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Media Release

Government should foot the bill for new Family Friendly Measures – MEA

The Malta Employers' Association is calling on government to issue a reassurance that any increase in labour costs related to the measures announced in the provisional agreement on the European Commission's proposal for a new Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers will be funded by the state, and not by companies.

The provisional agreement, when it becomes formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, will provide added benefits to parents and carers to balance work and family responsibilities. Fathers will benefit from 10 days paternity leave, there will be 4 months parental leave and an annual 5 days carer's leave.

The Association stated that while it is not against family friendly measures in principle, as evidenced by the fact that many companies are adopting numerous models of such benefits for their employees, these benefits should not be added to the financial burden which employers are already carrying through the payment of maternity leave and increased annual leave. This additional leave places Malta among the countries with the highest number of annual leave days in the world. Employers - micro-businesses in particular - will already be faced with increased disruption and loss of productivity from increased absence from work due to these measures. They cannot be expected to also carry the cost of paying the salaries during those absences if Maltese enterprise is expected to remain competitive.