**Those who exploit dolphins remain unpunished!**

***PRESS RELEASE***

***Athens, 9th August 2012***

On the 2nd of August 2012, a dolphin show took place at Attica Park under the full moon and with musical accompaniment. On the basis of law n. 4039/12 which prohibits the use of all animal species on shows or programs for any purpose, representatives of PFPO submitted a claim at the Athens Prosecutor’s Office for interruption of dolphin shows. Then, at the date and time of dolphin show, they went at Spata Police Station in order to give a sworn statement. Unfortunately, once again these efforts were not successful as Authorities were unable to implement the legislation or interpret the law in a discretionary manner.

Attica Park’s management insists these dolphins’ shows are “educational” in order to circumvent the effects of the legislation. Attica Park claims that it is exposed to unlawful attacks by animal welfare organizations! However, it can be easily understood that water tanks could not be the same as natural environment for dolphins. For that reason, dolphins are tortured and they suffer a premature death. While being on captivity, dolphins are deprived of stimuli which are necessary for their welfare and they are denied a natural and social life.

Actually, we wonder how such a show could be “educational” while dolphins are forced to perform tricks? Is it possible for them to live a natural life in a water tank, as they are born to live in the ocean? Dolphins’ shows prove that dolphins live in captivity in order to satisfy human’s anthropocentric needs!

Furthermore, Attica Park breaks the law because those dolphins that are used on shows, they had been already confiscated, even from 2010, but they remain at Attica Park’s dolphinarium due to lack of any other place. How much longer Authorities are going to turn a blind eye to violations and violators will escape punishment?

PFPO will do everything in its powers and in co-operation with bodies, so it will be put an end to this unlawful situation and unacceptable attitude.

**Panhellenic Animal Welfare and Environmental Federation and Panhellenic Coordinating Committee of Animal Welfare Associations**