

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2870/06

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Subject: Malta: transition period for the phasing out of trapping

In its accession treaty with the EU Malta has been granted a transition period until 2008 for the phasing out of trapping of seven species of finch, a practice prohibited by the EU Birds Directive and therefore illegal in all other EU Member States. This transition period is linked to several conditions, e.g. the registration of all trapping sites by 1 May 2004 and the introduction of a captive breeding system by the end of June 2005.

Does the Commission know whether the requested intermediate targets have been achieved so far and notably if a captive breeding programme for the finches concerned has been established yet? If not why not?

Is the Commission monitoring the achievement of the intermediate targets? If so and if the targets have not yet been reached, has the Commission received any indication from the Maltese Government on its intention to achieve the targets and if so, according to what agenda?

If not, what is the Commission intending to do to enforce these conditions and timetable?