(9) (new – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011; amend. – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011) Within their allocated region activity the state game husbandries shall carry out the activities and shall fulfill the functions, assigned by the state forest husbandries by the Forestry Act and secondary legislative acts on its application, as well as following activities.

1. preservation and enlargement of the species diversity of the game;

2. construction of game husbandries facilities and conduction of bio-technical events;  
3. reproduction, dissemination, protection and protection of the game;  
4 acclimatisation and re-acclimatisation of the game;  
5. improvement of the exterior and trophy qualities of the game;  
6. use of game and game products and conduction of organised hunting tourism;  
7. use of the forestry territories – state ownership for the maintenance of the qualities of the bio-type and improvement of the inhabitats.

(10) (new – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 80/09; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

(11) (new – SG 91/08; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

(12) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) State enterprises under the Forestry Act may, after a held competition, to conclude contracts for joint performance of the activities envisaged in Para1, items 1 – 6 on the territories of the state game husbandries with legal persons.

(13) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) For opening of a competition as per Para 12, the director of the respective state enterprise shall make a reasoned proposal to the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

(14) (new – SG 91/08) The proposal of par. 13 shall indicate:

1. the period of validity of the contract;  
2. types of activities by years, which shall be subject to the contract for a joint activity within the period of its validity;  
3. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09. 04.2011) the financial resource, with which the state enterprise can participate for carrying out the activities of item 2;  
4. income by years, anticipated from hunting economic activity for the period of validity of the contract for joint activity.

(15) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Based on the proposal of Para 13, the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry can announce a competition by an order, containing:

1. the legal and actual grounds to open the procedure;  
2. period of validity of the contract;  
3. types of activities by years, which shall be subject to the contract for a joint activity within the period of its validity;  
4. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) the financial resource, with which the state enterprise can participate for carrying out the activities of item 3;  
5. income by years, anticipated from hunting economic activity for the period of validity of the contract for joint activity;  
6. additional requirements to the applicants for participation in the procedure in terms of specifics of the subject of the competition, including existence of protected territories, experience and/or investments in hunting economic activity;

7. the price of the set of documents for participation in the competition;

8. (revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

9. evaluation criteria for the proposals and methods of their evaluation;

10. deadline for submission of written proposals, which cannot be shorter than 10 days;

11. place, date and time of holding of the competition.

(16) (new – SG 91/08) By the order referred to in par. 15:

1. the documentation for holding of the competition shall be approved;  
2. second deadline for submission of proposals shall be fixed, where within the term, allocated for submission of the proposals no proposal has been submitted; the second deadline for acceptance of proposals may not be later than 20 days after the expiration of the approved by the order deadline for submission of the proposals.

(17) (new – SG 91/08; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

(18) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The order for opening of the procedure shall be promulgated in one central daily newspaper and on the official website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry and of the respective state enterprise at least 30 days prior to the date of holding of the competition.

(19) (new – SG 91/08) The applicant for conclusion of a contract must meet the following requirements:

1. not to be announced in insolvency and not to be involved in winding up procedures;
2. not to be in insolvency;
3. not to have financial liabilities to the state, established by an enforced act of a competent state body;
4. not to be deprived of the right to exercise business activity;
5. not to have been convicted for bankruptcy;
6. not to have been convicted with an enforced sentence for an offence against the property or the husbandry, unless having been vindicated;
7. to meet the requirements referred to in par. 15, item 6.

(20) (new – SG 91/08) The requirements of par. 19, items 4, 5 and 6 shall refer to the chief executives and the executive members of the managing bodies of the applicant.

(21) (new – SG 91/08, amend. - SG 63/17, in force from 01.01.2018, amend. - SG 17/18, in force from 23.02.2018) The circumstances under par. 19, items 1, 2, 5 and 6 shall be substantiated ex officio by reference from the relevant public register and if such is not maintained the information is required and received from the competent administration under Art. 19, item 3 with received ex officio information about presence or absence of obligations under the Art. 87, Para. 11 of the Tax-insurance Procedure Code, and under par. 19, items 4 and 7 – by a declaration.

(22) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) In his/her offer for conclusion of a contract for joint activity the applicant shall indicate his/her investment objectives by years. The offer shall be submitted in a sealed non-transparent envelope in person by the applicant or by an authorized by him/her representative in the respective state enterprise.

(23) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The offers shall be considered by a commission, appointed by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry of an empowered by him/her official. Commission shall be embodied by at least five members, of which members obligatory one shall be a qualified lawyer.

(24) (new – SG 91/08) The members of the commission shall be announced on the day, scheduled for consideration and assessment of the proposals.

(25) (new – SG 91/08) A member of the commission may not be a person, deemed as an affiliated person in the meaning of the Commerce Act to an applicant in the competition or to members of its managing or control bodies.

(26) (new – SG 91/08) Commission members shall be obliged to treat confidential all circumstances, made known to them with regard to their work in the commission.

(27) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) Commission members shall present to authority envisaged in Para 23 a declaration on the circumstanced of par. 25 and 26.

(28) (new – SG 91/08) The commission shall open the envelopes following the order of their submission and shall verify the compliance of the proposals with the requirements announced in advance.

(29) (new – SG 91/08) The commission shall have the right at any time to verify the stated by the applicants information and facts and to request within a set by it term further evidences of the circumstances, indicated in the applicant's offer.

(30) (new – The commission shall draw up a minutes of its operations and shall make an assessment of the offers and a proposal for applicants rating.

(31) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry by an order shall announce the results of the rating within 14 days after preparation of the proposal of par. 30.

(32) (new – SG 91/08) The order of par. 31 shall be an individual administrative act in the meaning of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

(33) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The contract for joint activity in the state game husbandry shall be concluded by the director of the respective state enterprise with the person, having won the competition, within 14 days after entering of the order of par. 31 into force.

(34) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) A supplementary agreement to the contracts for joint activity shall be signed annually by 31 January, in which the activities to be carried out in the state enterprise shall be specified, as well as the amount of the investment, with which each party shall participate.

(35) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The contracts of Para 33 shall enter into force upon presentation of a bank guarantee for contract implementation and their approval by Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

(36) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Annually by 30 November of the current year the State Agency of Forests shall carry out an inspection for implementation of the contracts for joint activity. The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry may schedule an inspection for contracts implementation from time to time. Reports shall be drawn up on the results of inspections, which shall be sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

Art. 9a. (new – SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; revoked – SG 39/11)

Art. 9b. (new – SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; revoked – SG 39/11)

Art. 9c. (new – SG 79/02; revoked – SG 39/11)

Art. 9d. (new – SG 79/02; revoked – SG 39/11)

Art. 9e. (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011) (1) The state game husbandries "Voden – Iri Hisar" and "Iskar" according to Appendix No. 2. along with the functions and activities as per Art. 9, shall be used also for state representative purposes and shall carry out their activities related to organization of official events of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, of the Chairman of the General Assembly and of the Prime Minister.

Art. 9f. (new – SG 91/08; revoked – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011)

Art. 9g. (new – SG 91/08; revoked – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011)

Art. 9h. (new – SG 91/08 revoked – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011)

Art. 9i. (new – SG 91/08; revoked – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011)

Art. 10. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry, or an empowered by him/her official, shall detach with an order:

1. (amend. – SG 43/08) the game breeding sections within the boundaries of the state forest husbandries;

2. (amend. – SG 6/09) fenced areas upon proposal by the persons, who manage them also without the conditions of art. 7, para 4.

Art. 11. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) On the forestry territories, where right to use has been established for scientific institutes and higher schools, which scientific and education activity is connected with forest and hunting economy, can be detached game breeding sections by the order of art. 10 and bases for intensive management of the game.

Art. 12. (1) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. and suppl. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 6/09) On the territory of one or more hunting economic regions with common boundaries, as well as in key points for breeding, espousal, courting, resting and feeding of the game breeding farms shall be detached for the period of validity of the hunting areas development projects under Art. 13.

(2) (amend. – SG 43/08) The boundaries of the breeding farms shall be determined by hunting development plan under a proposal of game husbandry commissions of the state forest husbandries.

Art. 13. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) (1) Hunting husbandries development plans shall be worked out for the hunting regions according to the ordinance envisaged in Art. 18, Para 1 of the Forestry Act.

(2) Grading of game habitats and taxing of the game shall be proceeded under the ordinance as per Paral.;

(3) The hunting husbandries development plans shall be approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests after co-ordination with the corresponding ministries and departments.

## **Section II.**

### **Management of hunting economy**

Art. 14. (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry through the Executive Agency of Forests shall control:

1. the organisation of the hunting economy;
2. the preservation, the reproduction, the settlement and the use of game;
3. the acquisition and the exercising of the right to hunting;
4. the conducting of organised hunting tourism;
5. the trade with game and game products;

6. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) execution of the hunting husbandries development plans;

7. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) execution of the hunting-husbandries events, stated in financial plans of the state enterprises.

Art. 15. (1) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) Hunting council shall be established at the Executive Agency of Forests as consultative body for the organisation of the hunting area, the management of the hunting economy, the preservation, the reproduction, the settlement and the use of the game in national scale.

(2) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SH 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests shall determine with an order the members of the Hunting council.

Art. 16. (1) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The regional forestry departments shall control the activities of Art. 14, items 2-7 in the regions determined for their activity except the regions of activity of the state game husbandries, where are implemented activities, connected with the guarding of the game as well as control of the fulfilment of forest and hunting development projects.

(2) (amend. – SG 79/02, amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests shall establish with an order hunting councils at the regional forest departments for discussing the problems of hunting and preservation of the game.

(3) (amend. SG – 82/06; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 69/08) Chairman of the hunting council of para 2 shall be the Director of the regional forestry directorate and members – representatives of the regional administration, the district directorate of the Ministry of Interior, the regional inspectorate for preservation of environment and waters, the hunting association and of other interested organisations.

Art. 17. (amend. – SG 43/08; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

Art. 18. (1) (suppl. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 43/08) Commissions for hunting economy shall be established state forest husbandries and the state game husbandries as consultative bodies for issues, connected with the organisation of the hunting areas, the management of the hunting economy and the management of the game.

(2) (amend. – SG 43/08) The Director of the regional forestry directorate shall approve with an order the commission of para 1, in which shall be included representatives of the state forest husbandries, the state game husbandries, the regional inspectorates for environment and waters, the regional police departments, the municipal administrations and of the persons, managing the game.

(3) (suppl. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 43/08) Chairman of the commission for hunting economy shall be the director of the state forest husbandry or the state game husbandry, who if necessary can attract other specialists and representatives of the owners of lands and forests.

Art. 19. (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests shall issue regulations for the organisation and the activity of the consultative bodies of art. 15, para 1, art. 16, para 2 and art. 18, para 1.



Art. 20. (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 80/09; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

### **Chapter three. RIGHT TO HUNTING**

Art. 21. (1) The right to hunting shall include hunting and acquisition of game, hunting trophies and game products.

(2) The obligation for preservation of the game shall also be connected with the right to hunting.

Art. 22. (1) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 91/08) (1) Citizens of full age, who have accomplished a special course, including theoretic and practical training in the following topics: knowledge of game, hunting- and game-related legislation; game breeding, management, use and preservation of game, protected species of mammals and birds from Appendix No. 3 to Art. 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, population biology, ways, methods and means for hunting, knowledge of arms and hunting shooting, knowledge of hunting dogs, diseases of game, rendering of first medical aid and having passed successfully a theoretical and practical exam, shall acquire the right to chase. The specialized course shall be held for a period of three to 6 months.

(2) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. - SG 92/09) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests, on the grounds of a required standard of hunting area of 70 hectares per hunter, shall determine annually the maximum number of hunters in the hunting companies under Art. 30, and also the associations, which may arrange courses for training of applicants, wishing to obtain the right to chase and the number of vacancies therein. For determination of the required standard hunting area the number of hunters above 65 years of age shall not be considered.

(3) (revoked – SG 6/09).

(4) (amend. – SG 80/09) The training shall be carried out by a program, under terms and conditions and following a procedure, approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests under a proposal of the hunting council. The training of applicants wishing to obtain the right to chase, shall be carried out by:

1. the state game husbandries;
2. higher schools and professional secondary schools in forestry and/or professional secondary schools in forest engineering;
3. hunting associations:
  - a) (revoked – SG 6/09)
  - b) (revoked – SG 6/09).

(5) (amend. – SG 6/09; amend. – SG 80/09) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests shall nominate on an annual basis the persons of par. 4, supposed to provide training to applicants wishing to obtain the right to chase.

