

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3349/10

by John Attard-Montalto (S&D) and Véronique Mathieu (PPE)
to the Commission

Subject: Hunting and trapping in Malta

Regarding the Malta spring hunting derogation, on 1 April 2010 the Maltese media reported that the Commission, under intense pressure from some MEPs and the anti-hunting lobby groups, such as BirdLife International, was 'monitoring things on the ground'. Therefore, now we wish to put these questions to the Commission.

Assuming these reports are correct, in what way does the Commission monitor 'things on the ground' in respect of the 4000-plus hunting derogations applied annually by the other Member States?

Could the Commission be asked to specify (i) the methods of such ground monitoring, (ii) whether it considers admissible as objective monitoring the reports of BirdLife Malta, and 'observations' by the German-based CABS which aims at making Malta a hunting-free zone?

Does the Commission consider admissible as evidence the publication of stories and photographs in English-speaking newspapers which are clearly allied to the anti-hunting lobby?