

Enforcement officials of the Wild Birds Regulation Unit share experience with Italian colleagues

Between 16 and 19 May 2016, two officials of the Specialist Enforcement Branch of the Wild Birds Regulation Unit took part in a mission to Italy, which aimed at exchanging experience in the field of enforcement against wildlife crime. The mission was organised by the European Network for Enforcement and Implementation of Environmental Law (IMPEL) in collaboration with Italian *Corpo Forestale*.

During the visit, which took place in the southern Italian region of Calabria, enforcement officials exchanged information, experiences and good practices in the field of enforcement, with particular focus on combating the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds. As part of the mission, Italian officials organised site visits in various locations around the Messina Strait area, which is particularly important for bird migration, and which used to be a notorious spot for illegal targeting of protected birds in the past. Due to significant efforts to beef up enforcement implemented by the Italian authorities and their collaboration with NGOs, the situation in this area has improved significantly.

The Maltese officials participating in the visit took note of the enforcement techniques deployed by their Italian counterparts in combating wildlife crime, and have also shared Malta's experience of implementing major legal, administrative and enforcement reforms in this area.



Maltese and Italian enforcement officials before taking off for an aerial visit to the Strait of Messina area aboard the *Corpo Forestale* helicopter.