(6) (amend. – SG 80/09) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests or a person authorized by him/her official by an order shall appoint a commission, which shall:

1. carry out the exams of par. 1, assess applicants' success and produce protocols of the final results;
2. prepare rating of applicants wishing to obtain the right to chase by associations based on the results of their performance in the exam.

(7) (amend, – SG 6/09; amend. – SG 80/09) The commission of par. 6 shall issue to the persons, ranked under par. 6, item 2, a certificate of obtained right to chase in a form, approved by the Executive

Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

(8) (revoked – SG 6/09).

(9) Persons, who have not passed successfully the exam for obtaining the right to chase, may sit the exam after having attended a new training course.

(10) (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) Officials, performing their official duties related to control and protecting of the game, may not exercise the right to chase. This prohibition shall not apply in cases, where hunting is being done in fulfillment of employment duties, being a part of their job description.

Art. 23. (amend. – SG 91/08) (1) The right to chase shall be exercised by persons, holding a membership card and hunting license, certified for the respective calendar year, as well as hunting permit.

(2) (amend. – SG 80/09) The hunting license and the hunting permit shall be issued according to forms approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

(3) The hunting license shall be personal and its rights cannot be transferred. The hunting license shall be issued and certified annually by the respective state forest husbandry or by the state game husbandry, in the region of activity of which the game husbandry, where the person is a member carries out its activity. The terms and conditions and the procedure of issuing and certification of the hunting license shall be determined by the regulations for application of the law.

(3) The persons, who have not certified their hunting license for the calendar year, cannot exercise their hunting right during the year.

(4) Where the hunting license has been lost, illegally withdrawn or destroyed, the persons shall be obliged within 7 days to notify about this circumstance before the respective state forest husbandry or state game husbandry having issued it.

(5) Null and void shall be announced hunting licenses:

1. of persons, having died;
2. of persons, having notified about the circumstances of par. 4;
3. which are improper.

(6) Nullity as per par. 5 shall be announced by the body, having issued the hunting license.

(7) (suppl. – SG 6/09; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. - SG 17/18, in force from 23.02.2018) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests through the state forests husbandries and state game husbandries shall maintain on its website a public national electronic register of the issued hunting licenses.

Art. 23a. (new – SG 91/08) (1) Discharging of a hunter from a hunting association shall take place under a decision of the managing council. Shall not be entitled to exercising the right to chase a person, who:

1. has not had his/her hunting license and membership card certified for the respective year;
2. has been discharged from the hunting association for violations of this Act and of the Law for the biological diversity; the person may be accepted as a member of a hunting association upon expiration of two years as from the date of the discharge.

(2) (amend. - SG 92/09) Within 7 days after the adoption of the decision by the managing council for discharging of a person as a members of the hunting association, the chairman of the association shall notify in writing thereof the director of the state forest husbandry and the respective state game husbandry.

(3) The director of the state forest husbandry or of the state game husbandry shall withdraw the hunting license of the person of par. 1.

(4) Within 7 days after the withdrawal of the hunting license pursuant to par. 3 the director of the state forest husbandry or of the state game husbandry shall enter this circumstance in the register of Art.

23, par. 7 and shall notify in writing the Ministry of Interior about the withdrawal of the issued permit for holding and use of firing guns and munitions for hunting purposes.

Art. 24. The graduates of higher and high schools, where the discipline "hunting economy" is studied, shall not pass theoretic exam of art. 22.

Art. 25. (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) The Executive Agency of Forests shall issue to foreigners hunting licenses as follows:

1. to representatives of diplomatic missions – under the conditions for reciprocity;
2. to foreigners, staying for a long time in the Republic of Bulgaria – after passing an exam by the order of art. 22 or presenting a license for hunting, valid in the country, which citizens they are, after coordination with the Ministry of Interior for carrying hunting arms;
3. to foreigners, staying for a short time in the Republic of Bulgaria – for a term of one month - after presenting a license for hunting, valid in the country, which citizens they are.

Art. 26. (1) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) Right to selective hunting shall have persons, who have acquired right to hunting, with practice as hunters not less than 2 years and successfully passed exam before a commission, appointed with an order of the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

(2) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) A certificate according to a model, approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests, shall be issued to the persons, acquired rights under para 1.

(3) Right to selective hunting shall have also the persons of art. 25, for them para 1 and 2 being not being applied.

(4) (new – SG 91/08) Right to selective hunting without sitting an exam of par. 1 shall have the persons, having obtained the right to chase and graduated from higher schools with educational and qualification degree of a "Batchelor" majoring in "Forest husbandry" or with "Master" degree in "Game and fish husbandry" in the Forestry Engineering University.

Art. 27. (1) Hunting guides are the persons, acquired rights under art. 26, para 1, graduated a special course for preparation and successfully passed an exam.

(2) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) The exams of para 1 shall be carried out by a commission, appointed with an order by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests. A certificate according to a model, approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests, shall be issued to the persons successfully passed the exam.

Art. 28. (1) (amend. SG 79/02) The order and the way for acquiring right to hunting, to selective hunting and for hunting guides shall be determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

(2) (amend. – SG 91/08) For passing an exam under art. 22, art. 25, item 2, art. 26 and 27 for issuing and for certification of hunting licenses fees shall be paid in an amount, determined with tariff of the Council of Ministers.

(3) (amend. - SG 17/18, in force from 23.02.2018) The persons of art. 22 older than 65 years shall pay the fees provided in para 2 with 50 percent discount. The disabled people shall be exempt from payment of fees under para 2.

(4) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09) The amounts referred to in par. 2 and 3 shall be deposited to the budget of the Executive Agency of Forests and shall be spent for financing of activities related to managing, administration, protection and preservation of game.

(5) (new – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011; declared unconstitutional by Decision of the Constitutional Court No of 2013 - SG 62/13) For administrative service related to issuance or certification of hunting license a fee in amount as defined with a tariff of the Council of Ministers shall be paid and it shall come to the respective state forestry husbandry or state forestry hunting husbandry.

Art. 29. (amend. SG 79/02; revoked – SG 91/08; new – SG 92/09) (1) Bulgarian nationals that have acquired hunting rights shall gather in a hunting company pursuant to their common interests in caring for and protecting the game in a single hunting economic region.

(2) At least 20 hunters shall be required for the formation of a hunting company. In a single hunting economic region as referred to in Art. 7, Para 5, Item 1 shall be formed only one hunting company.

(3) A particular hunter may participate in only one hunting company.

Art. 30. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 91/08; amend. - SG 92/09) (1) The persons referred to in Art. 29 that have gathered into hunting companies, shall establish a hunting association on the territory of one or more than one neighbouring state forest farm and/or state hunting farm for purposes of activities related to the game reproduction, management, preservation and use.

(2) The hunting association shall govern and organize the activities of the companies related to game reproduction, management, preservation and use on the hunting farm regions granted to them. The association shall protect the interests of the hunters that have gathered under the conditions and the order referred to in Art. 29 before the state and municipal authorities.

(3) The hunting associations shall register the hunting companies in the state forest farms, respectively the state hunting farms.

(4) For processing the registration under Para 3 the hunting association shall submit:

1. lists of the hunting companies including a name of the company, size of the hunting farm region, the names and the unified civil number of the member hunters;

2. records of the general meetings of the companies including a decision for election of a chairman and a governing body of the company.

(5) The hunting associations under Para 1 shall be legal persons registered pursuant to the conditions and the order of the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act.

(6) Any hunting company may participate in only one hunting association.

(7) The chairman of the hunting company shall conclude an employment contract with an expert in hunting. The expert in game farming shall organize the hunting activity of the association.

Art. 31. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 91/08; amend. - SG 92/09) (1) The hunting associations under Art. 30 may unite on voluntary basis.

(2) The National Hunting Association shall be the association of those hunting associations, whose members exceed the half of the total number of all persons registered in the country entitled to hunting. Provided that none of the persons under Para 1 meets this requirement, a National Hunting Association shall be the association with the largest number of members still exceeding one third of all persons registered in the country entitled to hunting.

(3) The unions of hunting associations under Para 1 shall be hunting associations – legal persons registered under the conditions and the order of the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act.

(4) The national hunting association shall govern, coordinate and control the activity of its

members related to management and preservation of the game in the allocated hunting economic regions.

(5) Any hunting association may participate in only one union pursuant to Para 1.

Art. 32. (amend. – SG 79/08) (1) (amend. – SG 91/08) The persons of art. 30, para 1 and Art. 31, para 1 cannot participate in commercial companies and in other bodies, registered under the Commercial Law.

(2) (amend. – SG 91/08) The persons of art. 30, para 1 and art. 31, para 1 can establish commercial companies without right to non pecuniary payment in them. The profit, realised from the activity of the commercial companies shall be distributed for achieving of the objectives, determined in the statute of the hunting associations.

## **Chapter four.**

### **MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE GAME**

#### **Section I.**

#### **Management of the game**

Art. 33. The management of the game encompasses the activities for preservation and enrichment of the species diversity, improvements of the habitats, preservation and reproduction of the game, guaranteeing of the biological minimum, achieving and maintaining of the admissible reserves, ensuring of rational and sustainable use in the hunting economic regions.

Art. 34. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 91/08) (1) The game in the country shall be managed by:

1. the state game husbandries;
2. the state forest husbandries;
3. the persons of art. 11;
4. the hunting associations of art. 30, para 1 and art. 31, para 1;
5. other corporate bodies, meeting the requirements of Art. 9 and 36.

(2) The State forest husbandry shall manage the game in the game breeding areas, for which:

1. game management and use is not assigned through holding a competition pursuant to the provisions of this Act;
2. the contract for game management and use has been terminated – until a new contract is concluded.

Art. 35. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 43/08) The state game husbandries and the persons of art. 11 shall manage the game in the hunting economic regions determined for them and in detached bases for intensive management of the game.

Art. 36. (amend. SG 79/02) (1) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 91/08) Game management and use in the game breeding sections of art. 10 may be assigned through a competition to the persons of Art. 34, par. 1, item 1, 3, 4 and 5, meeting the requirements, determined by the regulation for application of the law.

(2) (new – SG 91/08) The competition of par. 1 may include also leasing of the premises and

assets for hunting tourism, which is private state ownership and is required for the game management and use.

(3) (amend. – SG 43/08; prev. par. 2, amend. – SG 91/08) The state forest husbandries shall concede the management of the game through direct contracting to the hunting associations of Art. 30, par. 1 in the hunting economic regions out of these of para 1 and art. 35. The terms of game management for the persons pf Art. 34, par. 1, item 1, 3, 4 and 5 shall be the same.

(4) (prev. par. 3 – SG 91/08) The conditions and the order for direct contracting for management of the game shall be provided with regulation for the implementation of the law.

Art. 36a. (new – SG 91/08) (1) The applicant for game management and use in the game breeding area must meet the following requirements:

1. not to be announced in insolvency and not to be undergoing winding up proceedings;
2. not to be in liquidation;
3. not to have overdue liabilities to the state or to the municipalities, established by an enforced act;
4. not to have been deprived of the right to carry out trading activity;
5. not to have been convicted for bankruptcy;
6. not to have been convicted with an enforced sentence for an offence against the property or an offence against the husbandry, unless is he/she has been vindicated;
7. to have concluded employment contracts with:
  - a) an expert in game husbandry with higher education and not less than three years of experience in the field of game husbandry, appointed to manage the game;
  - b) minimum one expert in game husbandry, holding a certificate for selective chasing for each 2500 hectares of hunting area.

(2) The contracts of par. 1, item 7 may be concluded also under precedent condition and shall enter into force upon competition winning.

(3) The requirements of par. 1, item 4, 5 and 6 shall apply also to the chief executives and the executive members of the managing bodies of the applicant.

(4) (amend. - SG 17/18, in force from 23.02.2018) The circumstances of par. 1, item 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 shall be substantiated ex officio by reference from the relevant public register and if such is not maintained the information is required and received from the competent administration of para. 1, item 4 – with a declaration.

Art. 36b. (new – SG 91/08) (1) (amend. – SG 80/09: amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry shall open the competition by an order, containing:

1. the legal and actual reasons to open the procedure;
2. name of the game breeding area;
3. the term of assignment of game management;
4. the price of the documentation for participation in the competition;
5. additional requirements to the applicants for participation in the procedure in terms of specifics of the subject of the competition;
6. the initial amount of the annual fee for game management in the area;
7. the initial annual price of the rent for the premises and the assets for hunting tourism of state ownership;
8. assessment criteria of the proposals with determination of the way of assessment of individual criteria and determination of their relative share in the final assessment of the proposal;

9. the deadline for presentation of written proposals, which may not be shorter than 10 days;
10. the place, the day and the time of holding of the competition;
11. the amount of the guarantee for participation;
12. the type and the amount of the performance guarantee for the contract.

