

16th February 2008

PRESS RELEASE

FKNK STILL AWAITS INVITATION FROM ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

The Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK) is very surprised to read in a Press Release of yesterday issued by the Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment, that “The Ministry has already invited the FKNK to make its case during the procedures in court, even if possible, with the assistance of the Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation in the EU, (FACE)”.

The FKNK and any assistance it has always openly offered to Government, have been ignored ever since the Malta/EU negotiations process, also notwithstanding that at the time the FKNK had been given a written reassurance by Dr. Lawrence Gonzi, that the FKNK would be present at the negotiations table.

The Ministry has not even to date acknowledged the assistance that the FKNK managed to secure from FACE, and that was made public on the 20th January 2008, and is being reproduced hereunder.

The FKNK therefore still awaits the official invitation from the Ministry.

Lino Farrugia
Secretary – FKNK

FACE and FKNK reaffirm their commitment for the promotion and defence of sustainable hunting of migratory birds in Malta. Such hunting is to be based on a full respect of Directive 79/409/EEC *on the conservation of wild birds*. This also implies a correct application of Article 9§1(c) of this Directive in order to allow the Maltese authorities to grant a derogation for hunting Quail and Turtledove only, during part of the pre-nuptial migration, in small numbers and under strictly supervised conditions - this by taking into account the particular bio-geographical and socio-cultural situation of Malta.

The FKNK commits itself in favour of a strict respect of the legislation in place regarding protected species, and supports in particular the automatic withdrawal of the hunting permit in case of poaching.

FACE offers its advice and the experience of its Members as assistance for putting into place an effective system in Malta for the supervision on the ground for the enforcement of these provisions.