



Association of Maltese
Arms Collectors & Shooters



Federation of Arms Collectors and Target Shooters

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and Target Shooters

PRESS RELEASE

FACTS expresses strong objection to proposed constitutional amendment on the environment and calls for immediate consultation with stakeholders

The Federation of Arms Collectors and Target Shooters (FACTS) expresses its deep concern and strong objection to the constitutional amendment currently before Parliament seeking to introduce a new Article 45A on environmental protection.

FACTS fully supports the protection and preservation of Malta's environment, an objective shared by the entire sporting community. However, the current wording of the proposed amendment is excessively broad, lacking the necessary balance and legal safeguards to prevent misuse. If enacted as presented, it would create a climate of uncertainty that threatens the legitimate, well-regulated, and environmentally responsible practice of target shooting and other lawful activities.

FACTS fully endorses the position expressed by the Malta Sport Shooting Federation (MSSF) and by AACTS Malta, both of which have rightly highlighted the risks posed by the amendment's open-ended provisions. In particular, the proposal to allow any person, regardless of standing or interest, to bring legal action on environmental grounds would expose legitimate sports and recreational organisations to frivolous or politically motivated litigation.

Even more troubling is the possibility of courts imposing interim measures, such as suspending activities or closing facilities, before any evidence is tested or a case is properly adjudicated. Such a scenario would be unacceptable and would seriously undermine the legal certainty and stability required by sporting organisations, range operators, and athletes who act in full compliance with national laws and environmental regulations.

FACTS firmly believes that the protection of the environment and the responsible enjoyment of sport are not mutually exclusive goals. The target shooting community has long demonstrated its commitment to environmental responsibility through the construction of purpose-built ranges, adherence to safety and environmental standards, and continuous investment in sustainable practices.

It is therefore deeply disappointing that this constitutional amendment has been tabled without any prior consultation with the national sports federations or associations that may be directly affected. Fundamental changes to the Constitution, particularly those that risk restricting citizens' rights and freedoms, demand open dialogue, not unilateral political action.

FACTS calls upon Members of Parliament:

- I. Reconsider the proposed amendment in its current form;
- II. Introduce explicit safeguards against abuse of environmental litigation; and
- III. Engage in immediate and meaningful consultation with the national sports community and other stakeholders before proceeding further.

FACTS stands ready to participate constructively in such discussions to ensure that any constitutional reform protects both Malta's natural heritage and the rights of law-abiding citizens who contribute to its social, sporting, and cultural life.

Federation of Arms Collectors and Target Shooters (FACTS)

Date: 1st October 2025