

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 2019

FEDERATION FOR HUNTING & CONSERVATION - MALTA (FKNK)



**QUESTIONNAIRE & MANIFESTO
SENT BY THE FKNK TO ELECTIONS' MALTA CANDIDATES**

FINAL RESULTS AT 30 APRIL 2019

CONTENTS	ii
Introduction	iii
The Questionnaire	1
The Manifesto	3
Summary	4
Candidates' Responses	5
Agius Peter	5
Aguis Saliba Alex	7
Borg Mario	9
Borg Simon	11
Busuttil Felix	13
Cassola Arnold	15
Cutajar Josianne	16
Dalli Miriam	18
Engerer Cyrus	19
Lowell Norman	23
Megally Naged	24
Mercieca Michael	25
Micallef Robert	27
Sammut Joe	28
Sant Alfred	32
Vella Fleur	33

Introduction

Verżjoni bl-Ingliż

On 11th March 2019, the Federation for Hunting & Conservation - Malta (FKNK) sent a Questionnaire and a Manifesto to the Candidates who will be contesting the May 2019 Elections for the European Parliament.

On 3rd April 2019 the FKNK published a Summary which listed those candidates who had to date replied to the Questionnaire; signed the Manifesto; and the number of meetings, each candidate had with a delegation from the Council of the FKNK at the candidate's own request.

The FKNK said that by the end of April 2019 it would publish further and final details in this regard.

This document is the Final result at 30th April 2019.

Maltese version

Fil-11 ta' Marzu 2019, il-Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK) bagħtet Kwestjonarju u Manifest lill-Kandidati li ser jikkontestaw l-Elezzjonijiet ta' Mejju 2019 għall-Parlament Ewropew.

Fit-3 ta' April 2019 il-FKNK ippublika Sommarju li elenka dawk il-kandidati li sa dakinhar kienu wieġbu għall-Kwestjonarju; iffirmaw l-Manifest; u n-numru ta' laqgħat, li kull kandidat kellu ma' delegazzjoni mill-Kunsill tal-FKNK fuq talba tal-kandidat stess.

Il-FKNK qalet li sal-añhar ta' April 2019 se tippublika aktar dettalji u dettalji finali f'dan ir-rigward.

Dan id-dokument huwa r-riżultat Finali fit-30 ta' April 2019.

Lino Farrugia
CEO
Kap Eżekuttiv
30 April 2019

The Questionnaire



Dear candidate for the European Parliament,

The elections in May of this year are of great importance to the Maltese and Gozitan hunters and trappers. The Federation for Hunting & Conservation - Malta (FKNK) invites you to reply to a few questions that matter greatly to our membership of individual hunters and trappers to enable them to make an informed choice.

QUESTION 1

As you may be aware, the socio-cultural traditions of turtle dove spring hunting and live capture of finches that constitute our 'way of life', are at present on hold as a consequence of the EU Commission's extreme interpretation of the Nature Directives. The FKNK is doing everything possible to have these traditions adequately and justly reinstated.

Can we therefore count on your support and assistance to the FKNK for this reinstatement should you be elected to the European Parliament?

QUESTION 2

In November 2017, the European Parliament adopted a landmark resolution on an EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy, in which it also reaffirmed its call on the Commission and on the Member States to ensure that the funds under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are redirected to finance environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and maintaining connected biodiversity. The FKNK's EU Principal, The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) is calling for the next CAP after 2020 to be stronger on biodiversity, in particular, for small game populations, which have reduced due to changes in farming.

Will you help us work for a more sustainable CAP which takes greater account of the environmental impact on fauna and flora, in particular on small game in the agricultural landscape?

QUESTION 3

Europe's hunting community believes that, to avoid arbitrary and unnecessary restrictions on hunting, the Member States, and not the EU decision-makers in Brussels, should make decisions about hunting and the management of wildlife within their countries, since Member States have the best appreciation of their peoples' **unique national and regional socio-cultural traditions**.

Can we count on your support to ensure that hunting and wildlife management remains the sole competence of the Member States?

QUESTION 4

FACE and its Members, including the FKNK (31 years Membership) seek to ensure that hunters can acquire, possess, use and travel with firearms and ammunition safely and without unjustified bureaucracy, costs or restrictions.

Can we count on your support for measures that will avoid unfair restrictions on ammunition and firearms for hunting/target shooting purposes?

QUESTION 5

At the last CITES Conference of the Parties, in 2016 the European Union and all its Member States unanimously supported a resolution that

- recognises that “well-managed and sustainable trophy hunting is consistent with and contributes to species conservation, as it provides both livelihood opportunities for rural communities and incentives for habitat conservation, and generates benefits which can be invested for conservation purposes”, and
- recommends countries to “consider the contribution of hunting to species conservation and socioeconomic benefits, and its role in providing incentives for people to conserve wildlife, when considering stricter domestic measures and making decisions relating to the import of hunting trophies.”

Can we count on your support to ensure that hunting, both in your country and throughout the world, is not subject to bans and restrictions which will undermine the effective management strategies being employed by the range countries?

QUESTION 6

In the European Parliament an important and very active intergroup on biodiversity, hunting and countryside issues has existed since 1985, in which members of parliament from all political groups convene to exchange views and receive information on these issues.

Can we count on your support to re-establish this important intergroup for the 2019-2024 parliamentary term, also by endorsing the attached Manifesto for the 2019 European Parliament Elections?

OTHER:

If you wish to bring up any other hunting and wildlife management-related issues or provide additional comments, we welcome these under this point.

Please let us know if there are particular hunting-related matters where you would like to receive more information from us.

We thank you in advance for your participation!

Please return this Questionnaire and Manifesto to the FKNK at info@huntinginmalta.org.mt



MANIFESTO FOR THE 2019 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

**The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE)
and the European Parliament's Hunting Intergroup
invite you to support the following hunting-related policy statements:**

Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and Biodiversity

European hunters are aware that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a crucial support mechanism for agriculture and rural areas in Europe. FACE is calling for the next CAP after 2020 to be stronger on biodiversity, in particular, for small game populations, which have reduced due to changes in farming.

Large Carnivores

Many large carnivore populations are increasing and some do not qualify for strict protection anymore under the Habitats Directive. Their protection status should be adapted as soon as the desired conservation status is reached.

