Basic information	
2007/2531(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on illegal bird hunting in Malta **Subject** 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity **Geographical area** Malta	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/03/2007	Debate in Parliament		
15/03/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0074/2007	Summary
15/03/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/03/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/2531(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B6-0015/2007	12/03/2007	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0119/2007	13/03/2007	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0074/2007	15/03/2007	Summary

Resolution on illegal bird hunting in Malta

2007/2531(RSP) - 15/03/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the hunting and trapping of migratory birds in spring in Malta with 300 votes in favour, 253 against and 35 abstentions, taking note of the report on the fact-finding mission of the Committee of Petitions, and supporting the recommendations in the report.

To recall, Parliament had received several petitions against the practice of hunting and trapping migratory birds in spring in Malta, including a petition from the Belgian Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, signed by 300 000 people in Europe, more than 4 000 of whom were from Malta. 115 000 people in Europe, notably from the UK, petitioned the Maltese Government in February 2007 in protest against the spring hunting. The Petitions Committee found that, although certain efforts had been made by the Maltese authorities responsible to bring national legislation and its application into line with Community law, the survival of populations of several species of migratory birds still faced serious threats from illegal hunting and trapping when birds of those species pass through Malta during their spring migration. Opinion polls appeared to show that a broad majority of Maltese society is against current hunting practices. However, the Government of Malta had decided to open a spring hunting season for Turtle Dove and Quail, both declining species, from 10 April to 20 May 2007, and a trapping season from 26 March to 20 May 2007.

The Commission was investigating whether Malta's transposition of the Birds Directive fulfils the requirements of the Directive and whether the legislation is being correctly applied, and has commenced infringement proceedings against Malta for failure to comply fully with Article 9 of the Directive. Parliament shared the concerns expressed in the report on the fact-finding mission, in particular in respect of the authorisation given as regards the hunting of resting migratory birds in spring and the illegal hunting and the trapping of protected species, including in areas protected under Community law. It condemned all types of illegal hunting in all Member States, and called on the Maltese Government to fully comply with the Birds Directive, relevant Community law and the terms of the Accession Treaty as signed by the Maltese Government. It reminded the Maltese government of the duty to cooperate in good faith.

It welcomed the decision of the Maltese Government to address cases of abuse, inter alia, by increasing fines to a maximum of EUR 14 000 and providing for terms of imprisonment of up to two years and the permanent revocation of hunting licences in the case of recidivists.