



## **MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION**

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### **Media Release**

#### **MEA congratulates Minister on SmartCity**

The Malta Employers' Association stated that the setting up of a SmartCity at Ricasoli will provide a much needed boost to Malta's economy and congratulated Ministry for Investment for its efforts in successfully attracting such an interesting project to the Maltese Islands.

This is a clear sign that Malta can compete with much larger economies in attracting projects that fit within its strategy of moving towards investment with a higher skill content and consequently more value added to the economy. MEA agrees with Minister Gatt that Malta is definitely an economy in transition which cannot survive on companies which compete exclusively on low labour costs. The global scenario calls for a more aggressive marketing of Malta's potential, and sufficient and sustained investment in our human resource to be able to live up to the expectations of investors in these high value added sectors.

The Association added that if this project becomes a reality it will serve to improve Malta's image abroad, and this could result in positive spin-off effects in other areas, such as tourism. The Association appealed to the authorities to ensure that bureaucratic barriers will not hinder this seminal project. This is a project that can only materialise and be successful if it is supported with the right infrastructure. This includes a fast response rate to any applications, and a structured manpower plan that will channel the required human resources into this area of economic activity. The Association agrees with the decision to set up a permanent unit to guarantee that deadlines will be met. The Association will be available to provide its full support and cooperation to ensure the success of this project that promises to create thousands of productive jobs in Malta.