WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the Register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bruno Gollnisch, Carl Lang, Jean-Claude Martinez and Marie-France Stirbois


Deadline: 12 September 2003
The European Parliament,

A. whereas the Directive of 2 April 1979, known as the ‘Birds Directive’, did not in any way condemn hunting, but restricted it to certain species and laid down rules governing its practice, leaving Member States a considerable margin of discretion,

B. whereas, on the basis of a highly contestable judicial interpretation of the Directive, the Court of Justice of the European Communities has wrongly increased the constraints placed on hunting, to the point that its effective practice is sometimes forbidden,

- Strongly condemns the manifestly incorrect findings of Community and national judges who, ignoring the spirit of the Directive, have created an atmosphere of legal uncertainty that is highly prejudicial to the legitimate rights of hunters and rural populations;

- Observes that this situation can no longer be tolerated, and that it is therefore necessary to clarify and update the law applicable, particularly in terms of the beginning and end of hunting seasons;

1. Calls, therefore, on Member States and the Commission to carry out wide-ranging consultation with all sections of the hunting community with a view to modifying or repealing the Birds Directive, on the basis of the latest available scientific data.