This will allow Member States to have a more meaningful management of large carnivores in line with regional and local needs.

Firearms and Ammunition

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Migratory Birds

The next European Parliament should work to promote more flexibility in the management of abundant goose populations.

Furthermore, regional and traditional hunting methods must be respected under the Birds Directive.

International Hunting

European hunters do not only hunt in Europe, but also in Africa and Asia. The multiple benefits, for example, to local communities and nature conservation, of international hunting must be sustained into the future.

European Parliament's "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup

Intergroups consist of MEPs from different political groups and countries with a common interest in a particular subject. The "Hunting" Intergroup was created in 1985 and is one of the oldest and most active in the European Parliament. MEPs from across the political spectrum are invited to lend their support and take part in the debates.

Established in 1977, **FACE** represents in Brussels the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters as an international non-profit-making nongovernmental organisation. **FACE** is made up of national hunters' associations from 36 European countries, including Malta's FKMK, and is supported by 7 associate members.

**_____ supports these policy statements and the re-establishment
of a "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup in the next European Parliament**

Summary

Candidate			Manifest Signed	Replied to Questionnaire	FKNK	Page
Surname	Name	Party*			Meetings**	
Agius	Peter	NP	√	√	1	5
Agius Saliba	Alex	LP	√	√	1	7
Borg	Mario	I		√	0	9
Borg	Simon	MPM	√	√	1	11
Busuttil	Felix	LP	√	√	0	13
Cassola	Arnold	I		√	0	15
Cutajar	Josianne	LP	√	√	1	16
Dalli	Miriam	LP		√	1	18
Engerer	Cyrus	LP	√	√	3	19
Lowell	Norman	IE		√	0	23
Megally	Naged	MPM		√	1	24
Mercieca	Michael	NP	√	√	1	25
Micallef	Robert	LP		√	0	27
Psaila	Frank	NP			1	-
Sammut	Joe	LP	√	√	2	28
Sant	Alfred	LP		√	1	32
Vella	Fleur	LP		√	0	33

* I = Independent; IE = Imperium Europa; LP = Labour Party; NP = Nationalist Party; MPM = *Moviment Patriotti Maltin* (Maltese Patriots Movement)

** Meeting/s requested by Candidate and held with a delegation from the FKNK Council at the FKNK Offices

AGIUS PETER (NP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. YES. ABSOLUTELY. A lot can be done from Brussels for the cause of the trappers especially, and also for the hunters.
 2. Yes. In dialogue with the agricultural community as well.
 3. This is possible only to a limited extent. Environment is a shared EU competence which becomes an exclusive EU competence once the EU decides to act on a given area. On hunting the EU acted already in 1979. It is hence politically quasi-impossible to reverse this. What we must do is to insist on more subsidiarity in the application of the birds directive, which was adopted with a view to leave a wide margin of appreciation to the Member states but ended up a strait jacket due to the more than 60 landmark ECJ judgements. Possibly, the best deal for hunters could be to push for a revised birds directive respecting the traditions in different member states, or better still to see that the new environment commissioner takes a different approach to the directive. I will work on these lines if elected.
 4. Yes.
 5. Yes.
 6. Yes. Already declared so and in contact with the intergroup and FACE.
- Other. More emphasis on trapping please – trapping is a major area where we can do much more at EU level. I have proposed solutions spread around 6 derogations covering different species and different methods as part of a 10-year programme. We must move on from trapping being a political wrestling game to a long-term sustainable solution ensuring this tradition for generations, rather than for 1 or 2 seasons introduced by stealth behind the commission's back. Most importantly, MEPs can play a fundamental role if they believe in this hobby and the fundamental importance thereof to our communities. There is a lot one can do on the informal, political side (which has never been done so far), beyond the formal derogations by government.



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AGIUS SALIBA ALEX (LP)

CORRESPONDENCE

As already discussed in my meeting held with FKNK last year I am more than willing to work closely with FKNK on all of the above-mentioned issues. Therefore I am supporting FKNK on all the first 5 questions.

I am also willing to give a push to re-establish the Hunting lobby Intergroup and also ready to sign and publicly support the attached manifesto.

As I have publicly stated in many activities held during my campaign - I am committed to safeguard the hunting and the live capture of finches pastime since I strongly believe that this is "a way of life" of thousands of Maltese and Gozitan citizens.

Best Regards,

Alex



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ALEX AGIUS SALIBA supports these policy statements and the re-establishment of a "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup in the next European Parliament

BORG MARIO (I)

CORRESPONDENCE

23rd April 2019

Dear FKNK members,

Thank you for sending the questionnaire related to the MEP Elections 2019. I did not contact you before as I was not sure if I will be contesting, I just presented my Nomination yesterday.

I will try to be brief and straight forward.

Firstly, through observation, I am of the understanding that the MEPs in the EU exist only to give the illusion that the EU is democratic and the European public have some say in policy making. As you very well know, we don't. Therefore I feel, it is in vain to offer support with the issues you had requested from within the current EU's parliament framework. Even if support given from within the EU's parliament, it cannot guarantee that your pastime is safeguarded.

Secondly, I am not a hunter, I never pulled a trigger of a shotgun. However, in St Julians, I have many friends who are hunters and trappers. I am amused at their passion for hunting, I can relate to your passion as I am a sea man and I'm inclined to like fishing. You know your needs related to hunting and I cannot assume and work for your needs like a hunter would. I could promise that legislation related to hunting be forwarded to FKNK for scrutiny and voting will be carried out according to your decision. However, one can easily observe that the EU's agenda is achieved through backdoors if the public shows disapproval.

My understanding is; what passes through Malta's territory is ours and our business alone.

