

English

8<sup>th</sup> October 2008

### **We are NOT 2<sup>nd</sup> Class EU Citizens**

The Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK) have published the results from a Report entitled “Hunting in Malta in Spring and Autumn – A Comparative Study” together with another document with Supporting Documents.

Council Members of the FKNK presented the two documents to the Maltese Members of Parliament when these arrived at the House of Parliament in Valletta for last Monday’s Parliament session. The publications will now be circulated to all other relative quarters, both local and European.

The comparative study regarded the Maltese socio-cultural tradition of the hunting of the turtle dove (*Streptopilia turtur*) and the quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), Malta’s chief huntable species in spring, in relation to the hunting of the same two species in autumn.

With respect to the hunting of turtle dove, the conclusion drawn from the presented facts is that for over 80% of the hunters it would not be possible to hunt the bird in the autumn because:

- (a) it is present almost exclusively only on the Western Cliffs in the late summer;
- (b) hunters in 6 out of 7 hunting districts of Malta would be unable to hunt this species in the geographical areas open for spring hunting;
- (c) it appears usually in only very small negligible numbers in the short late summer period (Sept. 1 – 15); and
- (d) during the autumn the turtle-dove is not present at all on the Maltese Islands.

With respect to the hunting of quail, the conclusion drawn from the presented facts is that for over 80% of the hunters it would not be possible to hunt the bird in the autumn because:

- (a) this bird is present almost exclusively only in the Western Cliffs geographical area in the early autumn;
- (b) hunters in the other 6 out of 7 hunting districts of Malta would, in practice, find it impossible to hunt quail in the geographical areas open for spring hunting.

These conclusions were confirmed by the physical analysis of the 2007 ‘carnet de chasse’ documents that were collected by the FKNK from 8,245 of its members at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008. The results are shown in the FKNK Report.

Having presented these undeniably true facts supported by evidence, the FKNK contends that it is a proven fact that the spring hunting of turtle dove and quail fulfils the condition that there is no other satisfactory solution. Consequently Malta has effectively applied the derogation on spring hunting in terms of Article 9(1)c of the Birds Directive, and it has done so in good faith and in the spirit of the Pre-accession Common Position agreement made between the EU and Malta in September 2002 and in line with the provisions of Directive 79/409 EEC.

Lino Farrugia  
Secretary – FKNK

*Maltese*

8 ta' Ottubru 2008

### **M'AFNIEX Ċittadini Ewropej tat-Tieni KLASSI**

Il-Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK) għadha kemm ippubblikat ir-riżultati ta' rapport intitolat "Hunting in Malta in Spring and Autumn – A Comparative Study" flimkien ma document ieħor li jinkludi tagħtif ta' sostenn.

Membri tal-Kunsill ta' l-FKNK ipprezentaw iż-żewġ dokumenti lill-Membri tal-Parlament Malti hekk kif dawn waslu fil-Parlament, il-Belt għas-seduta ta' nhar it-Tnejn. Il-pubblikazzjonijiet ser ikunu issa mqassma fil-kwartieri kollha relatati, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll barra minn xtutna.

L-istudju komparattiv jikkonċerna t-tradizzjoni soċjo-kulturali tal-kaċċa tal-gamiema (*Streptopelia turtur*) u tas-summiena (*Coturnix coturnix*), il-kaċċa prinċipali f'Malta fir-Rebbiegħa u dan f'relazzjoni ma l-kaċċa ta' l-istess żewġ speċi fil-Ħarifa.

Fir-rigward tal-kaċċa tal-gamiema, il-konklużjoni li tidher fil-fatti pprezentati hu li għal aktar minn 80% tal-kaċċaturi ma kienx ser ikun possibbli li jikkaċċaw l-għasfur għaliex:

- a) jinsab kważi esklużzivament fil-irdumijiet fil-Punent lejn l-aħħar tas-sajf;
- b) kaċċaturi f'sitta miss-sebġha distretti ta' kaċċa f'Malta mhux ser ikunu jistgħu jikkaċċawh fiż-żoni miftuħin għall-kaċċa fir-Rebbiegħa;
- c) jidher biss normalment f'numri negligibbli fiż-żmien qasir lejn l-aħħar tas-Sajf (1 -15 ta' Settembru); u
- d) fil-Ħarifa il-gamiema ma tkun prezenti xejn fil-gżejjer Maltin.

Fir-rigward tal-kaċċa tas-summiena, il-konklużjoni li tidher mil-fatti pprezentati hi li għal aktar minn 80% tal-kaċċaturi m'hux possibbli li jikkaċċjaw dan l-għasfur fil-Ħarifa għaliex:

- a) jinsab kważi esklużzivament fiż-żona ġeografika tal-irdumijiet tal-Punent fil-bikri tal-Ħarifa;
- b) kaċċaturi f'sitta miss-sebġha distretti ta' kaċċa f'Malta mhux ser ikunu jistgħu jikkaċċaw għas-summiena fiż-żoni miftuħin għall-kaċċa fir-Rebbiegħa;

Dawn il-konklużjonijiet ġew ikkonfermati minn analiżi fiżika tad-dokumenti tal-"*carney de chasse*" li ngabru mill-FKNK minn 8,245 membri tagħha sal-31 ta' Mejju 2008, Ir-riżultati jidhru fir-rapport ta' l-FKNK.

Filwaqt li pprezentat dawn il-fatti nkontestabbli kkorborati b'evidenza, l-FKNK tikkontendi li huwa fatt ipprovat li l-kaċċa tal-gamiema u tas-summiena fir-Rebbiegħa tilhaq il-kundizzjoni li m'hemmx soluzzjoni sodisfaċenti oħra. Konsegwentement, Malta effettivament applikat id-deroga għal-kaċċa fir-Rebbiegħa abbażi ta' Artiklu 9(1)c tad-Direttiva ta' l-Għasafar, u dan għamlitu in bona fede u fl-ispiritu tal-ftehim tal-Požizzjoni Komuni ta' qabel d-dhul li kien sar bejn Malta u l-UE u skond il-provvedimenti tad-Direttiva 79/409 EEC.

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Segretarju - FKNK

