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PRESS RELEASE

Finch-trapping and the EU Parliament elections...

With the EU parliamentary elections imminent, the Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK) expects clear and unequivocal declarations NOW, regarding the application of a derogation for the continuation of finch-trapping as from this autumn, as allowed by the EU “Birds” Directive. The FKNK will draw its conclusions and direct its members on the correct action to take in respect of the coming EU parliamentary elections on 6th June.

The FKNK has taken note of the Prime Minister’s answer to a parliamentary question stating that the project of breeding of finches at the government experimental farm at Għammieri has been a success. The next step is the granting of new and renewal of finch-trapping licences required to ensure the genetic diversity of all the finches in local aviaries.

The capturing of wild birds for the promotion of genetic bio-diversity and educational purposes is practised in other EU Member States by means of the application of derogations. Similarly, and as confirmed by the EU Environment Commission Representative in Malta (7th March 2009), Malta may apply a derogation to permit finch-trapping.

Now, therefore the Maltese government is duty-bound to apply a derogation, if it is serious about its declared public commitment for finch-trapping to continue. At stake is the honour of Dr E. Fenech Adami President Emeritus of the Republic, of Dr Simon Busuttil and of Dr Joe Borg. All three had guaranteed the continuation of finch-trapping. What is also at stake is the well-being of 5000 bird-trappers and their families.

The FKNK has just presented a report to the leaders of the main political parties based on the ‘compensatory measures’ principle that also includes the way forward for the continuation of finch-trapping.

Lino Farrugia

Secretary - FKNK

Further reading at:

http://www.huntinginmalta.org.mt/uploads/24/587/The_Valued_Maltese_Tradition_of_Birds_Capturing.pdf