My Manifesto is as follows:

1. Either Malta's commitments and constrains with the current and ever deteriorating Malta /EU treaty are changed or the EU 'exists' our country.
2. The Groups (Federations / Associations) that are negativity impacted with the current Malta / EU's treaty would draft the new conditions related to the issues concerning the sector of public they represent. The collective drafts will be presented to the EU's Commission as a request for Treaty Amendments.
3. Should the EU's Commission be open for discussing the conditions drafted by the local Associations and Federations, the representatives from within the Federations / Associations will be flown to Brussels to discuss /explain the drafts. Note that, I'm using discuss and not negotiate.
4. Half of the salary will be donated into an account to cover expenses for activities related to (1)(2) and (3) above. i.e Promotion for activities, a probable referendum, discussions by representatives of the concerned groups in Brussels regarding what they demand and other expenses related to other diplomatic arrangements with bodies outside of the EU. (the latter is more oriented towards economy rather than the direct concerns of FKNK).
5. As a tool for working in unity, in cooperation and as an assurance so that no Federation/ Association is used and for votes and later forgotten by me or any other

Federation/Association, My office in Malta would work on creating an independent committee having representatives from all negativity effected Federations and Associations. This committee would be an important tool so that the various drafts do not conflict and to have a collective understanding about how things are progressing. Unless Drafts do not conflict, no representative can infringe or interfere on another representative's draft. Any conflicting drafts will be negotiated and decided within the committee by the concerned members only. This committee will approve by consensus the final Treaty Amendments that will be presented to the EU's Commission. As an assurance that ALL Federations / Associations requests are met to their satisfaction, each member can veto ALL the suggested treaty Amendments if the EU's Commission refuses their particular requests. In such case the second part of (1) will come into force.

6. The money leftover in the account mentioned in (3.) will be donated to a charity after the work is done.

In your example, FKNK will be locally drafting the deal, in cooperation with other related groups, and a representative/s. Members from FKNK will be flown to Brussels to discuss the amendments once /if we get to that point.

I know that you had experienced broken promises before. Like yourselves, I am an activist not a politician. I understand that you have Lawyers as executives within FKNK. I have no problem signing a witnessed contract; With one reservation, I'm fond of and respect nature: Endangered species must be respected and safeguarded.

The Lisbon treaty will shortly come into full effect, Malta will become European territory rather than a country. We are about to lose whatever is left of Malta as a country. So please don't only consider hunting in the coming elections. The Treaty needs to change or all is lost.

Should the above interest the Federation I will look forward to explain, discuss and receive suggestions regarding my intended goals.

Thanks for your time reading this. I hope that we get to meet.

Best Regards
Mario Borg

BORG SIMON (MPM)

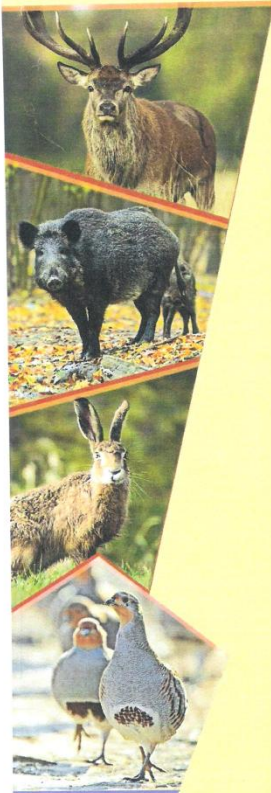
QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

(The Replies were given on behalf of the Maltese Patriots Movement [MPM] and are also reproduced for the other Party Candidate MEGALLY NAGED)

1. Yes, most certainly. We shall liaise with FKNK to better understand and interpret the Nature Directives and therefore be in a better position to counter any arguments against spring hunting and hunting in general.
 2. Again yes, we are in full support in sustaining agricultural practices and connected biodiversity. We feel that the uncontrolled building and construction in our country is seriously impacting our biodiversity and are in favour of any initiative to protect and maintain a sustainable environment. Moreover we are of the belief that this impact on our environment is the real threat to biodiversity rather than hunting.
 3. Once again, we are in full agreement with FKNK on this matter. We totally agree that when it comes to hunting and the management of wildlife, a one-size-fits-all approach is not realistic due to the very differences of each individual country's geography, bio-diversity and socio-economic reality and socio-cultural traditions specific to that country.
 4. Most definitely. Especially in consideration of country specific hunting seasons, biodiversity and related restrictions, the minimum the EU can do is to at least simplify and cut bureaucracy and restrictions on hunters travelling across national and trans-national borders with ammunition and firearms for this purpose.
 5. Once again, we fully agree that specific countries have different approaches to protection of certain species due to diverse numbers and different environments and bio-diversities in the same countries. For this matter effective management strategies employed by range countries should not be impeded and neither should unnecessary restrictions be imposed on importing trophies of legally hunted game in other countries.
 6. Yes by all means.
- Other. As already stated above Moviment Patrijotti Maltin as a party is fully committed to support hunting as a Maltese tradition always of course within the confines of a responsible and controlled manner as envisaged by FKNK. Moreover MPM undertakes to commit itself to:
1. Declare their position on Bird Hunting publicly and without any reservations and not to compromise their position by allowing other anti-hunting lobbies to influence their positions on this matter.
 2. Present any official report, statement, or declaration by FKNK to the European Parliament in relation to any respective hunting, bio-diversity, environmental or related discussion, work-groups, subgroups or activities as and when required.
 3. Liaise with FKNK to correctly interpret any relevant declarations, working papers, documents, proposed legislation, or proposed regulatory frameworks in order to utilise FKNK's expertise in the subject matter and to suggest proper responses and actions to the same.
 4. MPM also commit to call on FKNK members or experts nominated by them to join or assist work groups that may be needed in order to contribute or assist our MEP's if so required (even to join them in visits to Brussels if so required for such work, assistance, or as advisors, as may be needed).



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BUSUTTIL FELIX (LP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. *Il-posizzjoni tiegħi u tal-Partit Laburista min dejjem kienet cara – nemmen li din hija tradizzjoni Malti li qeghda għal qalb ta hafna Maltin u għandha tkun (dejjem fuq sfond sostenibbili) protetta u dejjiema.*

The Labour Party and that includes me when speaking on hunting and trapping traditions was always clear. Based on sustainable structures, I will do my utmost to safeguard the love and passion many have and will work in favour of such traditions.

