



FEDERATION OF ARMS COLLECTORS AND TARGET SHOOTERS

Registered with SportsMalta, Reference F007, by the Founding Members
Association of Arms Collectors & Target Shooters - Association of Maltese Arms Collectors & Shooters

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FACTS QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES IN THE 2019 MEP ELECTIONS

Report of the 14 May 2019

FACTS is publishing the results of the questionnaire it circulated to candidates contesting the MEP elections, which are being held on 25 May.

There are 41 candidates contesting these elections. Our questionnaire reached 36 of them. 16 replied and 7 accepted our invitation to meet with us.

Given that every candidate had an equal opportunity to show his/her interest in matters which are of utmost importance to us, FACTS is advising its members to completely ignore those MEPs who ignored our call.

Consequently, we are only considering the 16 candidates who responded and/or came to meet us. Should any of the other candidates choose to reply, we shall update our data and inform our community accordingly. If you know any of the candidates who have not responded please feel free to bring the matter to their urgent attention.

We are presenting the results in a factual way along with notes drawn from what the candidates stated and/or have achieved in matters which are relevant to our sport and passion. The object of this exercise is to identify candidates who stand a chance of being elected and who would be in the best position to represent our interests in Brussels.

Naturally, our position should be considered in the light of our community members' political beliefs and personal preferences based on matters of national importance.

Table No. 1: Contesting parties and their total number of candidates, the number of candidates who should have received our questionnaire, the number of responses and the number of meetings held/to be held with our representatives.

2019 MEP ELECTIONS - FACTS QUESTIONNAIRE					
Document 1/4: Response by parties					
Candidate Party	Cand.	Q. sent	Replied	%	Meeting
Alleanza Bidla	2	2	1	50%	0
Alternattiva Demokratika	2	2	0	0%	0
Brain Not Ego	1	0	0	0%	0
Imperium Europa	1	1	0	0%	0
Independents	5	1	1	100%	0
Moviment Patrijotti Maltin	2	2	1	50%	0
Partit Demokratiku	4	4	1	25%	1
Partit Laburista	14	14	5	36%	2
Partit Nazzjonalista	10	10	7	70%	3
	41	36	16	44%	6

Table No. 2: Breakdown of the figures in the first one, showing the response among individual candidates.

2019 MEP ELECTIONS - FACTS QUESTIONNAIRE						
Response by candidates						
Candidate Party	Surname	Name	Cand.	Q sent	Replied	Met
Alleanza Bidla	Dalli Gonzi	Rebecca	1	1		
	Grech Mintoff	Ivan	1	1	1	
Alternattiva Demokratika	Cacopardo	Carmel	1	1		
	Tolu	Romina	1	1		
Brain Not Ego	Borg	Antoine Paul	1			
Imperium Europa	Lowell	Norman	1	1		
Independent Candidate	Aquilina	Joseph	1			
	Bonnici	Nazareno	1			
	Borg	Mario	1			
	Cassola	Arnold	1	1	1	
Moviment Patrijotti Maltin	Florian	Stephen	1			
	Borg	Simon	1	1	1	
Megally	Megally	Naged	1	1		
	Appelgren	Camilla	1	1		
Partit Demokratiku	Buttigieg	Anthony Emanuel	1	1		
	Cauchi Inglott	Martin	1	1	1	1
	Farrugia	Godfrey	1	1		
Partit Laburista	Agius Saliba	Alexander Matthew	1	1	1	1
	Caruana	Josef	1	1		
	Cassar	Noel	1	1		
	Cutajar	Josianne	1	1	1	
	Dalli	Miriam	1	1	1	
	Engerer	Cyrus	1	1		
	Galea Busuttil	Felix	1	1		
	Gauci	Mary	1	1		
	Grech	James	1	1		
	Micallef	Robert	1	1	1	
	Sammut	Joseph Mario	1	1		
	Sant	Alfred	1	1	1	1
	Vassallo	Lorna	1	1		
	Vella	Fleur Anne	1	1		
Partit Nazzjonalista	Agius	Peter	1	1		
	Borg	Roselyn	1	1	1	1
	Borg	Dione	1	1		
	Briguglio	Michael	1	1	1	
	Casa	David	1	1	1	1
	Mercieca	Michael	1	1	1	
	Metsola	Roberta	1	1	1	
	Psaila	Frank	1	1	1	
	Stellini	David	1	1		
Zammit Dimech	Francis	1	1	1	1	
			41	36	16	6

