



MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

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Media Release

The Malta Employers' Association expressed its satisfaction at the pronouncement by the Home Affairs Minister Tonio Borg and Education and Employment Minister Louis Galea whereby the issuing of work permits to non-EU workers will be carried out through the Employment and Training Corporation.

'This should lead to faster processing of such applications', the MEA said. Employers have long been complaining that they had to wait for months for the applications for work permits for foreign workers to be processed, and this frequently constrained them to employ such persons without the required permit because of the delays.

The Association agreed that there is a need to clamp down on foreign workers employed illegally, but added that there are a number of areas where foreign workers are necessary for the performance of the company and the economy in general. The Association agrees that preference should be given to Maltese workers to fill jobs. However, it is a fact that there are productive work opportunities in different sectors that the Maltese unemployed do not want to take up, either due to skills shortages or because the work is considered to be unattractive. It is a pity that such work opportunities are being taken up by foreigners.

Transferring the processing of permits to ETC should result in more efficiency, and also better tracking foreign workers in Malta. The ETC can also ensure that any vacancies are offered to Maltese persons first, and to strengthen the efforts to strike off the unemployment register persons who refuse legitimate employment.

The MEA concluded that it will offer its full cooperation to the Ministry to set up the necessary systems to manage the number of foreigners working in Malta more effectively.