(2) The order of par. 1 shall set also a second date for submission of proposals, when within the initially set time no proposals have been submitted. The second date for acceptance of proposals may not be later than 20 days after the expiration of the approved by the order deadline for submission of the proposals.

(3) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The initial amount of the annual fee for game management shall be determined based on the types of habitats within the game breeding area following practices, issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

(4) The initial annual price of the rent for usage of the premises and assets of private state ownership which is required for game management and use, shall be determined following the provisions of the Regulation for application of the State Property Act.

(5) The amount of the guarantee for application shall equal to one annual fee for game management, determined according to the provision of par. 3.

(6) The order for opening a procedure shall be released in one central daily newspaper minimum 30 days prior to the date of holding of the competition.

Art. 36c. (new – SG 91/08) (1) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) With the order envisaged in Art. 36b, Para 1, the required documentation for conduction of the competition, which must contain the required data, instructions and requirements for drawing up of the proposal shall be approved.

(2) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The applicants shall be provided with the documentation of par. 1 against payment at a price, determined by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry. The price of the documentation may not exceed the cost of the actually incurred expenses for its preparation.

(3) The documentation for participation on the competition shall contain:

1. a copy of the order for opening of the procedure;
2. a copy of the order for allocation of the game breeding area;
3. a copy of the order for approval of the borders of the game husbandry area;
4. a map with indicated borders of the game husbandry area;
5. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) and excerpt of the hunting husbandry

development plan of the game husbandry area, and where there is no game husbandry development plan – requirements for game management;

6. data about taxation and game utilization plan;
7. a draft contract.

Art. 36d. (new – SG 91/08) (1) While preparing the proposal each applicant must adhere strictly to the terms and conditions for procedure implementation.

(2) Prior to expiration of the term for submission of proposals each applicant in the competition may amend, supplement or withdraw his/her proposal.

(3) Every applicant in the competition shall have the right to submit only one proposal.

(4) Each proposal shall contain:

1. (amend. - SG 17/18, in force from 23.02.2018) a copy of the court registration document or UIC under the Act on the Commercial Register and the Non-Profit Legal Entities Register;

2. proposed annual fee for game management in the game breeding area;
3. proposed annual lease price of the hunting tourism premises and assets;
4. (revoked - SG 17/18, in force from 23.02.2018)
5. a declaration of missing circumstances under Art. 36a, par. 1, item 4;
6. a copy of the contracts of the experts hired as per Art. 36a, par. 1, item 7;
7. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011 )business program for game management and use in the game breeding area and for the implementation of the game hunting development plan;
8. a copy of the document for presented guarantee for participation in the procedure.

(5) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The proposal shall be submitted in a sealed non-transparent envelope by the applicant in person or by his/her authorized representative to the respective state enterprise.

(6) The documentation for holding of the competition may contain a requirement some of the documents referred to in par. 4 to be placed in a separate sealed envelope, inserted on the main envelope.

(7) Upon accepting of the proposal, the order number, the date and the time of its receipt shall be indicated on the envelope, and these data shall be registered in a register of received communications and a document thereof shall be issued to the submitting person.

(8) A proposal, submitted after the expiration of the deadline, shall not be accepted. Shall not be accepted either a proposal in an envelope which is not sealed or is with violated integrity. Such proposal shall be immediately sent back to the applicant and this shall be recorded into the register.

Art. 36e. (new – SG 91/08) (1) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The competition shall be held by a commission, appointed by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry or of an empowered by him/her official.

(2) The commission of par. 1 shall contain minimum five members, out of them one lawyer and one economist.

(3) The commission members shall be announced on the day, scheduled for proposals consideration and assessment.

(4) A member of the commission may not be a person, who:

1. is an affiliated person in the meaning of the Act of commerce to an applicant in the competition or to members of his/her managing or control bodies;
2. has been involved in competition preparation.

(5) The commission members shall be obliged to keep confidential the circumstances, having been made known to them in connection with their activity in the commission.

(6) The commission members shall submit a declaration on the circumstances of par. 4 and 5.

Art. 36f. (new – SG 91/08) (1) The commission shall start functioning upon receiving of the list of applicants and the submitted proposals.

(2) The opening of the proposals by the commission may also be attended by representatives of the applicants, participating in the procedure.

(3) The commission shall open the envelopes following the order of their submission and shall verify the compliance of the proposals with the preliminarily announced terms and conditions.

(4) The commission shall be entitled at any time to verify the declared data and facts by the applicants, and also to request within a set by it term further evidences of circumstances, stated in the proposals.



Art. 36g. (new – SG 91/08) (1) The commission shall not tolerate participation in the competition of a participant, who:

1. has not submitted any of the required documents referred to in Art. 36d, par. 4;
2. does not meet the requirements of Art. 36a, par. 1;
3. has not presented the requested by the commission further evidences within the term under Art. 36f, par. 4.

(2) The applicants shall be obliged in the course of holding of the competition to notify about all changes of the circumstances under par. 1, item 2 within 7 days after their occurrence.

Art. 36h. (new – SG 91/08) (1) Upon consideration of the proposals the commission shall assess and rank the applicants following the criteria, approved in advance.

(2) The basic assessment criteria of applicants' business programs shall be:

1. investments by years, related to improvement of the generic habitats, fodder stock, biotechnical facilities and increase of game resources within an acceptable range;
2. the number of estimated new job vacancies related to game management in the game breeding area.

Art. 36i. (new – SG 91/08) (1) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Minutes on the work of the commission shall be drawn up, which shall be signed by all members and shall be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry along with the entire documentation, collected in the course of holding of the competition.

(2) Upon a written request by an applicant in the procedure, access to the protocol of the commission shall be provided respectively.

Art. 36k. (new – SG 91/08) (1) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry shall announce by an order the results of the ranking within 7 working days after the finalization of the work of the commission.

(2) The order of par. 1 is an individual administrative act in the meaning of the Administrative procedure code/

(3) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry or an empowered by him/her official shall notify in writing the applicants about the proposals assessment results.

Art. 36l. (new – SG 91/08) (1) Within one month after the announcement of the order of Art. 36k, par. 1 the director of the respective state enterprise shall conclude a contract for game management and use in the game breeding area with the person, having won the competition, after providing a contractual performance bond. The contractual performance bond shall be in the amount of three annual fees for game management according to the provision of Art. 36b, par. 3.

(2) Contracts for game management and use shall be concluded for a period of up to 15 years.

(3) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Minimum three months prior to expiration of the term of validity of the contract the respective regional directorate of forests shall carry out an inspection of its implementation. The results of the accomplished inspection shall be presented in a written report by the director of the regional

directorate to the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry, to the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests, as well as to the director of the respective state enterprise.

(4) Where in the course of the inspection of par. 3 it is identified, that the person, managing the game has fulfilled all his/her obligations under it and has reached the allowable game reserves, the contract may be extended without holding a competition for a period not exceeding the one determined in par. 2.

(5) In cases of extending the term of validity of the contract pursuant to the provisions of par. 4 the new contract shall be subject to updating, including regarding the amount of the annual fee for game management.

(6) Upon expiration of the term of validity of the contract the performance bond shall be released.

Art. 36m. (new – SG 91/08) (1) The director of the respective state enterprise shall terminate unilaterally by a one-month written notification the contracts for game management and use in the game breeding area in case of:

1. culpable non-fulfillment of the contractual obligations;
2. improper use of the game, resulting in disturbance of the sexual and age structure of game populations;
3. non-diligent management of the allocated hunting tourism premises and assets and of the biotechnical facilities or their use for purposes different from the designated ones;
4. issued and enforced two or more penal decrees against the person, managing the game breeding area, or his/her employees for violations of this Act, of the Forestry Act and secondary legislative acts related to their implementation.

(2) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) In case of termination of the contract of par. 1 the contractual performance bond shall not be refunded and shall remain in favour of the respective state enterprise.

Art. 36n. (new – SG 91/08) (1) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The Executive Agency of Forests, the regional directorates and the state enterprises shall carry permanent control over the implementation of the contracts for game management and use in the game breeding areas.

(2) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) At least once a year the state enterprises shall carry out inspection for contracts implementation. The results of the inspections shall be presented in reports, which shall be sent to the respective regional directorate of forests and to the Executive Agency of Forests.

(3) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) At least once every three years the respective regional directorate of forests shall carry out inspection for the implementation of the contracts for game management and use in the game breeding areas and shall present to the Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry, to Executive Agency of Forests and to the respective state enterprise a report on the results thereof.

(4) (amend. – SG 80/09; suppl. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Upon expiration of the half of the contractual term the Executive Agency of Forests shall carry out an inspection for its implementation, and the results thereof shall be presented in a written report to the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

(5) (amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry may assign inspections for contracts implementation at any time.

Art. 37. (1) (prev. Art. 37 – SG 91/08) The persons of art. 34 shall be obliged to:

1. organise and implement the feeding of the game;
2. create and maintain specialised fodder base for game;
3. construct hunting economic facilities;
4. adjust the number of the game;
5. participate in the taxation of the game;
6. preserve the game and participate in its guarding.

(2) (new – SG 91/08) The persons of Art. 34, having purchased big game pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall be obliged prior to its import for keeping in farms or bases for intensive game management to place it behind a quarantine fence.

Art. 37a. (new –SG 91/08) (1) For implementation of the activities of Art. 37 the persons, having obtained the right to chase, shall pay in the hunting associations, of which they are members, an annual fee for game management.

(2) (amend. – SG 80/09) The annual fee for management shall be determined annually not later than 1 December of the preceding year by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests under a proposal of the Hunting Council and of the Chairman of the National Hunting Association.

(3) The terms, conditions and the procedure of collecting and spending of the annual fee of par. 1 shall be determined by the regulation for the application of the law.

Art. 37b. (new – SG 91.08) (1) The persons, with whom a contract for game management and use in game breeding areas has been concluded, shall be liable to pay an annual fee for game management and an annual rent price for using the assets in an amount, corresponding to the proposed one by them in the competition procedure of art. 36.

(2) (amend. – SG 80/09 amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The funds of Para 1 shall come into the revenues of the respective state enterprise and shall be spent only for financing of the activities related to management and preservation of the game on the territory of the game-breeding areas for which:

1. management and use of game is not provided by way of competition under the Law;
2. the contract for management and use of game was terminated – till conclusion of a new contract.

Art. 38. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The construction of hunting economic facilities on lands and in forests, property of individuals and corporate bodies, shall be implemented after concluding a contract with them and observing the requirements of the hunting husbandries development plans.

Art. 39. (1) A specialised fodder base shall be created and maintained for the feeding up of the game under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

(2) (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) Areas for specialised fodder base shall be conceded gratuitously from the farm and forestry territories – state ownership.

Art. 40. (1) For preservation of the ecological balance and the sustainable development of the

populations, at proven need the number of some kinds of game shall be regulated under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

(2) The dogs and cats got wild and wandering in the hunting economic regions shall be destroyed.

Art. 41. (1) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09) The Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests shall permit activities related to import of game species for the purposes of introduction or re-introduction in the nature according to Art. 67, par. 2, Art. 68 and 69 of the Biological Diversity Act.

(2) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The settlement of game shall be implemented for refreshing the blood, stock with game, maintaining bio-diversity and hunting according to annual programme, approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests, under conditions and by order, determined in the regulation for implementation of the law. The settlement and the use shall be implemented under the control of the regional directorates of forests, the state enterprises and the associations of art. 30, par. 1 and art. 31, par. 1.

(3) (amend. SG 79/02) The shooting of the settled game for hunting shall be according to approved additional plan for use, the persons who manage it not making payment for using it.

Art. 42. (1) (prev. art. 42 – SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 8/11, in force from 25/11)) The veterinary – medical supervision and the fight with the diseases of the game in national scale shall be implemented by the Bulgarian Agency for Safety of Foods and the Executive Agency of Forests.

(2) (new – SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry shall issue ordinance for the conditions and the order for production of game in farm conditions and semi-free breeding.

(3) (new – SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. - SG 14/16, in force from 19.02.2016, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The prophylactics of the game shall be implemented according to programme for prevention, surveillance, control and eradication of animal diseases and zoonoses according to the Veterinary Practice Act, approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

Art. 42a. (new – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 60/15, in force from 07.08.2015)

## **Section II.**

### **Use of the game**

Art. 43. (1) The use of the game shall be implemented by hunting.

