



MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

35/1, South Street, Valletta VLT 11, Malta.

Tel: (+356) 21 237585, 21 222992

Fax: (+356) 21 230227

E-mail: mea@maltanet.net

Web Site: <http://www.maltanet.net/mea>

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Press Release

MEA Director General Addresses ILO 92nd General Conference

The Director General of the Malta Employers' Association, Mr. Joseph Farrugia, yesterday addressed the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference. He congratulated the Director General on his report that deals with the progress made by ILO in the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda.

Speaking on the Maltese scenario, Mr. Farrugia said that Maltese employers are aware of the increasing volatility of international markets, resulting from faster mobility of resources, which can increase a sense of uncertainty and serve as a threat to investment, employment and the standard of living of employees. He acknowledged that Malta is passing through a phase of rapid restructuring to keep up with innovation and said that "one negative aspect of globalisation that is adversely affecting our economy is that many of our firms are competing with other operating from countries that do not have the same standards of decent work"

Mr. Farrugia said that Maltese employers are actively supporting any initiatives that might lead to the formulation of a social pact and he pointed out that the main objective of the social pact will be that of generating productive employment which in fact is very much in line with the vision of the ILO's decent work agenda. He mentioned that the infrastructure for constructive social dialogue exists through the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development and said that this is the opportune time for this forum to enhance its role. He made an appeal to the other social partners to come to terms with the economic situation and to focus on the collective efforts on setting a strategic direction for the country.

He concluded by saying that the Maltese employers endorse strongly ILO's focus on the creation of employment as a central route from poverty. When emphasizing on the need at national level of the ongoing development of the appropriate environment for job creation, through the promotion of an entrepreneurial culture, Mr. Farrugia said that "this should be a commitment of all social partners."