

**MINISTERU GHALL-IŻVILUPP SOSTENIBBLI,
L-AMBJENT U TIBDIL FIL-KLIMA**

**SEGRETARJAT PARLAMENTARI GHALL-BIEDJA,
SAJD U DRITTIJIET TAL-ANNIMALI**

*Taqsimta tar-Regolamentazzjoni
ghall-Ghasafar Selvaġġi*



**MINISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS**

Wild Birds Regulation Unit

Wild Birds Regulation Unit participates in annual EU meeting of Directors of Hunting and Game Management

Representatives of the Wild Birds Regulation Unit attended the annual meeting of EU Directors of Hunting and Game Management held in Bonn, Germany, between 20 and 22 of June 2016. The meeting serves as an annual forum for discussion and exchange of experiences and good practice in the field of sustainable hunting governance and game management in the EU. The meeting was attended by directors of hunting and game management from EU member states, as well as by representatives of the European Commission and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the European Union.

During the meeting, representatives of EU Member State hunting administrations gave overview of the hunting and game management-related topics of relevance to their states, with issues ranging from general hunting governance and conservation-related topics to specific game population management approaches, combating animal disease, the management of large carnivores and dealing with invasive alien species.

As part of their contribution to this forum, Maltese delegates gave an overview of the situation with regards to the hunting of the Turtle Dove, with particular emphasis on recent developments including moratorium on spring hunting of this species in view of population decline. A range of scientific information concerning the status of this species, as well as the legal and administrative measures were also presented. As part of their presentation, the Maltese delegation emphasized the need for a coordinated EU-wide approach to identifying and addressing root causes of Turtle Dove decline and the need for sustainable harvest management based on objective scientific understanding of the population dynamics of this species. Particular emphasis was also placed on Malta's efforts to eradicate illegal targeting of bird species, as well as on Malta's innovative technology-based approaches to harvest reporting.