



MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

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Press Release

“Adherence to the laws of a country cannot be the object of an industrial dispute” - MEA

The Malta Employers' Association declared that employers should not be pressured by the General Workers' Union to ignore the changes in the legislation related to public holidays falling on weekends.

The amendments to the law state clearly that public holidays falling on weekends shall not be added to the annual leave entitlement, and that this legislation supersedes any existing contracts, including collective agreements. Therefore, employers are within their rights not to add public holidays falling on weekends to the vacation leave entitlements.

MEA expected the GWU to act responsibly, contending that any industrial action related to this issue on its part will be illegitimate, and make the same union liable for any damages cause by loss of productivity. The MEA is keeping in close contact with its members to ensure that the law is upheld. After all the amended law is intended to contribute, however marginally, to the achievement of the objective of improved competitiveness. This objective is endorsed by the same GWU. Adherence to the laws of the country cannot be the object of a dispute between a union and an employer.