

# Press Release



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## **SALVATION FOR AVIAN WILD LIFE ..... THE EUROPEAN UNION GRANTS A PERMANENT BAN ON THE WILD CAUGHT IMPORT TRADE OF BIRDS INTO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

A five year active campaign spearheaded by the World Parrot Trust to stop the commercial wild caught import trade of birds into the EU concluded in celebrations for everyone who supported the campaign. On Thursday 11th January 2007, EU animal health experts agreed to permanently ban the commercial trade of wild caught birds. This new ruling excludes Captive-bred birds. These will be able to enter the EU. There is already a temporary ban on live bird imports until June 27th 2007 due to avian influenza measures. The permanent ban will take effect from 1st July 2007.

Up until recently, the EU was the largest importers of wild birds on a global scale. According to CITES figures, an average of 1.7 million birds per year were legally imported into the EU in the last ten years. This figure accounts only for one half of the overall import trade in wild avian fauna, as it is estimated that about half of the avian wildlife trade is **illegal**, nor does it account for the majority of birds that die during the trapping and transport process. The brutality involved in this trade and the high death rate alarmed bird and animal welfare advocacy groups, Conservation groups and caring individuals.

New Life Parrot Rescue supported the WPT campaign and signed up to their Wild Bird Declaration. We congratulate the World Parrot Trust for their hard work and thank the RSPB for their valuable assistance in bringing an outstanding campaign to fruition. This will save in one year alone millions of wild birds horrendous cruelty and long-term suffering. And about time, too!

*"We are ecstatic to know that this monumental ruling will protect existing flocks and now new generations of wild birds have a greater chance to escape the mass suffering and death that mankind unconscionably inflicted on their ancestors. We see some of the casualties from this vicious, merciless trade; it is one big nightmare that we can hopefully disperse now. However, to do this completely we need a global ban on the wild caught import trade of birds and other species of animals," says Julie Hamilton, Founder and Executive Director (honorary) of NLPR.*

Now we must take measures to protect their habitat to properly secure these birds future!

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"We must fight against the spirit of unconscious cruelty with which we treat the animals. Animals suffer as much as we do .... It is our duty to make the whole world recognise it." - Albert Schweitzer: The Philosophy of Civilization.