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Media Release

MEEA calls for Clarifications about Rates for Tenders in the Cleaning and security sectors

The Malta Employers' Association called upon government to issue a clarification with respect to the minimum rates of tendering in the cleaning and security sectors. Operators in these sectors were given to understand that no tender for cleaning and security services is to be accepted at a rate of less than €5.78 per hour (excluding VAT) with effect from the 10th March 2014. In spite of this, recent public pronouncements have been misinterpreted to mean that the €5.78 is the rate that is going to be paid to the workers.

Over the past weeks, employers in these sectors have been approached by their employees requesting payment of €5.78 per hour, and even unions are being pressured into making claims to this effect. This is creating a situation of confusion and uncertainty as companies are not in a position to pay these rates.

Although the idea of establishing a minimum rate for tendering is a step in the right direction in order to ensure that employees receive at least their minimum legal entitlement, the tendering rate of €5.78 will barely cover the national minimum wage, other employment related costs and administrative expenses. In 2013, the MEEA had issued a joint statement with the General Workers Union recommending an hourly tendering rate of €7.50 for companies to have a safe margin within which to operate.