2. *Filwaqt li rridu politika agrikola komuni b'mizuri li dejjem huma favur dixxiplini sostenibbli, naraw dejjem li l-agrikola Maltija hija tagħna u hija l-ewwel li jehtieg jippromwovu – irid ikun mhares b'mod partikolari permezz ta arrangamenti speċjali. Pagamenti diretta iridu ikunu pezenti sabiex isahhu l-importanza tagħna fis-suq local u dak barrani.*

Whilst we work unilaterally for a common agricultural policy it is important that we promote a sustainable market and practices. We must place our products first and safeguard local interests in fair trade and seek special arrangements in the local farming sector to comply. Direct payments must be in place to adequately protect and sustain our product within a local and international framework.

3. *Filwaqt li naqblu li m'għandux ikun hemm restrizzjonijiet bla bzonn, id-decizzjonijiet kollha li Membru Stat jiehu viz-a viz il-kacca u l-insib irid xorta jkun konformi ma l-obbigi tad-Direttiva tal-Ghasafar u tal-Abitanti. Safrattant jien nibqa nifhem il-posizzjoni u l-hsieb tan-nassaba u l-kaccaturi li din hija mhabbthom u dan huwa d-delizzju tagħhom u għandhom jibqghu jghozzu dak li trabbew fih. Bialnc u kompomess huma dejjem tajbin.*

Whilst we are always against any unnecessary restrictions, all decisions taken by any Member State must conform and obey legal requirements and policies within the Birds and Habitats Directives. Nevertheless, I fully understand the love and passion hunters and trappers possess and therefore compromise, dialogue and balance are always good.

4. *Bla dubju.*

Without any doubt.

5. *Jien minn dejjem emmint fil-gustizzja. Għalhekk minn dejjem emmint li t-triq tan-nofs hija dik gusta. Iva għandkom is-sapport tiegħi pero li dak li nwettqu ma jkunx estrem u jibqa dejjem sostenibbli u dak li ihuwa protett bil-ligi jibqa protett u ikun hemm responsabilita'.*

I always believed in justice for all. And I always believed finding middle grounds is the best way forward. In all that we practice. Yes, you have my support as long as what is practiced is not extreme, sustainable and all that is protected by law remains protected by law. In whatever we do there should always be responsibility.



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Felix Busuttill supports these policy statements and the re-establishment of a "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup in the next European Parliament

CASSOLA ARNOLD (I)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. CERTAINLY NOT.
2. YES, ANYTHING TO SAVEGUARD AND PROTECT FAUNA, FLORA, SMALL GAME AND AGRICULTURE.
3. CERTAINLY NOT.
4. CERTAINLY NOT.
5. NO.

CUTAJAR JOSIANNE (LP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. As a Gozitan coming from a humble, rural upbringing, having relatives and close friends who practice these traditions, I fully appreciate the beauty of the traditions which you seek to protect. Rest assured that, if elected to the European Parliament, I will be doing my best to support and assist FKNK in its efforts to preserve our unique culture.
2. The EU's CAP needs to be strengthened and needs more effective policies. While working for common agricultural policy measures to promote sustainable practices, I will also be seeking special arrangements in the local farming sector in order to comply with, and allow, direct payments to adequately protect local agricultural sectors.
3. In principle, I agree that we know our own needs best. I also agree that there should be no unnecessary restrictions imposed from Brussels, however, any decision taken by the Member State – in this case, Malta – must still conform with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directive.
4. Yes.
5. Yes, as long as the hunting practices which we seek to protect and promote remain sustainable.



MANIFESTO FOR THE 2019 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS



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and the European Parliament's Hunting Intergroup
invite you to support the following hunting-related policy statements:

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European hunters are aware that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a crucial support mechanism for agriculture and rural areas in Europe. FACE is calling for the next CAP after 2020 to be stronger on biodiversity, in particular, for small game populations, which have reduced due to changes in farming.

Large Carnivores

Many large carnivore populations are increasing and some do not qualify for strict protection anymore under the Habitats Directive. Their protection status should be adapted as soon as the desired conservation status is reached.

This will allow Member States to have a more meaningful management of large carnivores in line with regional and local needs.

Firearms and Ammunition

FACE and its Members seek to ensure that hunters can acquire, possess, use and travel with firearms and ammunition safely and without unjustified bureaucracy, costs or restrictions.

Migratory Birds

The next European Parliament should work to promote more flexibility in the management of abundant goose populations.

Furthermore, regional and traditional hunting methods must be respected under the Birds Directive.

International Hunting

European hunters do not only hunt in Europe, but also in Africa and Asia. The multiple benefits, for example, to local communities and nature conservation, of international hunting must be sustained into the future.

European Parliament's "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup

Intergroups consist of MEPs from different political groups and countries with a common interest in a particular subject. The "Hunting" Intergroup was created in 1985 and is one of the oldest and most active in the European Parliament. MEPs from across the political spectrum are invited to lend their support and take part in the debates.

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Dr. Josianne Cutajar supports these policy statements and the re-establishment of a "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup in the next European Parliament

DALLI MIRIAM (LP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. During these years I've always worked to ensure that Malta is not treated less than other EU Member States even in this regard. When there were tentatives to single out Malta and debate spring hunting in Malta I made sure that the debate did not focus on Malta alone but rather that the issue of hunting across the EU was debated.
Besides that, the Labour Party's position in relation to spring hunting and trapping has always been very clear and, if re-elected, I will continue to do my utmost to ensure that this tradition is protected whilst ensuring that our environment is safeguarded.
 2. In the past years I have always worked hard in favour of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity. Whilst ensuring sustainable practices we will continue working hard to adequately protect the local agricultural sector.
 3. I agree that there should not be unnecessary restrictions, however any decision taken by any Member State should always conform with the Birds and Habitat Directives.
 4. During this legislature, I was very vocal in the discussions on the Firearms Directive and called on the Commission to seek a better balance so as not to make life difficult for people who want to practise sports and collect firearms. My position has always been very clear in this regard.
 5. Any hunting needs to be in line with existing laws.
- Other I am primarily focused on the Environment Committee which discusses and acts upon issues related to hunting and biodiversity.

