

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3357/10  
by John Attard-Montalto (S&D)  
to the Commission

Subject: Hunting and trapping in Malta

All (99.8%) of Malta's hunters and trappers have roundly rejected the Maltese Government's 'piteous' spring-hunting derogation as a highly discriminatory measure that miserably fails to provide the satisfactory solution endorsed by the European Court of Justice on 10 September 2009.

By agreeing to consultation talks with the Maltese Government, has not the Commission - the plaintiff in the lawsuit against Malta – vitiated the hunters' and trappers' right to have the ECJ verdict transposed into an equitable spring-hunting derogation?

Could the Commission specify why the three-week hunting season the Malta Government has proposed is not 'in line with last year's ECJ judgment', most particularly in this instance after 2 years when the spring season was closed?

Lacking first-hand knowledge of Malta's hunting seasons due to its refusal to participate in fact-finding missions, in what way can the Commission justify its decisions vis-à-vis the Maltese spring-hunting derogation?

Finally, is it true that the Commission threatened the Maltese Government with legal action if the derogation is applied?