

Press Release issued by FKNK  
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### **BIRDLIFE'S (MALTA) U-TURN**

The Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta (FKNK) makes reference to the various recent statements made by BirdLife (Malta) with regard to the current state of affairs concerning Spring Hunting in Malta for two specific species.

FKNK reminds one and all of BirdLife's hard and fast stand in 2003, which stand was based on the negotiations held between the EU Commission and Malta and which reflects the reality of the situation.

FKNK quotes salient parts of a press conference called by BirdLife on the 11 October 2003 as a follow-up to an open letter the society had sent to the Prime Minister on 26 September 2003. BirdLife said that "while we disagree outright with all the concessions that the government won for hunters in its EU negotiations, the Society expects the government at least to implement what it negotiated, namely:

1. **to allow hunting in spring** of turtle dove and quail ONLY

etc. The Press Conference entire report and FKNK's comments can be viewed on the FKNK WebSite at [www.huntinginmalta.org.mt](http://www.huntinginmalta.org.mt)

FKNK expects no more today and despite feeling that it has been deprived unnecessarily of various other hunting spheres, was willing to abide by such negotiations and fully respect the provisions of the EU Directive 79/409/EEC known as the Birds Directive. However the inconsistency and U-Turn in BirdLife's approach to the subject should be a clear indicator to one and all that the society has absolutely no interest in educating and instilling knowledge on fauna but an obvious grudge against any and all hunting practices. BirdLife's change of strategy should be an eye-opener to all authorities, even though at this late stage.

Finally FKNK relies on the statements made by the two main political parties that they will continue to defend the court case filed against Malta by the EU Commission on the issue of Spring Hunting even due to its wider implications and that they will continue to utilise the assistance and expertise of its lawyers who have strong links with top Environmental EU lawyers through its affiliation with the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE).

The Council  
FKNK