ENGERER CYRUS (LP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

Introduction

I have never practised hunting or trapping. Nevertheless, I acknowledge the following principles:

i. Both practices are a very important pastime for thousands of Maltese and Gozitan enthusiasts and their families. These individuals have every right to have a voice in European institutions as other lobbies, pressure groups and non-governmental organisations.

ii. Hunters and trappers are European citizens. They have every right to benefit from the same treatment which EU institutions afford to other hunters and trappers in other Member States. I have campaigned in favour of this principle in 2015 during the campaign leading to the referendum of spring hunting.

iii. The interests of minority groups should not be targeted by popular votes. There are national and European mechanisms which are set up in order to hold the relevant discussions based on scientific data. Such principle has encouraged me to support the FKNK petition in favour of changes to the law regulating referenda in Malta.

iv. Hunters and trappers are important stakeholders in our countryside. They do valuable work in the protection of local habitats, afforestation and restoration of our countryside. In this respect, I believe that the hunting lobby should be regarded by the authorities as an environmental non-government organisation.

1. I have made my stand on hunting and trapping public on different occasions, mainly (i) the hunting referendum in 2015, (ii) the European Parliament election campaign of 2014, and (iii) the current European Parliament election. During the said period, I constantly took note of the developments related to hunting and trapping at the national level. In my work as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the EU, I needed to safeguard Malta's position on these topics, including direct support to the Ministry responsible on matters relating to hunting during discussions between Government and the EU institutions. First of all, I think that regional and traditional hunting and trapping should be given more importance under the Birds Directive. Secondly, I think that European institutions, also through the involvement of the Maltese MEPs, should give greater weight to the scientific contributions of hunting organisations in safeguarding traditional practices, such as the hunting of turtle doves in spring, finch trapping in autumn and possibly other traditional practices, such as the trapping of turtle doves. In this regard, I favour and support the approach adopted by the Maltese government to get an agreement with the European Commission on the principles regulating the trapping of golden plovers and song thrushes. Personally, I believe that such an approach should be used for finch trapping and the hunting for turtle doves in spring, particularly in light of Malta's relatively minuscule annual harvest.

If elected as an MEP, I will campaign in favour of a more realistic approach by the European Commission on hunting and trapping. For instance, Malta represents a very small percentage of the annual harvest of turtle doves in the EU Member States. I am aware that the European Court of Justice has already declared that the migration of turtle doves over Malta in autumn cannot be compared to the migration of this bird in spring. The EU should see that its arguments are truly proportional and reasonable. Indeed, I believe that Malta should be allowed to establish a national quota for turtle doves which could be hunted during April and September.

2. While it is important that the EU gives maximum protection to the agricultural sector, I believe that this should not happen at the expense of biodiversity. I am informed that habitat destruction and the use of pesticides have had a negative impact on the bird population across Europe. Such causes have also been confirmed as top causes of bird population decline by Birdlife International themselves.

Personally, I think that alternative methods of farming, including organic farming, are beneficial to the European bird population. A more sustainable CAP must consider means which aims to halt the declining populations of birds and insects and European countries. Moreover, the European Union should also engage with African countries in order to promote farming practices which are not hazardous for birds. It makes no sense to protect the habitats and breeding conditions of birds in Europe, only to find out that they face the same fate as soon as they cross the Mediterranean. Such model has already been adopted by European and North African countries in the safeguarding of the population of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

3. Member States, following consultation with the relevant stakeholders at the national level, should have the competence to decide on hunting and wildlife management. The role of European institutions should focus on the sustainability of hunting practices and wildlife management.

I think that this structure is already catered for in Malta, whereby the Government has set up the Wild Bird Regulation Unit in order to take informed decisions on hunting and trapping. The Maltese authorities also ensure data collection on hunting and trapping as well as enforcement of hunting and trapping regulations.

I think that the exercise of excessive power by the EU against Maltese hunters and trappers has contributed to widespread anti-European sentiment in Malta. Therefore, the balancing of power between Member States and EU institutions on hunting and wildlife management is also beneficial for the EU itself.

4. These matters fall part of the right of free movement of European citizens. While it is important that movements of firearms and ammunition are adequately reported in the same way that the EU is planning to report passenger movement in the Schengen zone, these mechanisms should not impose any additional costs or unjustified burden on passengers.

I believe that the same approach should be adopted with respect to wild birds hunted legally in a Member State and being transported to another.

5. Regulations should serve to ensure sustainability within the hunting practice. I believe that an abolitionist approach would contribute to illegal poaching and the use of methods which are harmful to the species being targeted and their habitat.

In my opinion, these practices should only be promoted where (i) the conservation status of the species being hunted is favourable, (ii) where it is authorised by the national authorities of the range countries, and (iii) where

the practise is being supported by conservation initiatives. Moreover, hunting organisations should be incentivized to promote the trade-off between taking an animal from the wild and providing compensation by means of investment in conservation projects of the area or region.

An emphasis should also be made on the consumption of game, one of the major characteristics of hunting in Malta.

6. There has not been a Maltese MEP in the intergroup on biodiversity, hunting and countryside issues during the last two legislatures. I have already expressed my commitment to be part of this intergroup if I am elected to the European Parliament, the same commitment I gave 5 years ago.

Other If elected to the European Parliament, I plan to join the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development which takes care of EU Funding and budgetary measures. I plan to use this position in order to assist local organisations in tapping EU funding opportunities. This should also include FKNK.

If the European Union wants to be taken seriously on the need to engage hunters in the conservation of Europe's natural environment, I firmly believe that conservations projects started by the FKNK should be supported by EU funds. These include, among others, the cultivation and breeding of turtle doves to be release in the wild and the reintroduction of the barn owl in the Maltese countryside.

I think we should also work to:

- Set up a breeding project with the Maltese government which focuses on finches;
- Tap EU funds to support FKNK in the management of hunting reserves, including Mizieb and Ahrax tal-Mellieha.