(2) (amend. SG 79/02; suppl. – SG 91/08) Hinting is killing, catching, chasing and injuring of game, as well as taking, carrying, hiding, storage, processing, transport of found, injured and killed game or identifiable parts of it, collecting and taking of eggs of birds – subject to hunting.

(3) (amend. – SG 91/08) Hunting is also staying or movement of persons out of settlements with:

1. hunting arms out of the case and assembled, regardless whether it is charged or not;
2. step traps, slip nooses with a steel rope and electrical sound reproducing devices for attracting the game.

(4) (new – SG 91/08) The activities referred to in par. 2 and 3 shall not be deemed hunting where they are carried out in a region of independent hunting shooting-grounds or practice grounds for training

of hunting dogs.

(5) (new – SG 91/08) Shall not be deemed hunting in the meaning of par. 3 carrying out of:

1. security or any other activity with pistols and wheel guns of a length of up to 300 mm by officials for and on the occasion of fulfillment of their professional duties;
2. (revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

Art. 44. (1) The hunting shall be implemented individually or in groups.

(2) Big game shall be hunted individually according to the methods of the selective hunting. Group hunting of bore shall also be admitted.

(3) (amend. – SG 91/08) Small, local and migrating game shall be hunted individually or in groups.

(4) (amend. – SG 91/08) Predators shall be hunted individually, in groups and during the hunting of other kinds of game.

(5) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. - SG 92/09) Hunting associations of Art. 30, par. 1 depending on the number of their members, shall fulfill an annual plan of shooting of predators which shall be approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests under terms and conditions and following a procedure, determined by the regulation for implementation of the law.

Art. 45. (1) (amend. SG 79/02) For each hunting economic region every year shall be approved a plan for using of the game.

(2) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) The general plan for using of the game in the country shall be approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

Art. 46. (1) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; suppl. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09) The plan for using of the game in the state game husbandries, game breeding areas and in the sites of art. 11 shall be approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

(2) (amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The plan for use in the other hunting economic regions, as well as the plan for use of the settled game shall be approved by the Director of the regional forestry directorate upon a proposal by the person managing the game.

(3) (amend. – SG 43/08; revoked - SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

(4) The draft plans for use of the game shall be prepared by the persons of art. 34.

(5) The conditions and the order for preparing of the plans for use shall be provided with the regulation for implementation of the law.

Art. 47. The organised hunting tourism shall be conducted under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

Art. 48. (amend. SG 79/02) (1) (amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 91/08) The hunting in the state game husbandry and in the game breeding sections, managed by the state forest husbandries, shall be implemented by the order of the organised hunting tourism.

(2) (amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 91/08) The selection and the sanitary shooting as well as the shooting of predators in the state game husbandries shall be implemented by the employees in them or

by persons with acquired qualification by the order of art. 27.

Art. 49. The hunting in the sites of art. 11 shall be implemented by the order of the Act according to their statute.

Art. 50. (amend. – SG 43/08; suppl. – SG 91/08) The hunting in the hunting economic regions, where the management of the game is conceded by the state forest husbandry by the order of art. 36, par. 3, as well as in the game breeding areas, conceded to legal entities after holding a competition shall be implemented by the order of the law and under conditions, determined by the persons, who manage the game.

Art. 51. (revoked – SG 79/02).

Art. 52. (amend. SG 26/01, revoked – SG 79/02).

Art. 53. (amend. SG 79/02) (1) The persons, managing the game, shall pay annual fee for use.

(2) (new – SG 91/08) The annual fee for use of the game shall be determined based on the granted hunting permits.

(3) (prev. par. 2, amend. - SG 91/08) The terms, the conditions and the order for collecting and spending of the annual fee if par. 2 shall be determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

(4) (new – SG 91/08) The persons pf Art.2, par. 3 and Art. 30, par. 1 shall not pay an annual fee for use of the game which is their ownership. Acquisition of game shall be evidenced by an invoice for sale and purchase.

Art. 54. (1) (amend. – SG 91/08; suppl. – SG 60/2012, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The terms of hunting of game – subject to chasing shall be determined by species of Appendix No. 4. Depending on the current situation, the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry, upon a proposal of the Executive Director of the Forestry Executive Agency or of the Executive Director of the Bulgarian Agency for the Safety of Foods and after a coordination with the Minister of Environment and Water, may establish with an order limitations or forbid hunting for some game species as well as may apply sanitary hunting of wild animals as a part of the measures for prevention, limitation and liquidation of illnesses among the animals.

(2) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 91/08) The days, methods and standards of hunting shall be determined by the regulations for implementation of the law.

(3) (amend. SG 79/02; suppl. – SG 91/08; amend. SG 15/13, in force from 01.01.2014, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) For regulation of the number of some kinds of game, for maintaining ecological balance of the game and also at occurred epizootic situation resources shall be ensured from the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

(4) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) Hunting with scientific objectives shall be permitted by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests during all the year under conditions and by order, determined in the regulation for implementation of the law.

(5) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 80/09; revoked - SG 102/12)

(6) (new – SG 89/10; amend. - SG 102/12) Hunting of brown bears shall be prohibited on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

(7) (new – SG 89/10; amend. - SG 102/12, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry may issue a permit for shooting brown bears as an exception from the prohibition referred to in Para 6 in special cases and in compliance with the requirements of Art. 48 of the Biological Diversity Act.

(8) (new – SG 89/10; revoked - SG 102/12)

(9) (new – SG 89/10; revoked - SG 102/12)

(10) (new – SG 89/10; amend. - SG 102/12, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Within three days from issuance of the permit under Para 7 the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry or a person authorised by him shall notify the regional inspection of environment and waters.

(11) (new – SG 89/10) The regional inspection of environment and waters shall be entitled, within 4 hours from completion of the hunting, to check its lawfulness and to take the samples required for examination.

(12) (new – SG 60/2012, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) In event of overpopulation of predators, the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry, with an order as per Para 1, may determine the manner of hunting.

Art. 55. (amend. – SG 43/08; revoked – SG 91/08)

Art. 56. (1) (amend. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 6/09) The hunting shall be implemented with smooth straight barrel or with rifled guns. When the weapons are semi-automatic, they can be loaded with more than one plus two bullets in the magazine. The hunting weapons cannot be automatic.

(2) Hunting fire arms are the arms, which are adapted for this purpose as construction and meet the technical requirements for safety.

(3) (amend. – SG 73/10, in force from 17.09.2010) Permission for buying, carrying and preservation of hunting arms and ammunition shall be issued by the bodies of the Ministry of Interior by the order of the Act on Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and Pyrotechnics.

(4) (suppl. SG 79/02) The selective hunting shall be implemented with grooved hunting arms or with smooth barrel hunting arms with bullet. Right to acquiring, carrying and use of hunting grooved arms shall have only the persons, acquired qualification by the order of art. 26

(5) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; suppl. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Hunting dogs can be used while hunting. Using maximum 10 hunting dogs shall be allowed for group hunting of wild hogs. The breed groups and the requirements, which must be met by the hunting dogs, the conditions for their use and the order for conducting trials with them shall be determined with an ordinance by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry.

(6) The regulating of some kinds of game, as well as the catching live game, can be implemented also with other appropriate means under conditions and by order, determined in the regulation for implementation of the law.

(7) (new – SG 91/08, suppl. – SG 6/09) Only fixed traps for selective hunting or mesh facilities may be used for catching live game for the purposes of dissemination, blood refreshment and for carrying out veterinary medical control, whereas they shall be placed in not less than 1000 m from the border of the neighbouring hunting economic area.

(8) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry in coordination with the Minister of Environment and Waters by an order shall determine the type of the selective cartridge traps for chasing of predators.

Art. 57. (1) A written permission shall be issued for carrying out a hunting under conditions and by order, determined in the regulation for implementation of the law after payment of a fee for issuing it according to a tariff, approved by the Council of Ministers.

(2) (new – SG 91/08) The permission for individual hunting of migrating and swimming game, as well as of pheasant, partridge and quail on the territory of the hunting economic areas of the hunting associations shall be issued for a period of one month, whereas for pheasant, partridge and quail the flying off dates are fixed according to an approved schedule.

(3) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; prev. par. 2 – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09) The permissions for hunting are according to a model, approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests, and shall be accounted for at the state forest husbandries and at the game husbandries.

Art. 58. (amend. - SG 92/09) (1) In the permission for hunting shall be entered the names of the hunters, the numbers of the hunting licenses, the way, the date and the place of hunting, the kind and the number of the permitted game for hunting and the name of the chief of the hunting in case of group hunting.

(2) Where hunting is carried out in hunting farm regions granted to the persons under Art. 30, Para 1, the number of the membership cards shall be also entered in the permission for hunting.

Art. 59. The game shot down, the game furs and hunting trophies shall belong to the hunter, who has acquired them, observing the conditions, determined by the manager of the game.

Art. 60. The conditions and the procedure of registration and recording of the shot and acquired game shall be determined by the regulation for application of the law.

Art. 61. (1) (amend. – SG 43/08) The hunting trophies shall be registered at the state forest husbandries or at the state game husbandries at the place of obtaining them in one month term. The non registered hunting trophies shall be taken in favour of the state.

(2) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) The hunting trophies shall be assessed by assessment commissions, appointed with an order of the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests.

Art. 62. For registration and assessment of the hunting trophies a fee shall be paid according to a tariff, approved by the Council of Ministers.

Art. 63. (1) (amend. – SG 43/08) The persons, who have found and taken fallen game horns, shall submit them to the state forest husbandries or to the game husbandries.

(2) The persons of para 1 can acquire the fallen game horns after payment of a fee according to a tariff, approved by the Council of Ministers.

Art. 64. Hunting shall be forbidden in:

1. (suppl. SG 79/02) nurseries and hunting breeding centres and fish farms;



2. trial fields and areas for variety seed production;
3. meadows – till their mowing;
4. newly planted vineyards;
5. vineyards – from pruning till the end of the grape harvest;
6. vegetable gardens and orchards and melon gardens – till harvesting;
7. cereals – from April 1 till harvesting;
8. rice fields – from March 15 till harvesting;
9. (revoked – SG 79/02).

Art. 64a. (new – SG 91/08) Stuffing, owning, exhibition in public places, transfer, transportation, export overseas, sale, bestowing or exchange of game, game products and hunting trophies without documents of origin shall be prohibited.

Art. 65. The use of the following means and methods shall be prohibited at hunting:

1. (amend. – SG 6/09) fire arms, not meeting the requirements of art. 56, para 1 and 2 and arbalests;
2. traps, loops, nets, glues and pits (ditches), if they are applied for non selective hunting;
3. poisonous or anaesthetic substances, as well as baits with such substances;
4. (amend. SG 79/02) electric sound reproducing devices and artificial sources of light, as well as facilities for lighting the target;
5. mirrors and other blinding subjects;
6. electric appliances, able to kill or stun;
7. (suppl. – SG 91/08) live animals, used as bait, and also blind or injured animals;
8. explosives, gas or smoke;
9. appliances for night shooting, containing electronic transformer or magnifier of the image;
10. motor vehicles;
11. aviation means;
12. hunting falcons and other pray birds, regardless of species and origin, as well as hunting greyhounds;
13. (new – SG 79/02) motor sailing vessels, which move with speed over 5 km/h and in Black Sea – over 18 km/h;
14. (new – SG 91/08) firing arms with silencers.
15. (new – SG 60/2012) bullets with diameter more than 6 mm in event of conducting of group hunting for a wild pigs with smooth straight barrels; in event of conduction of group hunting for wild pigs with straight smooth barrels usage of munitions of the ‘bullet’ type shall be allowed only.

Art. 65a. (new – SG 91/08) (1) For game husbandry management and development the persons of Art. 34 shall keep hunting statistics by hunting economic areas. The information shall be summarized on the level of:

1. (revoked – SG 92/09)
  2. (amend. – SG 80/09) the State forest husbandry, state game husbandry, regional directorate of forests and the Executive Agency of Forests – for the remaining hunting economic regions.
- (2) The conditions and the procedure of keeping the statistics of par. 1 shall be determined by the regulation for implementation of the law.

### **Section III.**

#### **Preservation of the game**

Art. 66. (1) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; suppl.– SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The control for the preservation of the game in all hunting economic regions shall be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry through the Executive Agency of Forests, by its structures, by the state forestry husbandries, the state hunting husbandries and by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

(2) The Ministry of Environment and Waters shall implement control of the preservation of the genetic fund.

