1st August 2011

Media Release

**MEA claims that Fuel Price Increases are: ‘Another Blow to Businesses’**

The Malta Employers’ Association issued another strong reaction to the increase in fuel prices, describing them as another blow to businesses and competitiveness. Employers in general are being doubly hit by rising costs and claims for higher wages to compensate for the deteriorating purchasing power of employees. Certain sectors, like distribution are also being affected by the delays caused by traffic inconveniences which have now become a daily occurrence. While acknowledging that the prices may partially reflect global prices of oil, the Association once again called on government to give a clear commitment to reduce operational costs at Enemalta coupled with a more effective purchasing strategy of fuel including investment to increase the storage capacity of the Corporation. It also called on Government to ensure the full liberalisation of this sector which will allow for increased competition.

Joshua Zammit, President of the Malta Employers Association warned that “the situation is becoming unsustainable”.