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Cyrus Engerer

**supports these policy statements and the re-establishment
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LOWELL NORMAN (IE)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. Imperium Europa considers hunting as a tradition and fully supports the democratic Referendum result in favour of hunting. Is a matter of fact, Imperium Europa promotes a balance between hunters' rights and pro-nature drives. It also notes that other factors present threats that are more serious than hunting, such as the use of certain pesticides. Imperium Europa believes in a Europe of Free Regions and Peoples. It does not believe that the EU has a right to dictate the local policies of its Member States. The Maltese electorate voted for hunting. The decision must be respected and with no sly measures to limit that right in order to play politics of majority and attempt to retain popularity amongst all groups, as Dr Fenech Adami had attempted to.
2. Imperium Europa will promote a change in financial mechanisms whereby funds are not simply allocated according to the member state size but also according to population density and farmland density; hence higher funding to those member states facing higher risks.
3. Of course. Imperium Europa is for a Europe of Free Regions and Peoples. It believes that no Member State has discarded its sovereignty upon joining the EU. If the EU had to decide our way of living, then member state parliaments, considering the public expense, would not be necessary!
4. Indeed. These rights are always subject to other safety measures however there exist adequate procedures that render transport of firearms and ammunition safe. 'unjustified restriction' is tantamount to discrimination.
5. 'throughout the world' - Imperium Europa cannot answer for that. It notes that the entire globe is responsible for the upkeep and preservation of wildlife and that EU restrictions do not return the projected results, given that other countries such as Egypt, fail to adopt similar measures. Imperium Europa does not believe in bans and restrictions implemented for the upkeep of political games. This government held a referendum, result of which was in favour of FKNK. In order to appease NGOs, it has also implemented bans and restrictions. Imperium Europa does not believe in that hypocrisy. Let the people decide.
6. Imperium Europa's candidate, Mr Norman Lowell, promises to be the People's voice in Brussels. None of the current and former MEP candidates have represented the people directly so far. They have always towed the line of their local party or the one in Brussels (EPP/S&D). We are different. If one seeks a change, one should be the change - vote for Imperium Europa.

MEGALLY NAGED (MPM)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

(The Replies were given on behalf of the Maltese Patriots Movement [MPM] and are also reproduced for the other Party Candidate BORG SIMON)

1. Yes, most certainly. We shall liaise with FKNK to better understand and interpret the Nature Directives and therefore be in a better position to counter any arguments against spring hunting and hunting in general.
 2. Again yes, we are in full support in sustaining agricultural practices and connected biodiversity. We feel that the uncontrolled building and construction in our country is seriously impacting our biodiversity and are in favour of any initiative to protect and maintain a sustainable environment. Moreover we are of the belief that this impact on our environment is the real threat to biodiversity rather than hunting.
 3. Once again, we are in full agreement with FKNK on this matter. We totally agree that when it comes to hunting and the management of wildlife, a one-size-fits-all approach is not realistic due to the very differences of each individual country's geography, bio-diversity and socio-economic reality and socio-cultural traditions specific to that country.
 4. Most definitely. Especially in consideration of country specific hunting seasons, biodiversity and related restrictions, the minimum the EU can do is to at least simplify and cut bureaucracy and restrictions on hunters travelling across national and trans-national borders with ammunition and firearms for this purpose.
 5. Once again, we fully agree that specific countries have different approaches to protection of certain species due to diverse numbers and different environments and bio-diversities in the same countries. For this matter effective management strategies employed by range countries should not be impeded and neither should unnecessary restrictions be imposed on importing trophies of legally hunted game in other countries.
 6. Yes by all means.
- Other. As already stated above Moviment Patrijotti Maltin as a party is fully committed to support hunting as a Maltese tradition always of course within the confines of a responsible and controlled manner as envisaged by FKNK. Moreover MPM undertakes to commit itself to:
1. Declare their position on Bird Hunting publicly and without any reservations and not to compromise their position by allowing other anti-hunting lobbies to influence their positions on this matter.
 2. Present any official report, statement, or declaration by FKNK to the European Parliament in relation to any respective hunting, bio-diversity, environmental or related discussion, work-groups, subgroups or activities as and when required.
 3. Liaise with FKNK to correctly interpret any relevant declarations, working papers, documents, proposed legislation, or proposed regulatory frameworks in order to utilise FKNK's expertise in the subject matter and to suggest proper responses and actions to the same.
 4. MPM also commit to call on FKNK members or experts nominated by them to join or assist work groups that may be needed in order to contribute or assist our MEP's if so required (even to join them in visits to Brussels if so required for such work, assistance, or as advisors, as may be needed).

MERCIECA MICHAEL (NP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. YES definitely. I believe that our hunters should have equal rights as other hunters in the European Union.
 2. YES, I believe that biodiversity can be sustained throughout our islands notwithstanding hunting.
 3. While I have no objection to support such a move I also believe that if the decision is left in the hands of the Members of EU parliament and not in the hands of the EU bureaucrats and if all the elected 6 candidates work together on this issue in the parliament and through lobbying with other MEP;s, then better legislation in favour of hunting in Malta can also be achieved.
 4. YES as long as safety of all around the hunters is secured at all times.
 5. YES you can count on my support to ensure that hunting in the Maltese Islands can be less restricted as long as the hunters themselves work hand in hand with the authorities to ensure the effective management strategies to safeguard the animal and bird populations.
 6. I have signed the attached manifesto and if elected I would love to actively participate in the "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup.
- Other In summary I believe that our past MEP's have not been strong enough in the EU parliament and among the EU bureaucrats to spread and sustain the voice of Maltese hunters. Although not a hunter myself, I strongly believe that everybody has a right to practice his / her hobby as long as this does not lead to any form of endangerment to other human beings or species.
- I would also look forward to meeting with the FKNK to learn more about your difficulties and about how I would be able to work hand in hand with you to help you achieve you goals better.



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MICALLEF ROBERT (LP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

Thank you for your letter and questions. Please find below my answers. For me as a MEP candidate it is very important to listen to stakeholders and understand your concerns and priorities.

1. The position of the Labour Party in relation of sustainable hunting and trapping has always been very clear. Therefore, once elected in the European Parliament, I will do my utmost to work in favour of such traditions.
2. While we work holistically for common agricultural policy measures to promote sustainable practices, we also seek special arrangements in the local farming sector to comply and allow direct payments to adequately protect local agricultural sectors.
3. Whilst we concur that there should not be unnecessary restrictions, any decision taken by the Member State must still conform with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directive.
4. Yes.
5. Yes, as long as what is being promoted is sustainable.

SAMMUT JOE (LP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

Addenda ghar-risposta minni gia sottomessa ghar-rigward tal-kwestjonarju mhejji mil-FKNK.