Art. 67. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011 ) (1) (amend. – SG 60/2012) The preservation and the guarding of the game in all hunting husbandries territories as per Art 7, Para 5 shall be performed by the persons, entitled to manage the game.

(2) Functions on preservation and guarding the game shall be assigned to persons who have degree in forestry.

(3) Persons envisaged in Para 2 in the sections assigned to them shall:

1. guard the game and the fish;
2. follow the observing of the regime for management and use of the game;
3. follow the status of the game and the fulfilment of the hunting economic measures in the sections assigned to them;
4. check all documents for hunting and fishing;
5. make checks of the personal luggage of the hunting persons;
6. compile acts about established breaches under this Act;
7. keep the chattels – subject of the breach, as well as the chattels, that have served in its implementation;
8. monitor the observing of the fire safety rules;
9. preserve the specialised fodder base, the constructed hunting economic facilities, buildings and other sites in the guarded sections assigned to them;
10. follow the preservation of the game and bird coupling plots;
11. follow about damages, incurred by or caused the game;
12. regulate number of predators, dogs and cats who turned wild and stray.
13. capture and take the violators with unknown identity to the nearest department of the Ministry of Interior;

(4) Powers as per Para 3 shall also have the employees for guarding of the protected territories – exclusive state ownership.

Art. 68. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) (1) Persons as per Art. 34, Para1, items 3, 4 and 5, who manage the game, may conclude contracts with legal persons, registered as per Private Security Business Act for its direct guarding. The regional forestry directorate shall be notified in written of the concluded contracts.

(2) The person, who are registered under the Private Security Business Act shall appoint persons who have degree in forestry to perform the direct guarding of the game.

(3) Guarding of the game under the procedure of Para 1 and 2 shall be performed following the prescriptions of this Act.

Art. 69. (1) The setting on fire of stubble fields, hedges, strips along the road, areas with dry vegetation and the vegetation in the high mountain pastures shall be prohibited for protection of the game and its habitats.

(2) The agricultural and forest machinery shall be equipped with facilities for preservation of the game.

Art. 69a. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) (1) For the purposes of protection of the bio-technical facilities or in the interest of health and safety of the citizens, the director of the regional forestry directorate may, with an order, limit temporarily or forbid the access to a concrete area. The order shall be issued upon initiative of the person managing the game, after coordination with the owner of the area or the person whom it is assigned for management.

(2) The order referred to in Para 1 shall be announced to the public via mass media, the official Internet sites of the Executive Agency on the Forests, the regional forestry directorate or in another appropriate manner. The order envisaged in Para 1 shall be subject to immediate execution.

(3) Order, envisaged in Para 1 shall be subject to appeal as per the Administrative Procedure Code.

(4) In execution of the order envisaged in Para 1, the person who managed the game shall place significations which shall contain information as defined by the Regulations on Implementation of this Act.

Art. 70. (1) (amend. – SG 43/08) The planning of the hunting economic measures shall be co-ordinated with the commission for hunting economy at the state forest husbandry.

(2) (amend. SG 79/02) The damaging or the destroying of the birds' coupling places shall be prohibited.

(3) (amend. SG 79/02; suppl. – SG 91/08) During the mating season of the red deer and the wood-grouse in the permanently places for reproduction shall be terminated forest economic, construction, repair and other works, breaching the calmness of the game, including passing of trucks and other forestry and agricultural machines.

(4) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) Carrying out of individual activities of par. 3 shall be allowable only as an exception by the body envisaged in Para 5, upon coordination with the person managing the game.

(5) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The director of the respective regional forestry directorate annually by an order shall determine the range period of applicability of the restriction of Para 3 upon initiative of the person who manages the game after a coordination with the owner of the area or with the person whom it is assigned for management.

(6) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The order envisaged in Para 5 shall be subject to appeal under the Administrative Procedure Code.

(7) (new – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) In execution of the order under Para 5, the person who manages the game, shall place significations, containing information as defined with the Regulations on Implementation of this Act.

## **Chapter five.**

### **TRADE WITH GAME AND GAME PRODUCTS**

Art. 71. (1) (prev. art. 71 – SG 79/02) Trade with live game shall be implemented for settling in nature, for farm breeding, for the needs of zoo centres, zoo gardens, for import and export.

(2) (new – SG 79/02; amend. – SG 43/08; revoked – SG 91/08)

Art. 72. (amend. SG 79/02) The trade with game and game products shall be implemented under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

Art. 73. (1) (amend. – SG 43/08) Bulgarian hunters, who have hunting trophies and game furs, can grant, exchange or sell them. The new owners of the hunting trophies shall in 14 days term after the transaction register them at the state forest husbandry at the place of living.

(2) The fallen game horns shall be granted, exchanged or sold, accompanied with a document for paid fee.

(3) The owners of hunting trophies shall be obliged to concede them for participation in national and international exhibitions.

(4) Transactions with non registered hunting trophies shall be forbidden.

(5) (new – SG 70/02; amend. – SG 91/08) Persons, carrying out activities for processing of hunting trophies and game products shall be registered in the respective state forest husbandry or state game husbandry under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

Art. 74. (1) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The export and the import of live game and genetic material shall be permitted by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry or by an official authorized by him/her after coordination with the Minister of Environment and Waters.

(2) The hunting trophies, the fallen game horns and the game products shall be exported from the country under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

Art. 75. (revoked – SG 108/06, in force from 01.01.2007)

Art. 76. (1) (amend. – SG 91/08) The organised hunting tourism shall include use of game and game products, as well as the activities servicing it.

(2) (amend. – SG 79/02; amend. - SG 64/07; amend. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Annually the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry shall approve minimum prices for use of game and game products for the organised hunting tourism.

(3) The activities of para 1 shall be organised by the managers of the game under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

Art. 77. (1) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; prev. Art. 77 – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry upon proposal by the directors of the state enterprises shall categorise the bases for hunting tourism under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

(2) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) Annually the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry upon proposal by the directors of the state enterprises shall approve minimum prices for use of premises and

assets for hunting tourism of par. 1.

## **Chapter six.**

### **DAMAGES AND INDEMNIFICATION**

Art. 78. (1) (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011 )The persons managing the game shall implement the measures provided with the hunting husbandries development plan for restriction of damages from the game.

(2) The owners of lands and forests shall implement the measures with objective restriction of damages, which can be caused by game, provided in the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Act, the Forestry Act and in other statutory Instruments.

Art. 79. (1) (prev. art. 79 – SG 79/02) The indemnification for damages, caused by the game in the hunting economic regions to farm crops, forest vegetation and domestic animals in the region permitted for grazing, shall be paid by the persons managing the game.

(2) (new – SG 79/02) Indemnification for damages, caused by the brown bear and the cormorant shall be paid by the Ministry of Environment and Waters.

Art. 80. Indemnification for damages, caused by the game, shall not be paid in the cases, when:

1. there are no visible damages of the forests;
2. the damages, caused to the farm crops and the perennial plantations ar up to 5 percent;
3. the measures of art. 78, para 2, have not been implemented;
4. the damages are caused by passage game;
5. the damages are caused to agricultural crops and forest vegetation in regions, where grazing of domestic animals takes place.

Art. 81. (1) The indemnification for damages, caused by the game as result of incorrect use of chemicals for protection of agricultural and forest crops or such prohibited for use, shall e paid by the persons, who have taken decision for their use or have admitted their use.

(2) The indemnification for damages, caused by the game at exploitation of forest and agricultural machinery, shall be paid by the perpetrator.

(3) The indemnification for damages, caused to the specialised fodder base and to the hunting – economic facilities, shall be paid by the perpetrator.

(4) (amend. SG 26/01) The indemnification for damages, caused to the game, shall be paid to the persons managing the game, in which hunting – economic region the damage has been caused.

Art. 82. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 43/08; suppl. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) The damages, caused by the game, as well as the amount of the compensation shall be established by a commission, appointed with an order of the director of the respective regional forestry directorate under conditions and by order, determined with the regulation for implementation of the law.

Art. 83. The extent of the indemnification for the damages, caused by the game, shall be determined with an ordinance, approved by the Council of Ministers.

**Chapter seven.**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE PUNITIVE PROVISIONS**

Art. 83a. (new – SG 91/08) A person, having constructed enclosed areas in violation of the order, provided in Art. 8, par. 4, shall be imposed a fine or a proprietary sanction from 20000 to 30000 levs, and the constructed fence shall be removed at the account of the person, managing the game.

Art. 83b. (new – SG 91/08) A person, failing to fulfill his/her obligation under Art. 23, par. 4, shall be punished with a fine of 50 levs.

Art. 83c. (new – SG 91/08) A person, using invalid permit for hunting shall be punished with a fine from 200 to 1000 levs.

Art. 83d. (new – SG 91/08) (1) A person, failing to fulfill his/her obligation under Art. 23a, par. 2, 3 and 4 shall be punished with a fine from 1000 to 3000 levs.

(2) (amend. - SG 92/09) A person, having admitted a higher number of hunters than the maximum allowable one under Art. 22, par. 2 to be accepted in the association, shall be punished with a fine from 500 to 1000 levs and with deprivation of the right to chase for a period from one to three years.

(3) A hunting association, failing to fulfill its obligation under Art. 30, par. 7 shall be imposed a proprietary sanction from 1000 to 3000 levs, and where there are no applicants – no fine shall be imposed.

Art. 83e. (new – SG 91/08) (1) A person, failing to fulfill its obligation under Art. 53, par. 1, shall be imposed a proprietary sanction from 1000 to 5000 levs.

(2) Where the violation under par. 1 has been repeated within two years after the enforcement of the penal decree, the proprietary sanction shall be from 5000 to 10000 levs.

Art. 83f. (new – SG 91/08) A hunting leader who during group chasing after wild sow violates the requirements of Art. 56, par. 5, shall be punished with a fine from 100 to 500 levs.

Art. 83g. (new – SG 91/08) (1) Who violates the procedures and the requirements for granting a hunting permit under Art. 58, par. 1 shall be punished with a fine from 200 to 600 levs.

(2) Where the violation under par. 1 has been repeated within the same hunting season, the fine shall be from 1000 to 1500 levs.

Art. 83h. (new – SG 91/08) Who fails to fulfill any obligation under Art. 61, par. 1, shall be punished with a fine from 500 to 2000 levs.

Art. 83i. (new – SG 91/08) Who fails to fulfill any obligation under Art. 65a, shall be punished with a proprietary sanction from 1000 to 3000 levs

(2) Where the violation under par. 1 has been repeated within two years after the enforcement of the penal decree, the proprietary sanction shall be from 6000 to 8000 levs.

Art. 83k. (new – SG 91/08) (1) A natural person, failing to fulfill the provisions of Art. 70, par. 2 and 3 shall be imposed a sanction from 1000 to 5000 levs.

(2) Where the violation under par. 1 has been done by a legal entity or by a sole trader, a proprietary sanction from 5000 to 10000 levs shall be imposed.

Art. 83l. (new – SG 92/09) (1) Whoever infringes the order of the access as per Art. 69a and Art. 70 shall be fined from BGN 200 to 500.

(2) Where the infringement referred to in Para 1 was repeated within two years from entry into force of the penal decree, the fine shall be three times higher.

Art. 83m. (new – SG 60/2012) Whoever does not fulfil an obligation envisaged in Art. 65 shall be punished with a fine amounting from BGN 200 to BGN 2000.

Art. 83n. (new – SG 60/2012) Whoever participates in group hunting for wild pigs or small game without being equipped with a hat or clothes in a lucid signal colour shall be punished with a fine amounting from BGN 100 up to BGN 500.

Art. 83o. (new – SG 60/2012) (1) Who hunts with concentration of alcohol in the blood exceeding 0.5 per thousand or of narcotic or anaesthetic substances, shall be punished with a fine amounting from BGN 200 up to BGN 2 000.

(2) Who commits an offense under Para 1, after being once punished with an enforced punitive decree for another similar offense with a period of one year from the date of its entering in force, shall be punished with a fine amounting from BGN 3 000 up to BGN 5 000.

Art. 83p. (new – SG 60/2012) Who does not fulfil the provision of Art. 56, Para 1 shall be punished with a fine amounting from BGN 100 up to BGN 1 000.

Art. 84. (1) (amend. – SG 91/08) Who hunts without having lawfully certified hunting license or with a hunting license, but without written permission to hunt, or hunts out of the places determined in the permission, without having killed or caught game, shall be punished with a fine from 50 to 400 leva.

