

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2173/07
by Fausto Correia (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Springtime hunting in Malta

Malta is located on one of the most important trans-Saharan migratory routes for wild birds in Europe.

According to reliable information received by my office in Brussels, 7 April 2007 saw the death of a pallid harrier (*Circus macrourus*), a species which is extremely rare in Europe, with only 50 surviving couples.

In this case as in many others, springtime hunting in Malta - despite the EU's recommendations to the Maltese government not to allow the season to open this year - has proved its disruptive nature.

It is unacceptable that the reproduction of this and other species present in Europe at this time should be prevented.

With a view to ensuring compliance with Community law, can the Commission state what action it will take on the matter with the Maltese government?