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Media Release

MEEA reacts to Pilot's absence from Work

The Malta Employers' Association described as unacceptable the manner in which 40% of the normal pilot complement reported sick, to the extent that Air Malta has been constrained to cancel a number of flights.

On the assumption that these pilots' absence has been authorised by doctors, the Association expressed reservations on what might appear to be rather lax certification of sick leave by the medical profession. What is Air Malta facing, an outbreak of a disease or unofficial industrial action ordered by ALPA (the Pilots' Union)? Could it be that the real ailment is an allergy to the civilised practice of resolving industrial disputes through proper channels, without jeopardising the running of an enterprise? MEEA further called upon ALPA to distance itself from possible sick leave abuse. The Union should pledge its support to management in those cases where sick leave abuse is proven. Sick leave should never be used as a tool to interrupt Air Malta's operation. ALPA must distance itself from any unofficial, outdated and unethical industrial action.

As it appears to be abusive MEEA described this action by the pilots as utterly disruptive and irresponsible. It tarnishes the image of the company they work for, placing at risk the jobs of all Air Malta employees. Furthermore the pilots disregarded the welfare of thousands of passengers who were left stranded due to cancelled flights.