(2) When the breach of para 1 has been made during time prohibited for hunting, at a place prohibited for hunting or with prohibited means, the person shall be punished with a fine from 100 to 800 levs.

(3) (new – SG 79/02) Who hunts without carrying hunting license, shall be punished with fine of 50 levs unless he is subject to a heavier penalty.

(4) (new – SG 79/02) When the number of the hunters at group hunting is bigger than the permitted, the leader of the hunting shall be punished with fine from 50 to 300 levs.

Art. 85. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 91/08) Who takes, carries, transports or hides found live, injured or killed game or identifiable parts of it without a written permission to hunt, shall be punished with fine from 200 to 1000 leva.

Art. 86. (1) (amend. – SG 91/08) Who kills or catches game without having properly certified membership card and a hunting license, or with a hunting license and properly certified membership card, but without a permission to hunt, or beyond the determined therein date, place of hunting, number and kind of game, shall be punished with a fine:

1. for small game – from 300 to 1000 levs, but not less than the triple extent of the caused damage;

2. for big game – from 2000 to 5000 levs, but not less than the triple extent of the caused damage.

(2) (suppl. – SG 91/08) Who kills or catches game at a time prohibited for hunting, at a place prohibited for hunting, or with prohibited means or methods, shall be punished with a fine:

1. for small game – from 600 to 2000 levs, but not less than the triple extent of the caused damage;

2. for big game – from 1000 to 10 000 levs, but not less than the triple extent of the caused damage.

(3) (new – SG 79/02; amend. – SG 91/08) Who kills at selection hunting or as hunting guide allows to be killed big game, different from the entered in the permission to hunt, shall be punished with fine from 50 to 400 levs.

Art. 87. Who surmounts the standards for shooting down, determined in the regulation for implementation of the law, shall be punished with a fine from 50 to 500 levs, and the game shall be taken in favour of the state.

Art. 88. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 91/08) Who collects and takes eggs of birds – subject to hunting, without a written permission to hunt, collects and misappropriates game horns in breach of art. 63, shall be punished with a fine from 50 up to 100 levs, unless subject to a more serious punishment.

Art. 89. (amend. SG 79/02) (1) When the breach of art. 84, para 1 and 2, art. 85 and 86, para 1 and 2 has been done for second time within two years after the punitive decision has entered into force, the fine shall be in double extent.

(2) When the breach of art. 86, para 3 has been done for second time within two years after the punitive decision has entered into force, the fine shall be in triple extent.

Art. 90. (suppl. – SG 91/08) Who hides, stores, processes, sells or transports unlawfully acquired by other man game or game trophy, or non registered hunting trophies, unless subject to a graver punishment, shall be punished with a fine from 100 to 2000 levs.

Art. 90a. (new – SG 91/08) Who carries out activity for processing of hunting trophies and game products without being registered under the procedure provided in Art. 73, par. 5, shall be punished with a fine from 1000 to 5000 levs.



Art. 91. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) Who does not fulfil orders of the officials for the guarding of the game, given within their authorities of Art. 67, Para 3 shall be punished with a fine from 50 to 200 levs, unless subject to a more serious punishment.

Art. 91a. (new – SG 91/08) Owners of hunting and shepherd dogs without a hick outside settlements shall be punished with a fine from 50 to 100 levs.

Art. 92. A driver, who does not stop after a signal by an official for the guarding of the game, shall be punished with a fine from 50 to 500 levs, unless subject to a more serious punishment.

Art. 93. (1) Who causes damages to the hunting economic facilities and to the specialised fodder base, shall be punished with a fine from 50 to 1000 levs.

(2) Who breaches the prohibition of art. 69, para 1, shall be punished with a fine from 50 to 1000 levs.

Art. 94. (amend. SG 79/02) (1) (amend. – SG 91/08) A person, who has committed violation of art. 84, pasra 1 and 2, art. 85 and 86, para 1, shall also be deprived from the right to hunt for a term of 3 years.

(2) A person, who has committed violation of art. 86, para 2, and art. 89, para 2 shall also be deprived from the right to hunt for a term from 3 to 5 years.

Art. 94a. (new – SG 91/08; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

Art. 95. (1) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09) At the breaches of art. 84, 85 and 86 the weapons and the other means for hunting shall be taken in favour of the state and the unlawfully acquired game, hunting trophies and game products shall be delivered to the bodies of the Executive Agency of Forests.

(2) When in the cases of para 1 as means for hunting a vehicle is used, regardless of which ownership it is, it shall be taken in favour of the state.

(3) When the game, the hunting trophies, the game products, the vehicles, the weapons and the other means for hunting of para 1 and 2 cannot be taken, the violators shall pay apart from the indemnification also their equal value.

Art. 95a. (new – SG 79/02) Upon killing or poisoning of game due to use of toxic preparations the violators shall be punished with fine from 500 to 1500 levs, but not less than the value of the caused damage.

Art. 96. (1) (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09; suppl. – SG 39/11; suppl. – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017) The violations of the Act and of the secondary legislation on its application shall be found with acts, compiled by the officials of the Forestry

Executive Agency and of its structures, of the state forestry husbandries, of the state hunting husbandries and of the teaching-experimental forestry husbandries, who occupy a position for which education degree in forestry is required, as well as by officials under art. 67, or by authorised employees of the Ministry of interior, and the punitive decisions shall be issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry or by the Minister of Interior, or by officials authorised by them.

(2) The establishing of the violations, the issuing, the appealing and the implementation of the punitive decisions shall be implemented by the order of the Administrative Violations and Penalties Act.

(3) (amend. SG 79/02; amend. and suppl. – SG 91/08; repealed – SG 77/2012, in force from 09.10.2012)

(4) (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09) The amounts from imposed fines, proprietary sanctions and indemnifications in favour of the state for committed violations under this Act shall be deposited to the budget of the Executive Agency of Forests.

(5) (new – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011; revoked – SG 38/12, in force from 01.07.2012)

### **Additional provisions**

§ 1. In the context of the law:

1. "Hunting economy" is a complex of activities, connected with the management, the preservation and the use of the game, with the organisation and the development of the hunting area in the Republic of Bulgaria and with the trade with game and game products.

2. "Population principle" is large scale management of the game, complied with its biological peculiarities and whole year habitats, combining the interests of the species within the framework of the population at certain sexual ratio and age structure.

3. "Population" is a multitude of individual animals of certain kind of game, characterised with density of the resource, ensuring the existence and the normal reproduction of the species on certain territory.

4. "Farm" is a fenced territory for breeding or raising of animal species, subordinating to certain technological and veterinary – medical requirements.

5. "Breeding centre" is a part of a hunting economic region, where are created all the necessary conditions for guarding and reproduction of the game. Hunting shall take place as exception of some kinds of prey animals.

6. "Selective hunting" is a hunting economic measure for maintaining game resources at certain age structure, sexual ratio and trophy qualities.

7. "Biological minimum" is the number of animals under which the existence of certain species is threatened.

8. "Admissible resource" is the number of certain species, which can be maintained in the hunting economic region on the basis of the natural productivity of the habitats, combined with conducting of hunting economic measures, accounting the interaction with the competitive species and non admitting damages over 10 percent.

9. "Bird coupling place" is the place for coupling of wood-grouses and other birds.

10. (revoked – SG 91/08).

11. (amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011) "Boundaries of land entireties" are the boundaries between the agricultural and the forest land territories.

12. "Hunter" is an individual, who has acquired right to hunting.

13. "Introduction" is a successful implemented acclimatisation of foreign animal species.

14. "Photo-hunting" is taking pictures with photo appliances of wild animals and birds in their natural environment.

15. "Base for hunting tourism" are buildings and terrains and infrastructure, adjacent to them, specialised for the needs of the hunting tourism.

16. "Right to hunting" is the right to be killed, cached, chased and injured game, to be taken, transferred, transported found, injured and killed game or identifiable parts of it, to be collected and taken eggs of birds – subject to hunting, as well as the staying or the movement of persons out of the settlements with hunting weapons assembled and out of the case, regardless whether it is charged or not.

17. (new – SG 79/02) "Base for intensive management of the game" is a fenced territory, developed with regard to hunting economy for semi – free breeding of game with number over the admissible resource of the habitat according to the grade.

18. (new – SG 79/02) "Fish farm" is artificial water site, constructed according to the requirements for intensive breeding of different kinds of fish.

19. (new – SG 79/02) "Breed groups" are detached groups of dogs of and the same breed with equal exterior indices.

20. (new – SG 91/08) "Expert in game husbandry" is a natural person graduated after higher education in the Forestry Engineering University or high education in a technical school with minimum 4-year educational program, having sit successfully an exam in one of the following subjects: 'game husbandry', "game biology", "game ecology", "game diseases", "game breeding" or "game science".

21. (new – SG 91/08) "Game products" shall be meat, furs and fallen horns of game, and also eggs of birds – subject to chasing.

22. (new – SG 91/08) "Traps for selective hunting" shall be biotechnical facilities for catching of live big game, except for predators, meant for dissemination, refreshment of blood and veterinary medical control.

23. (new – SG 91/08) "Selective cartridge traps for hunting of predators" shall be biotechnical facilities for selective catching of predators.

24. (new – SG 91/08) "Document of origin" is:

- a) permission to hunt;
- b) protocol of a commission for assessment of hunting trophies;
- c) document of registration of hunting trophy issued by the state forest husbandry or the state game husbandry;
- d) slip of a permit for group hunting;
- e) a commercial invoice for sale and purchase.

25. (new – SG 91/08) "Biotechnical facility" shall be a facility for foddering, monitoring, use, veterinary prophylaxis, watering, catching, dissemination and other activities, directly related to game management.

26. (new – SG 91/08) "Game taxation" is a basic game husbandry activity, related to calculation and precise determination of the quantities of the game within a particular hunting economic area.

27. (new – SG 91/08) "Selective killing" shall be the one, where specimens with poor trophy and exterior qualities are removed.

28. (new – SG 91/08) "Sanitary killing" shall be the one, where sick, injured or crippled animals are removed.

29. (new – SG 91/08) "Game dissemination" shall be transportation and letting free in appropriate biotopes of produced in farms or caught in the nature hunting species.

30. (new – SG 91/08) "Blood refreshment" is a game husbandry activity, preventing inbreeding (breeding between close relatives).

31. (new – SG 91/08) "Mesh facilities" shall be facilities (traps), used for catching wild birds and mammals.

32. (new – SG 91/08) "Enclosed areas" shall be large facilities for intensive game management, the size of which shall consider the biological requirements of the game kind (reproductive yard, quarantine yard, acclimatization yard, hunting yard, aviary, branch yard).

33. (new –SG 91/08) "Invalid hunting license" shall be the one, which:
- a) is not issued according to the provisions of this Act;
  - b) is not officially certified by the issuing body or is issued by a person or a body, which are not competent thereof;
  - c) does not allow identification of the identity of its holder by the picture thereon;
  - d) there are signs of replacement of the picture, the seal is unclear of the image of the face on the picture does not match the real image;
  - e) is expired.

### **Transitional and concluding provisions**

§ 2. (1) (amend. – SG 64/07) The Chairman of the State Agency of Forests shall in six months term after the Act enters into force approve the boundaries of the hunting economic regions.

(2) Till the approval of the boundaries of the hunting economic regions the game shall be managed according to the existing distribution of the hunting area of the country.

§ 3. (1) The persons, managing the game till the Act enters into force, shall preserve their right to use the game for the hunting season 2000 – 2001.

(2) The right to hunting, to selective shooting and to accompanying (hunting guide), acquired by individuals till the Act enters into force, shall be preserved.

(3) (revoked – SG 79/02).

(4) (revoked – SG 91/08)

§ 4. The owners of hunting trophies shall, in one year term after the Act enters into force, be obliged to register them.

§ 5. The hunting associations shall be registered observing the requirements of this Act in months term after the Act enters into force.

§ 6. (amend. SG 79/02; amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 43/08; amend. – SG 80/09; revoked. – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

§ 6a. (new – SG 43/08) (1) The state game breeding stations according to Appendix No. 2 shall be transformed into state game husbandries and shall be legal entities having the status of state enterprises under Art. 62, par. 3 of the Act of Commerce.

(2) The state game husbandries shall be successors of the existing respective state game breeding stations and shall take in their assets and the liabilities as per the balance of accounts as of 1 June 2008.

§ 7. The Act shall revoke the Hunting Economy Act(prom. SG 91/82; amend. SG 13/97, SG 11/98).

