



EUROPEES PARLEMENT

Partij voor de Dieren
Europees Parlement
WIB 02M039
B-1047 Brussel

Brussels, March 22, 2017

Honourable Prime Minister Muscat,
Honourable Minister Galdes,

We, the undersigned Members of European Parliament, would like to address our concerns over the ongoing bird hunting in Malta.

According to nature conservation organizations, each year more than 100.000 birds are killed in Malta (1). Among those are species of which the populations are in serious decline, such as turtle-doves and quails.

Unfortunately, illegal practices are still being recorded. Unacceptable practices, such as the use of illegal bird traps, the killing of endangered species and the hunting by night and/or in areas protected by Natura2000 keep on occurring.

Furthermore, bird hunting during the period of reproduction or during the return to rearing grounds is in breach with Article 7 of Directive 2009/147/EC. Such practices constitute a serious danger for the welfare of both the individual animals and the sustainability of the populations as a whole.

Following a recent public consultation, the European Commission reconfirmed the importance of the EU Birds Directive. In this context, the Commission called on the Member States to speed up the proper implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. As Malta is currently holding the EU Presidency, we count on the Maltese government to take the lead in this matter.

More specifically, we count on the Maltese government to set an example by swiftly and properly implementing the Birds and Habitats Directives in order to guarantee a substantial improvement in the protection of nature areas in general, and (migratory) birds in particular. Therefore, we call on you:

- to stop the hunt on migratory birds during spring
- to prohibit the use of all kinds of bird traps
- to increase the efforts to track down and stop any illegal hunting activities



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We look forward to cooperate with you in order to achieve these important goals.

Sincerely yours,

Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL - NL)
Paloma Lopez Bermejo (GUE/NGL - ES)
Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD - IT)
Ulrike Lunacek (Greens/EFA - AT)
Annelies Dodds (S&D - UK)
Laima Andrikienė (EPP - LT)
Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL - IE)
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Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner (ECR - FI)
Martin Häusling (Greens/EFA - DE)
Molly Scott Cato (Greens/EFA - UK)
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Carolina Punset (ALDE - ES)
Jill Evans (Greens/EFA - UK)
Keith Taylor (Greens/EFA - UK)

(1) see table on page 5 of the Bird Conservation International report on Cambridge.org:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/34A06A94874DB94BE2BBACC4F96C3B5F/S0959270915000416a.pdf/div-class-title-preliminary-assessment-of-the-scope-and-scale-of-illegal-killing-and-taking-of-birds-in-the-mediterranean-div.pdf>