

Joint Communiqué

on our common resolve to eradicate illegal taking and trade in wild birds in Malta

Acting on behalf of our respective organisations and our members, we endorsed this joint communiqué to express our joint resolve to condemn and put an end to the illegal taking¹ and trade in wild birds on the Maltese Islands.

We recognise that the protection, conservation and sustainable use of our biodiversity are vital for maintaining a healthy ecosystem, of which we ourselves form part. We are aware that this goal cannot be accomplished unless the effort to protect, conserve and ensure sustainable use of avifauna resources is effective.

We underline that the illegal taking and trade in wild birds, amongst other factors, pose a significant threat to the accomplishment of this goal. We are also aware that lack of cooperation amongst stakeholders, low mutual trust and respect, insufficient recognition of the shared aims and the over-emphasis on the differences that have, to date, been prevalent in this sector, are not conducive to progress.

We have come to the conclusion that this situation should not be allowed to persist any longer.

We believe that, working on their own, neither the government, nor any non-governmental organisation, nor any other organisation or group of organisations, would be able to effectively put an end to illegal killing, trapping and trade in wild birds. We believe that the collective commitment in this communiqué can aid in achieving this aim.

It is only through concerted effort of all stakeholders, through harnessing their energies, through building of mutual trust and respect, through pooling and sharing of ideas and resources, that we can make a meaningful and significant difference to clamp down on poaching and other bird-related crime.

¹ Illegal taking includes illegal killing and trapping of wild birds

Whilst recognising that our organisations have different aims, we are united in our shared resolve to eliminate these illegal acts.

We reserve the right to campaign, criticise, and object to any statements or actions that may go counter to our organisations' values. Simultaneously, we are united in our collective belief in the need to promote positive change, education, awareness raising, dissemination of information, increased coordination, better stakeholder involvement, improved enforcement, more effective deterrents and effective action on the ground to abolish illegal taking and trade in wild birds on the Maltese Islands once and for all.

Irrespective of the areas where our values and views may differ, we believe that our shared aims, our shared values are greater than our disagreements. We underline the importance of building mutual trust and respect. Wherever we can, we shall work together through joint initiatives, together with the government, to turn the situation around.

We are confident that our joint Communiqué will herald a turning point. We shall, through concrete action, work towards this aim.

Signatures of Representatives of Voluntary Organisations