§ 8. In the Value Added Tax Act (prom. SG 153/98; amend. SG 1/99; amend. SG 44, 62, 64, 103, 111/99, SG 83/00) in art. 14, para 1 item 7 shall be created:

"7. The sale of game, game trophies, game products and the activities servicing them to foreigners by organised hunting tourism in the context of the Hunting and Game Protection Act".

§ 9. In the Forestry Act (prom. SG 125/97; amend. SG 79/133/98, SG 26/99, SG 29/00) the following amendments and supplements shall be made:

1. In art. 21 item 7 shall be created:

"7. the hunting economy."

2. In art. 23, para 2 item 5 shall be created:

"5. the hunting economy."

3. In art. 57:

a) new para 5 shall be created:

"(5) The timber from forests – ownership of the state, shall be used by the state game breeding stations in the region determined for them against a fee paid per standing trees.";

b) the previous para 5 shall become para 6.

4. In art. 93 the following amendments and supplements shall be made:

a) items 6, 7 and 21 shall be changed to:

"6. fees for right to hunting, for issuing and certification of hunting licenses, for issuing certificates for selective hunting, for hunting guides etc. under art. 28, para 2 of the Hunting and Game Protection Act;

7. fees for issuing and coordination of certificates, permissions and other written documents, required under the Hunting and Game Protection Act;"

"21. Fees for registration and assessment of hunting trophies under art. 62 and fees for fallen game horns"

22. fines for committed violations under the Hunting and Game Protection Act;

23. resources from selling of chattels, taken in favour of the state under the Hunting and Game Protection Act;

24. fees of art. 52 and payments of art. 53, para 1 of the Hunting and Game Protection Act;

25. resources from the state budget for maintenance, insurance and indemnification of the forest guide;

26. resources from Bulgarian and foreign individuals and corporate bodies and non government organisations for development of the hunting economy, scientific and research and applied activity;

27. . resources from the state budget under art. 54, para 3 of the Hunting and Game Protection Act;

26. remainders from the previous year."

5. In art. 95 the following amendments and supplements shall be made:

a) the previous text shall become para 1 and in it:

aa) item 11 shall be changed to:

"11. Maintenance of the state game breeding stations;"

bb) items 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48 shall be created:

"29. The reproduction of the game;

30. construction, maintenance and repairs of hunting economic facilities and buildings;

31. acclimatisation, re-acclimatisation and settlement of the game;

32. creating and maintenance of specialised fodder base;

33. payment of remuneration for regulating the number of the prey animals;

- 34. protection and guarding of the game in the hunting economic regions;
- 35. maintenance of hunting museums and organising of hunting exhibitions;
- 36. publishing of printed materials, promotion and advertising activity, illustration material and training;
- 37. maintenance, insurance and indemnification of the hunting guard;
- 38. preparation of hunting development plans;
- 39. supply of materials, instruments, weapons and facilities for the state game breeding stations and the state forestries;"
- 40. scientific servicing and introduction activity in the hunting economy;
- 41. conducting of international activity, connected with the hunting economy;
- 42. construction, acquisition, maintenance, repair and other intrinsic expenses for long term material assets – ownership of the state game breeding stations;
- 43. assessment of hunting trophies;
- 44. additional material stimulation in extent of 30 percent of the sums received in the National fund "Bulgarian forest" from punitive decisions entered into force, determined by the chief of the National Forest Department;
- 45. hunting economic region, conceded for management of the game by the state forestries, in extent of 80 percent of the payments received from this under art. 53, para 3 of the Hunting and Game Protection Act;
- 46. game breeding sections, conceded to scientific institutes, higher schools and sites for particularly important state needs, in extent of 80 percent of the fees received for them under art. 52 of the Hunting and Game Protection Act;
- 47. the owners of lands and forests, who's property is in the region of state game breeding stations, in extent of 24 percent of the fees received for them under art. 52 of the Hunting and Game Protection Act, and they shall be distributed by the commissions for hunting economy;
- 48. buying of lands by individuals or corporate bodies for game fields.";
- b) para 2 shall be created:  
"(2) The resources of para 1, items 45 and 46 shall be distributed by the commissions for hunting economy at the state forestries in the following way: 30 percent for the owners of lands and forests and 70 percent – for hunting economic measures and indemnification for caused damages by the game for the hunting economic region, from which they have been received."

§ 10. In the Protected Areas Act (prom. SG 133/98; amend. SG 98/99, SG 28, 48/00) in art. 14 para 4 shall be created:

"(4) Fencing of the areas in protected areas, without these in reserves and national parks, shall be admitted for construction of bases for breeding game after coordination with the Minister of Environment and Waters."

§ 11. The Council of Ministers shall approve a regulation for implementation of the Act in 6 months term after its entering into force.

§ 11a. (new – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 80/09) Secondary legislative acts issued by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests in fulfillment of the provisions of the Act shall be promulgated in the State Gazette.

§ 12. (amend. – SG 64/07; amend. – SG 80/09, amend. – SG 58/17, in force from 18.07.2017)  
The implementation of the Act shall be assigned to the Minister of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry. In the protected territories – exclusive state ownership, announced with the Protected Areas Act, the implementation of the Act shall be assigned to the Minister of Environment and Waters.

The Act was passed by the 38th National Assembly on September 12, 2000 and is affixed with the official seal of the National Assembly.

### **Transitional and concluding provisions of the Act Amending and Supplementing the Hunting and Game Protection Act – SG 79/02**

§ 61. The hunting companies and associations of art. 29 and art. 30, para 1 shall bring their structures in compliance with the requirements of this Act in 9 months term after it enters into force.

§ 62. The contracts for management of the game, concluded till this Act enters into force, except the contracts of art. 36, para 2 shall have effect till the end of hunting season 2002 – 2003. The contracts for management of the game after hunting season 2002 – 2003 shall be concluded observing the provisions of this Act.

§ 65. The state enterprises of art. 9, para 1 shall be legal successors of the respective game breeding stations, existed till this Act enters into force and assume their assets and liabilities according to the balance sheet by January 1, 2002.

§ 66. The employment legal relations with the workers and employees of the state game breeding stations shall be provided by the order of art. 123 of the Labour Code.

§ 67. The state enterprises of art. 9, para 1 shall not be subject to privatisation by the order of the Privatisation and Post-Privatisation Control Act.

§ 68. The hunting economic regions of the hunting farms "Voden – Iry Hisar" and "Iskar", established with acts of the Council of Ministers, shall be detached as state game breeding stations under art. 8 and art. 9, para 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 and shall be managed by the Council of Ministers without right to let to other individuals or corporate bodies.

§ 69. (1) The hunting farms "Studen kladenets" and "Eledzhik" at the National association "Union of the hunters and the fishermen in Bulgaria" shall be detached as game breeding sections by the order of art. 10 and without the conditions of art. 7, para 4 and 6 to exist.

(2) The managing of the game in the sections of para 1 shall be conceded by the National Forest department to the persons, managed the game in the respective areas till September 30, 2000 or to their legal successors by direct contracting against payment under art. 53.

(3) The contracts of para 2 shall be concluded for a term from 5 to 13 years depending on the basic kind of game in the hunting economic region

**Transitional and concluding provisions**  
**TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE FORESTRY ACT**

(PROM. – SG 64/07)

§ 29. The following amendments have been done to the Hunting and Game Protection Act (prom. SG 78/00; amend. – SG 26/01; SG 77 and 79/02; SG 88/05; SG 82 and 108/06)

.....

11. Everywhere in the Act the words:

a) "the chief of the National Department of Forests" and "chief of the National Department of Forests" shall be replaced respectively with "the Chairman of the State Agency of Forests" and "Chairman of the State Agency of Forests";

b) "the National Department of Forests" shall be replaced r with "the State Agency of Forests";

c) "the Minister of Agriculture and Forests" and "Minister of Agriculture and Forests" shall be replaced respectively with "the Chairman of the State Agency of Forests" and "Chairman of the State Agency of Forests";

d) "the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests" shall be replaced with "the State Agency of Forests".

**Transitional and concluding provisions**  
**TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE FORESTRY ACT**

§ 62. Everywhere in the Act the words "permission for hunting" shall be replaced with "permission to hunt".

**Additional provisions**  
**TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE ACT ON PROTECTION OF THE**  
**GAME(PROM. - SG 91/08)**

§ 62. Everywhere in the Act the words "permission for hunting" shall be replaced with "permission to hunt".

**Transitional and concluding provisions**  
**TO THE LACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE ACT ON PROTECTION OF THE**  
**GAME**

(PROM. - SG 91/08; AMEND.– SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

§ 63. (revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

§ 64. (1) Within six months after entering of this Act into force the contracts for assignment of game management with hunting associations, not meeting the requirements of Art. 30, par. 1 and 4 and Art. 31, par. 5 and 6, shall be terminated. New contracts shall be concluded with the associations, registered under the procedure of Art. 31, par. 5 and 6, for which orders under Art. 30, par. 4 have been issued.

(2) (revoked – SG 92/09)



§ 65. (1) Contracts for joint implementation of the referred in Art. 9, par. 2, item 1 – 6 activities, concluded between legal entities and state game husbandries and agreed upon with the head of the National Directorate of Forests or with the Chairman of the State Agency of Forests by 31 December 2007 may keep their validity with parties consent and upon signing a Supplementary agreement bringing them in compliance with the provisions of Art. 9, par. 19, 34 and 35 and with the term of par. 12.

(2) Where parties consent is missing or no Supplementary agreement of par. 1 is concluded within one month after entering of this Act into force the contract shall be deemed terminated.

(3) Where the legal entity of par. 1 is participating in a competition procedure under Art. 9, the commission for ranking of applicants shall take into consideration the investments made by 31 December 2007. The amount of investments shall be evidenced with relevant financial and accounting documents, which are part of the offer of Art. 9, par. 22.

(4) Where an applicant for game management and use in a game breeding area participates in a competition procedure under Art. 36a – 36m, the commission for ranking of applicants shall take into consideration the investments made by 31 December 2007. The amount of investments shall be evidenced with relevant financial and accounting documents, which shall be attached and are part of the business program of Art. 36d, par. 2, item 7.

§ 66. The issued legislative documents related to the implementation of the Act shall keep their applicability until the issuance of relative new legislative acts, as much as they do not conflict with this Act.

§ 67. Hunting economic areas, existing as of the date of entering of this Act into force, meeting the requirements of Art. 7, par. 6, shall keep their specified borders.

§ 68. Hunters who are members of hunting associations as of the date of entering of this Act into force shall keep their membership in the respective association, even when the total number of the hunters in the respective association exceeds the maximum number of hunters, determined according to the provision of Art. 30, par. 3.

§ 69. The persons, who prior to entering of this Act into force have passed successfully an exam for acquiring the right to hunt, but are not members of a hunting association, may be adopted as members in a hunting association, even when the maximum number of hunters, determined according to the provision of Art. 30, par. 3 is completed.

### **Transitional and concluding provisions TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE FORESTRY ACT**

(PROM. – SG 80/09)

§ 61. In the Hunting and Game Protection Act shall be made the following amendments:

.....

16. Everywhere in the Act the words "the State Agency of Forests", "State Agency of Forests",

"the Chairman of the State Agency of Forests" shall be replaced respectively by "the Executive Agency of Forests", " Executive Agency of Forests", "the Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests" and "Executive Director of the Executive Agency of Forests".

§ 62. The secondary legislation related to the implementation of the Hunting and Game Protection Act, issued by the Chairman of the State Agency of Forests shall be applied by the Minister of Agriculture and Food till the respective new ones are issued, inasmuch as this does not contradict this Act.

**Concluding provisions**  
**TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE HUNTING AND GAME**  
**PROTECTION ACT**

(PROM. – SG 92/09)

§ 18. The persons referred to in § 64, Para 1, first sentence of the Act on amendment and supplementation of the Hunting and Game Protection Act (SG 91/08) that before entry into force of this Act have performed activities of breeding the game in the existing hunting farm regions of the hunting associations shall preserve their right to use the game for the 2009 hunting season.

**Transitional and concluding provisions**  
**TO THE ACT SUPPLEMENTING THE HUNTING AND GAME PROTECTION ACT (PROM. –**  
**SG 89/10)**

§ 2. As from 1 September 2010 the control of the implementation of the Action plan for the brown bears in Bulgaria shall be assigned to the Minister of Environment and Waters and the Minister of Agriculture and Forests.