Dahla

Irrid primarjament nippreciza li jiena ilni licenzjat bhala kaccatur sa mil-ewwel gurnata li kien possibbli ghalija ngorr arma tan-nar u precizament meta ghalaqt l-eta ta 21 sena.

Bhala nassab nghid li ilni nipprattika l-istess namra sa mil-ewwel granet li tlaqt nimxi peress li jiena dejjem ma missieri, li kienet persuna mwiolda sabiex tipprattika l-insib, u ghalhekk ilni nipprattika din n-namra tista tghid tul hajti kollha sakemm kienet permessa. Jiena dispost nissottometti kopja tal-permess u licenzji tieghi sew rigwardanti kacca kif wkoll tal-nsib jekk huwa l-kaz.

Irrid nghid li jiena minn dejjem tesserat mal-FKNK u b'unur nghid li kont jiena li waqqaft il-fergha tal-FKNK gewwa z-Zurrieq u sahansitra kont l-ewwel President taghha

Nzid wkoll illi jiena kont nokkupa l-kariga ta Membru Parlamentari ghal 19 il-sena konsekuttiva u qatt ma dejjaqt nipprotegi u nitkellem favur dawn in-namuri u dan kif jista jigi stabilit billi wiehed jidhol fir-records tal-Parlament u jfittex id-dibattiti u l-aggornamenti li ghamilt jiena. Oltre minn hekk qatt ma dejjaqt nikteb fil-gurnali u nitkellem fuq mezzi ohra tax-xandir ghal beneficcju ta dawn in-namuri u mhux ser niddejjaq fil-futur.

Irrid hawn naghmla cara li jiena ma tkellimtx jew qed nittkellem mimhabba l-fatt li jiena kont jew presentement ghax kandidat. Jiena nimmilita favur dawn it-Tradizzjonijiet ghax, apparti li nipprattikhom, nemmen li huma parti mit-tessut taghna l-Maltin u l-Ghawdxin u bhala cittadini Ewropej ghandna kull dritt li nigi trattati bhal cittadini ewropej ohra li jappartjenu ghal istess namuri.

Apparti hekk, u kif jista jigi affermat jekk issir dahla fil-web page tieghi (joesammuto.com) jiena nsostni li l-kaccatur u n-nassab, flimkien mal bdiewa, huma ta kontribut kbir ghaz-zamma tal-kampanja taghna li minn naha l-ohra huma sors important ghat-turizmu partikolarment agrarju.

Pero ma nistax ma nghidx, li jiena nimmilita sabiex nibqghu nipprattikaw dawn il-passatempo ad unur u n memorja ta hbieb qrib tieghi, li mimhabba l-mod arbitrarju u viljak li Gvern Nazzjonalista dahaq bihom, illum tragikament ma ghadhomx maghna. U allura iva, nkompli nikkumbatti sabiex din l-ingustizzja tigi ndirizzata.

Fl-ahharnet, u n linea ma dak kollu li ghadni kif issottomettejt, apparti l-mezzi kollha diga a disposizzjoni tieghi sabiex inwassal lehen id-delettanti kaccaturi u nassaba fil-Parlament Ewropew, jekk nigi mgħoti l-fiducja ta shabi l-kaccaturi u nassaba Maltin u Ghawdxin, tul il-hidma tieghi sabiex niehdu lura dak li hu taghna, jiena nipprometti li bhal dejjem, nitlob l-assistenza tal-FKNK u fejn tidhol materja f'dan il-qassam nitlobb l-assistenza u jekk necessarju l-ingagg ta l-istess FKNK bhala konsulent.

Now I turn to address the relevant questions put forward.

1. My answer to this question is a definite yes.

At this point I refer to what has been stated above in my introductory note for the sake of non-repetition.

Having said that, I cannot but refer to what happened way back in 2004. The then Nationalist Government had entered into an obligation to do away with clap nets after four years. Not only so, but Malta and Gozo, up to three miles out at sea are declared a natura 2000 site – this goes even beyond this limit.

Essentially this means that no trapping or taking of birds is allowed on the Maltese isles with blatant disrespect to all those that practice these traditions.

Last year, this Government managed to win over a derogation so that thrushes and plovers can be caught using clap nets. This undoubtedly set a mile stone achievement since now, the 2004 agreement, has seen an exception with the possibility of having it applied vis a vis the capturing of song birds.

I believe this can be achieved since it does not make sense to have other countries obtaining derogations to shoot song birds and we get denied.

This is what I will be championing if I am given the support of our confraternity and be elected to the European Parliament. The principle of solidarity has to be applied everywhere and evenly.

Coming now to the issue of turtle doves, what I definitely aspire to do if elected to the European Parliament, is to emphasis that before restraining the local hunters, pressure should be exerted on other countries such as North Africa and Northern countries such as Romania and Bulgaria where turtle doves are shot at in great numbers which definitely leave an impact on the colony as opposed to the relatively small number caught when passing over these Islands.

This should definitely lead to a reassessment of the whole issue with a great possibility of giving more weight to what was reasoned out by the ECJ.

2. As I have been pointing out on various stations and other media outlets, it is about time that we, as Maltese and Gozitans, bring to the attention of the EU that it is pointless in imposing certain rules and regulations on Malta with regard to the upkeep of emission levels amongst others, when we are the victims of neighboring countries.

By way of example, when I served as Board member for MEPA, an exercise was commissioned to measure air pollution. Believe it or not, the most polluted area in Malta and Gozo resulted to be Gharb. Out of all places Gharb which, for obvious reasons, should have never been the case.

The reason behind such a result is the same as when the winds are blowing from the south and we get sand rain. Sand is blown over from the Sahara. Are not toxic emissions not blown over from any other direction and then why should we answer for same?

The same goes with song birds and hunting game (here distinguishing from birds of prey and other protected water fauna). Birds in general are the victims of pesticides. Also, birds are killed indiscriminately in their nesting and seasonal resting seasons such as North Africa and northern countries in Europe – why should we answer for this?

The answer is simple – in Europe we need (and I say we because I practice the same hobbies as you do and so I am one of you) a voice that knows what to speak about first hand and means to push forward the FKNK's agenda.

Coming now to the other issue put forward by this interrogative, farming is departing from its original roots. A lot of fields are being abandoned and this is a pity and should be a point of national concern.

