



## **MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION**

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### **Press Release**

### **Malta Employers' Association: Outdated practices do not necessarily translate into Workers' Rights**

The Malta Employers' Association stated that there is no truth behind the assertion that if a practice has been in force for thirty years without management's objection, it becomes a right even if it is not included in a collective agreement. This statement was issued as a reaction to the pronouncement made by Mr. Gejtu Mercieca, Secretary of the Chemicals, Energy and Press Section of the General Workers' Union regarding the work practices at Enemalta.

Whilst acknowledging that it will be more difficult to change unwanted or unproductive work practices that went by unnoticed for a long number of years, this certainly does not imply that such practices cannot be changed for the increased efficiency of an organisation. This is particularly true if these practices are not part of a collective agreement. It is apparent that there is also an issue of lack of investment by Enemalta in the gas operation. It is very discouraging to discover that an outdated and inefficient operation is being subsidised to the tune of LM 1.8 m. How much better were such funds to be directed towards investment aimed to bring the gas operation up to standards that guarantee commercial viability. The Association appealed for common sense to prevail to make the Enemalta run more efficiently and to be in tune with current customer demands.