**Transitional and concluding provisions**  
**TO THE ACT ON BULGARIAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY(PROM. – SG 8/2001, IN FROCE**  
**FROM 25.01.2011)**

§ 30. This Act shall enter into force from the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

**Transitional and concluding provisions**  
**TO THE FORESTRY ACT**

(PROM. - SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

§ 42. This Act shall enter into force within one month term from its promulgation in the State Gazette, except for:

1. Paragraph 3; § 9 Para 9 -11 and § 16, item 41, which shall enter into force from the day of promulgation of the Act in the State Gazette.

2. Art. 14, Para 1, item2; Art. 115, Para 1, item2; Para 116, Para 2; Art 183; Para 2, item 3 and Art. 249, Para 5, item3 which shall enter into force from 1 January 2016.

**Transitional and concluding provisions**

## **TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CIVIL SERVANTS ACT**

(PROM. - SG 38/12, IN FORCE FROM 01.07.2012)

§ 84. (In force from 18.05.2012) Within one month after the promulgation of this Act in the State Gazette:

1. The Council of Ministers shall adjust the Classified of positions in administration to the provision of this Act;

2. the competent bodies shall adjust the structural acts of the respective administration to the provisions of this Act.

§ 85. (1) The legal relationships with the persons from administrations under the Radio and the Television Act, Independent Financial Audit Act, Electronic Communications Act, Financial Supervision Commission Act, ct on Access to and Disclosure of the Documents and Announcing Affiliation of Bulgarian Citizens with the State Security Service and the Intelligence Services of the Bulgarian Popular Army, Confiscation by the State of Proceeds of Crime Act, Act on Prevention and Findings of Conflict of Interests, Code of Social Insurance, Health Insurance Act, Agricultural Producers Support Act, and the Roads Act shall be regulated subject to compliance with the provisions and following the procedure of § 36 of the Transitional and Conclusive Provisions of the Act amending and supplementing the Civil Servants Act (SG 24/06).

(2) By the act of appointment of a civil servant:

1. the minimum rank for the occupied position shall be conferred, as determined in the Classified of positions in the administration, unless the servant hold a higher rank;

2. individual monthly salary shall be fixed.

(3) Additionally required funds for insurance contributions of the persons under par. 2 shall be provided within the cost of salaries, remunerations and insurance contributions within the budgets of the respective administrators of budget credits.

(4) Council of Ministers must make necessary adjustments in the out-of-budget account of State Fund "Agriculture", arising out of this Act.

(5) Managing bodies of National Social Insurance Institute and of National Health Insurance Fund must make necessary adjustments in the respective budgets, arising out of this Act.

(6) The non-used leaves regulated in the employment agreement shall be kept and shall not be compensated with a financial benefit.

§ 86. (1) Within one month after entering of this Act into force the individual basic monthly salary of the employee shall be determined in such a way that the salary after the due tax and the obligatory insurance contributions chargeable to the insured person, where they have been payable, shall not be less than the gross monthly salary received by that time after the due obligatory insurance contributions chargeable to the insured person, where they have been payable, and the due tax.

(2) The gross salary under par. 1 shall include:

1. the basic monthly salary or the basic monthly remuneration;

2. additional payments payable permanently together with the payable basic monthly salary or basic monthly remuneration and depend solely on the hours worked.

§ 87. The Act shall enter into force from 1 July 2012, except for § 84, which shall enter into force from the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

**Transitional and concluding provisions  
TO THE PUBLIC FINANCE ACT**

(PROM. SG 15/13, IN FORCE FROM 01.01.2014)

§ 123. This Act shall enter into force on 1 January 2014 with the exception of § 115, which enters into force on January 1, 2013, and § 18, § 114, § 120, § 121 and § 122, which came into force on 1 February in 2013.

**Transitional and concluding provisions  
TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE FORESTRY ACT**

(PROM. - SG 60/15, IN FORCE FROM 07.08.2015)

§ 53. This Act shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the "State Gazette" with the exception of:

1. paragraph 20, which shall come into force from January 1, 2016;
2. paragraph 25 on Art. 206, para. 1, p. 3, which shall enter into force on January 1, 2016;
3. Paragraph 28, which shall enter into force three months after the promulgation of this Act in the "State Gazette".

**Transitional and concluding provisions  
TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT**

(PROM. - SG 14/16, IN FORCE FROM 19.02.2016)

§ 103. This Act shall enter into force from the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette with exception of § 24 in connection with Art. 118, Para 2 and 3, which shall enter into force from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

**Concluding provisions  
TO THE ACT AMENDING THE ACT ON BULGARIAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY**

(PROM. - SG 58/17, IN FORCE FROM 18.07.2017)

§ 42. Everywhere in the text of Hunting and Game Protection Act words "Minister of Agriculture and Food" and "Ministry of Agriculture and Food" shall be replaced with words "Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry" and "Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry".

.....  
§ 76. This Act shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

**Transitional and concluding provisions  
TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE TAX-INSURANCE PROCEDURE  
CODE**

(PROM. - SG 63/17, IN FORCE FROM 04.08.2017)

§ 83. (1) The Act shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette with the exception of:

1. § 64, which shall enter into force on 1 January 2022;
2. § 68, item 1, which shall enter into force on 1 January 2018;

3. § 68, item 2, which shall enter into force on 30 June 2017;
4. § 69, which shall enter into force on 1 January 2018;
5. § 71, Para. 1, which shall enter into force on 26 April 2017;
6. § 6 and § 72 - § 82, which shall enter into force on 1 January 2018.

(2) Within 6 months from the entering into force of this Act, the secondary legislation acts containing the obligation to present a certificate of the presence or absence of obligations of the persons, shall be brought into compliance with it.

**Transitional and concluding provisions**  
**TO THE ACT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE ACT ON THE SOWING AND**  
**PLANTING MATERIAL**

(PROM. - SG 17/18, IN FORCE FROM 23.02.2018)

§ 37. (1) Within two months of the entry into force of this Act the relevant administrative authorities within their competence approve with an order samples of the documents under this Act and publish them on the respective administration's website.

(2) By 31 December 2019, the relevant administrative authorities shall comply with the Electronic Governance Act and the secondary legislation for its implementation the public registers kept by the respective administration.

§ 38. The Act shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

**Appendix No 1 of art. 5, para 2, item 1 and para 5 (title amend. SG 79/02, amend. – SG 91/08; amend. - SG 102/12)**

**LIST OF THE MAMMALS AND BIRDS – SUBJECT TO HUNTING**

**I. Mammals:**

**A. BIG GAME**

1. *Cervus elaphus* L.
2. *Cervus dama* L.
3. *Capreolus capreolus* L.
4. *Sus scrofa* L.
5. (revoked – SG 91/08)
6. (Revoked, SG 79/02)
7. *Ovis musimon* Pall.
8. *Bison Bonasus* L.
9. *Bos mutus* P.

**B. SMALL GAME**

10. *Capra idex* L.
11. *Canis lupus* L.
12. *Lepus europaeus* Pall.
13. *Sciurus vulgaris* L.
14. *Ondatra zibethica* L.
15. *Miocastor coypus* Mol.
16. *Canis aureus* L.
17. *Vulpes vulpes* L.
18. *Nictereutes procyonoides* Greg
19. (revoked – SG 91/08)

20. *Martes foina* L.
21. *Mustela putorius* L.
22. *Meles Meles* L.
- II. Birds:
- A. BIG GAME
1. *Tetrao urogallus* L.
2. *Meleagris gallopavo* L.
- B. SMALL GAME
3. *Phasianus colchicus* L.
4. *Phasianus* sp.
5. *Perdix perdix* L.
6. (amend. – SG 91/08) *Alectoris graeca*
7. (amend. – SG 91/08) *Alectoris chukar*
8. *Coturnix coturnix* L.
9. *Numida meleagris* L.
10. *Columba palumbus* L.
11. *Streptopelia turtur* L.
12. *Streptopelia decaocto* Friv.
13. *Anas albifrons* Scop.
14. *Anas platyrhynchos* L.
15. *Anas platyrhynchos* L.
16. *Anas guerguedula* L.
17. *Anas crecca* L.
18. *Anas penelope* L.
19. *Anas clypeata* L.
20. *Aythya/ Nycora/fuligula* L.
21. *Anas acuta* L.
22. *Fulica atra* L.
23. (Revoked, SG 79/02)
24. *Scolopax rusticola* L.
25. *Callinago gallinago* L.
26. *Sturnus vulgaris* L.
27. *Pica pica* L.
28. *Corvus cornix* L.
29. *Cornus frugilegus* L.
30. *Coloeus monedula* L.

Remark: (amend. – SG 91/08; amend. - SG 102/12) Species of Appendix No. 3 to the Biological Diversity Act subject to exception as per the provisions of Art. 48 and Art. 49, par. 1, item 1:

Wild cat (*Felis silvestris* Schreb.)

Wild goat (*Rupicapra Rupicapra* L.).

#### **Appendix No 2 of art. 9, para 1**

(suppl. – SG 91/08; amend. – SG 19/11, in force from 08.01.2011; suppl. – SG 77/11, in force from 04.10.2011; amend. - SG 60/2012)

List of the state game breeding stations

1. RUSALKA
2. ROSITSA
3. CHEPINO
4. TRAKYA

5. CHERNY LOM
6. ARAMLIETS
7. BOROVO
8. IZVORA
9. ZHENDA
10. SHERBA
11. ROPOTAMO
12. VITOSHKO – STUDENA
13. KORMISOSH
14. PALAMARA
15. OSOGOVO
16. MAZALAT
17. DIKCHAN
18. VITINYA
19. DUNAV
20. BALCHIK
21. SHIROKA POLYANA
22. NESEBAR
23. TOPOLOVGRAD
24. GRAMATIKOVO
25. KARAKUZ
26. VODEN – IRY HISAR
27. ISKAR
28. TERVEL

**Appendix N 3 to Art. 9 Para. 12**

(New - SG, 91/2008, amen. - SG, 6 /2009; revoked – SG 19/11, in force from 09.04.2011)

**Appendix N 4 to Art. 54, Para. 1**

(New - SG, 91/2008, amen. - SG, 6/2009, amen. - SG, 92 /2009)

Periods for hunting game

1.	Royal stag and Stag of a fallow deer	
	- male and offspring	- from 1 September till 31 January
	- female	- from 1 October till 31 December
2.	Doe	
	- male - selectively and trophy	from 1 May till 30 October
	- female and offspring	from 1 September till 30 October
3.	Wild boar:	
3.1.	Selective hunting	The whole year
	- male, offspring, One and two-year pigs	
	- female pigs	

3.2.	Group hunting of wild boar	from 1 October till The second Sunday of January
3.3.	Group hunting in hunting yards at bases for intensive farming of game - male and offspring	From 1 October till the last day of February
4.	Moufflon	
	- male, trophy mature	- the whole year
	- male and female	- from 1 September till 31 January
5.	Aurochs	
	- male	- the whole year
	- female and offspring	- from 1 September till 31 January
6.	Tibetan yak	
	- male	- the whole year
	- female and offspring	- from 1 September till 30 October
7.	Alpian capricorn	
	- male	- from 1 September till 31 May
	- female	- from 1 September till 31 December
8.	Wolf and Jackal	- the whole year
8.1.	Group hunting of jackal Outside the forest fund	from 1 January till the last day of February
9.	Hare	- from 1 October till 31 December
10.	Squirrel	- from 1 November Till 31 December
11.	Ondatra and Nutria	- from 1 November till the last day of February
12.	Fox	- the whole year
13.	Wild dog	- the whole year
14.	Weasel and black polecat	- the whole year
15.	Badger	- from 1 August till the last day of February
16.	Wood grouse - male	- from 15 April till 15 May
17.	Wild turkey	- from 1 October till the last day of February



18.	Pheasant and guinea hen	- from 1 October till 31 January
18.1.	Farm production	from 1 October till 28 February
19.	Partridge and quail	- from 1 October till 30 November
19.1.	Farm production	from 1 October till 31 January
20.	Quail and turtle-dove	- from the second Saturday of August till 30 November
21.	Turtle-dove	- from the second Saturday of August till 31 December
22.	Ring - dove	- from the second Saturday of August till the second Sunday of February
23.	Big white-headed goose	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.	Wild ducks - Subject to hunting	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.1.	Semi-wild duck	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.2.	Green-headed duck	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.3.	Summer teal	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.4.	Winter teal	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.5.	Fish	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.6.	Spoonbill	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.7.	Black crested Didapper	- from 1 October till 31 January
24.8.	Caudate duck	- from 1 October till 31 January
25.	Black fox	- from 1 October till 31 January
26.	Woodcock and snipe	- from the second Saturday of August till the last day of February
27.	Starling, magpie, Royston crow Gorcrow	

|and Jackdaw | - the whole year

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