Organic farming went a par with traditional farming although different in their approach however, nowadays, both are being taken over by Hydroponics which has to be further studied in its various aspects.

With this in mind, yes, if elected, I will definitely embrace the call being put forward by FACE in calling for the next CAP to be stronger on biodiversity for small game populations.

3. There is no one better than the member states themselves to set regulations regulating hunting and trapping in their own territory.

This is what the ORNIS Committee locally is entrusted to do.

Having said so, this does not mean that each and every country should have an open ended mandate but there is to be a set of rules that establishes a uniform set of norms to be applied by each and every county and not get a situation where one country can allow hunting of a particular species, when at the same time it is declared as an endangered species in another EU territory. Nor can it be the case that in Malta song birds cannot be trapped and reared but at the same time the same birds are in discriminately shot at in Italy amongst other countries.

It is to be emphasized here that, in my opinion, the abusive intrusion of foreign organisations is to be questioned.

As matters legally stand, it is illegal u capture data of any Maltese citizen which is not censored by law. In this sense, it is illegal to spy on people with the hope of capturing any one committing an illegal act. Such people are not authorized to undertake such activities and definitely such an instance must be addressed.

4. Definitely agree.

As far as I am aware, it was the EU's intention to issue firearm passports in order to facilitate the process of individuals travelling abroad carrying with them their hunting/sport guns.

I will be putting my energies to this end.

5. I am not in favour of an abolitionist approach.

As stated before, I believe that this matter should fall within the competence of each member state. Set guide lines are to be in place to ensure that the traditions of its people are respected and where applicable to serve as an added value to the benefit of the people in general always in a regulated manner.

In this regard, I fully applaud the FKNK's initiative to, in line with EU guide lines, promote the raring of birds in captivity to be let out in the wild to substantiate those taken.

6. I support such an initiative and commit myself to be part of it if elected.

Furthermore, I commit myself, that, should I be elected to the EU Parliament, and wherever hunting and trapping issues arise and I need specialized advice, I will be asking for and engaging FKNK as my consultants.

Other One point I did not refer to above, is my appointment as Senior Legal advisor to PAM (Parliamentary Assembly to the Mediterranean).

Thanks to this organization, which falls under the umbrella of the UN, I have been exposed to the way other countries lobby in favour of one's national cause.

If I am elected to the EU Parliament I want to build up a strong lobby in favor of and in support to National cultural past times.

I am convinced that there are EU Parliamentarians, that is Spanish, French, Italian, Greek, Cypriot, Austrian, German amongst others, that are elected by way of hunters and even trappers votes. These Members I want to approach and discuss our cause with an aim of winning them over to support us. Only then can we have our voice heard in the EU. One voice will fall in the wilderness but a concentrated group uttering a word will definitely make that extra mile and that is what I want to achieve for our local hunters and trappers.



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Large Carnivores

Many large carnivore populations are increasing and some do not qualify for strict protection anymore under the Habitats Directive. Their protection status should be adapted as soon as the desired conservation status is reached.

This will allow Member States to have a more meaningful management of large carnivores in line with regional and local needs.

Firearms and Ammunition

FACE and its Members seek to ensure that hunters can acquire, possess, use and travel with firearms and ammunition safely and without unjustified bureaucracy, costs or restrictions.

Migratory Birds

The next European Parliament should work to promote more flexibility in the management of abundant goose populations.

Furthermore, regional and traditional hunting methods must be respected under the Birds Directive.


International Hunting

European hunters do not only hunt in Europe, but also in Africa and Asia. The multiple benefits, for example, to local communities and nature conservation, of international hunting must be sustained into the future.

European Parliament's "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup

Intergroups consist of MEPs from different political groups or countries with a common interest in a particular subject. The "Hunting" Intergroup was created in 1985 and is one of the oldest and most active in the European Parliament. MEPs from across the political spectrum are invited to lend their support and take part in the debates.

Established in 1977, **FACE** represents in Brussels the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters as an international non-profit-making nongovernmental organisation. FACE is made up of national hunters' associations from 36 European countries, including Malta's **FKNE**, and is supported by 7 associate members.

 **supports these policy statements and the re-establishment
of a "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup in the next European Parliament**

SANT ALFRED (LP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. Yes. My support and assistance will remain conditional on full observance of existing rules and regulations under EU law. In my view, the adoption of “offside” positions in the hope that they will be validated is not a viable option and will only serve to aggravate the situation.
2. Yes. Always subject to the proviso that existing laws and regulations are fully respected.
3. Yes, when and where this is still the case.
4. Yes.
5. I support in full the conclusions of the last CITES Conference.
6. Yes.

VELLA FLEUR (LP)

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES

1. *Il-pozizzjoni tal-Partit Laburista favur kacca u nsib sostenibbli dejjem kienet cara. Ghaldaqstant kemm-il darba nkun elett ser inkun qieghed nahdem favur dawn it-tradizzjonijiet ta' pajjizna.*
The position of the Labour Party in relation of sustainable hunting and trapping has always been very clear. Therefore, once elected in the European Parliament, I will do my utmost to work in favour of such traditions.
2. *Filwaqt li rridu politika agrikola komuni b'mizuri li jippromwovu prattici sostenibbli, irridu ukoll naraw li s-settur tal-biedja lokali ikun imhares b'mod partikolari permezz ta' arrangamenti specjali li jippermettu pagamenti diretti sabiex niprotegu s-setturi agrikoli lokali.*
While we work holistically for common agricultural policy measures to promote sustainable practices, we also seek special arrangements in the local farming sector to comply and allow direct payments to adequately protect local agricultural sectors.
3. *Filwaqt li naqblu li m'g ħ andux ikun hemm restrizzjonijiet bla b ż onn, kwalunkwe deċżjoni li Membru Statjieħ u fir-rigward tal-kaċċa u insib iridu xorta jkunu konformi mal-obbligi tad-Direttiva tal-Għasafar u tal-Abitati.*
Whilst we concur that there should not be unnecessary restrictions, any decision taken by the Member State must still conform with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directive.
4. Yes.
5. *Iva, sakemm dak propost hu sostenibbli.*
Yes, as long as what is being promoted is sustainable.
- 6.