

7th March 2015

Media Release

MEA objects to Industrial Actions at Malta Freeport

The Malta Employers' Association has expressed strong objections to the industrial actions being taken at the Freeport by the General Workers Union over the matter of union recognition. The Association stated that this is yet another incident where employers are being caught in the cross-fire in turf wars between unions – in this case between the GWU and UHM - and companies have to suffer the consequences even when no dispute exists between the employer and a union. In this case the dispute comes at a very bad time as the Freeport has recently announced increased business with two major shipping lines – Ocean Three and the 2M Alliance – and these actions are disrupting operations at the terminal during the initial and critical phase of the relationship between these companies and Malta Freeport. The MEA has long been calling for an effective mechanism and changes in legislation for a transparent and fast resolution to recognition disputes and reiterated that the escalating rivalry between unions is threatening the country's economic stability. The Association appealed for common sense to prevail between unions and to government to ensure that there is the necessary regulatory and legal infrastructure to safeguard employers and the economy from such actions which could bring the country to a standstill.