Table No. 3: Questions posed by FACTS and the candidates' replies to them

2019 MEP ELECTIONS - FACTS QUESTIONNAIRE																	
FACTS questions and candidates' replies																	
#	QUESTION	PL	PL	PL	PL	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	IND	AB	MPPM		
		Alex Agius Salliba	Josianne Cutajar	Miriam Dalli	Robert Micallef	Alfred Sant	Rosalyn Borg	Michael Brigulio	David Casa	Michael Mercieca	Frank Psaila	Robertta Meisola	Francis Zammit Dimech	Martin Cauchi Ingliott	Arnold Casola	Ivan Grech Mintoff	Simon Borg
1	Are you in favour of legal firearm ownership and use by licensed citizens as currently permitted under Maltese law?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
2	Have you ever owned firearms or practised sport shooting?	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
3	If your answer to question number 2 is 'no', would you be willing to meet us at our offices and at the range to familiarise yourself with our passion?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
4	Did you play any role in supporting legal firearm ownership and use during the EU Parliamentary debate on the Firearms Directive?	N/A	N/A	YES	N/A	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Do you commit yourself to support our European community of legal firearm owners against any future attempts by the EU institutions to limit or ban our sport and passion?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
6	Would you be willing to support initiatives aimed at improving EU firearms regulation sensibly in favour of legal firearm owners?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
7	Do you commit yourself to consult our community on all matters affecting the regulation of firearms at EU and national level?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
	MEETING	YES				SET		YES	YES				SET	YES			

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY CANDIDATES' SURNAME

Alex Agius Saliba (PL) *Yes, in fact I have applied to get a firearms licence after May (TSL-A & B). (Question no. 2)*

Simon Borg (MPM) *As you can confirm from the attached image (shooting course certificate), I share the same hobby and interest in firearms, and I am more than willing to serve you in the best way an MEP can. (Additional Comment)*

Roselyn Borg Knight (PN) *I truly enjoyed meeting you. (Question no.2)*

David Casa (PN) *I would be very interested in visiting the range. (Comment written on questionnaire)*

Arnold Cassola (Independent) *YES, if this does not entail the killing of animals. (Question no. 5); Yes, if this means "As currently permitted under Maltese law" i.e. for target shooting or collectors purposes only, in line with EU Directive. (Question no. 6)*

Miriam Dalli (PL) *You guys know what I did on the firearms directive - it's the work done during 5 years that should count and not the promises on the eve of an election. (Comment sent on Messenger)*

Ivan Grech Mintoff (AB) *I am looking forward to seeing how the Swiss will be reacting to the latest attempts of the EU to stop the LEGAL ownership of specific weapons which impedes on their present, sovereign rights. (Comment in email message).*

Michael Mercieca (PN) *Yes as long as the safety of everyone is always protected. (Question no. 6)*

Roberta Metsola (PN): *Our starting point should be that most of the firearms in the EU should not be equated to criminals or terrorists. We have to be careful to ensure that any legislation treats the large number of law-abiding collectors and enthusiasts in the EU fairly. This has always been my guiding principle when it comes to these issues. Just as Museums should be excluded from any firearms legislation, so should bone fide collectors. The regulation of Collectors and Museums is a Member State competence and I believe it should remain this way. Any changes to the current legislation should be proportionate. Many experts regard the Maltese firearms legislation as a good basis to find a balance between security and the rights of enthusiasts. This could be an example of good practice going forward. (Additional Comment).*

Alfred Sant (PL) *Yes but with full regard to the security problems raised by the essential need to safeguard against terrorist and organised criminal activity. (Question no. 6)*

Francis Zammit Dimech (PN) *I had extended my utmost support to your Federation at national level and will welcome having a meeting with you before the elections. (Comment written on questionnaire)*

COMMENTS REGARDING CANDIDATES' REPLY TO QUESTION NO. 4

Our question (*Did you play any role in supporting legal firearm ownership and use during the EU Parliamentary debate on the Firearms Directive?*) naturally only applies to four candidates who served in EU parliament at the time that the Arms Directive was being discussed. These are David Casa (PN), Miriam Dalli (PL), Roberta Metsola (PN) and Alfred Sant (PL).

Only two of these four MEPs served on the IMCO and LIBE committees, which were responsible for the parliamentary discussion on the Arms Directive and its final position prior to the dialogues. It is to be noted that both Miriam Dalli and Roberta Metsola displayed extraordinary diligence in steering the discussion in a favourable direction against the Commission's outrageous proposal. In Dr Dalli's case, this was quite remarkable as the S&D group, which she forms part of, was not favourably inclined towards our cause. As many will recall, it was the S&D's position which shifted the compromise in a direction which resulted in the useless restrictions which feature in the current Directive, causing it to be implemented in a very restrictive manner by some countries where S&D members have a say.

Dr Sant did play a role in these proceedings, even though he was not directly involved, while Mr Casa stated during our meeting that he followed the case as head of the PN delegation.

In the end all four MEP's voted along political group lines for the approval of the Directive when it was being challenged by a considerable number of MEPs in collaboration with us as stakeholders. However, it was their view that had the Compromise not been approved, the Commission would have come back with an even harsher proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As stated earlier, we cannot consider those candidates who did not bother to reply to our questionnaire. On the contrary, we may only assume that they do not give any value to our sport and passion. Consequently, we are forwarding the replies and comments of the seventeen respondents for our members' evaluation.

We recommend that members support those MEPs who have a track record of having supported our cause locally and internationally as well as those who have displayed a particularly favourable stance during these recent exchanges and committed to support us in writing.

We should bear in mind that next year the EU Commission intends to review the level of implementation in Member States and recommend further changes. We need loyal and competent Maltese MEPs in Brussels who fully support our position and are ready to defend our sensible legislation and even promote improvements in the Directive. Do not waste your vote.