

Mr Janez Potocnik
European Commissioner for the Environment
Environment Directorate
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Monday, 17 March 2014

Dear Mr Potocnik

Spring Hunting on Malta – Request for Meeting

I am writing to you on behalf of the thirty two MEPs whose names appear at the end of this letter, BirdLife Malta and BirdLife Europe to request an urgent meeting to discuss the situation with regard to the hunting of birds in spring on Malta.

You will be aware that Malta derogates from the EU Birds Directive to allow spring hunting of Turtle Dove and Quail using national framework legislation and that very strict conditions must be met to allow it.

The derogation has now been applied in this way for four successive years (2010-13) and each year the Maltese government has sought to justify the derogation through inaccurate reports and unreliable and even fictional data. Meanwhile, BirdLife Malta observes the spring hunting season each year and has produced a series of reports which indicates that there is systemic failure in the application of the derogation and the implementation of the Maltese framework legislation that allows it. A technical briefing describing the systemic failures is attached with this letter.

You will no doubt be aware that there is a case open against Malta regarding the situation and an additional EC pilot has also been launched. However, in view of the systemic failures highlighted in the briefing and the difficulty that there is in providing access to justice on Malta so that these failures can be properly addressed at the national level, it is surely time for urgent and direct intervention by the European Commission to ensure that the abuses of the Birds Directive that take place in Malta are dealt with.


Cont'd

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I, along with some of the MEPs listed below would like to meet with you, along with representatives from BirdLife, as a matter of urgency to discuss how progress can be made in this regard. In view of MEP's attending sessions between April 2nd/3rd, a meeting on one of those days would be most convenient.

Yours sincerely



Steve Micklewright
Executive Director

Please note: A letter from Andrea Zanoni in Italian will also be on your desk to request a meeting for the same purpose

Signatories:

Margrete Auken (Denmark)
Catherine Bearder (United Kingdom)
Ivo Belet (Belgium)
Piotr Borys (Poland)
Kathleen Van Brempt (Belgium)
Tadeusz Cymański (Poland)
Andrew Duff (United Kingdom)
Bas Eickhout (Netherlands)
Sari Essayah (Finland)
Vicky Ford (United Kingdom)
Ashley Fox (United Kingdom)
Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (Netherlands)
Lidia Geringer de Oedenberg (Poland)
Julie Girling (United Kingdom)
Rebecca Harms (Germany)
Satu Hassi (Finland)
Danuta Hübner (Poland)
Sidonia Jedrzejewska (Poland)
Elisabeth Jeggle (Germany)
Filip Kaczmarek (Poland)
Jean Lambert (United Kingdom)
Bogdan K. Marcinkiewicz (Poland)
Linda McAvan (United Kingdom)
Raül Romeva I Rueda (Spain)
Joanna Senyszyn (Poland)
Joanna Skrzydlewska (Poland)
Charles Tannock (United Kingdom)
Claude Turmes (Luxembourg)
Jacek Władysław Włosowicz (Poland)
Marina Yannakoudakis (United Kingdom)
Andrea Zanoni (Italy)
Tadeusz Zwiefka (Poland)