6th December 2013

Media Release

**Malta Employers’ Association launches an SME Help Desk**

During a business breakfast that focused on the characteristics and needs of small and medium sized enterprises, the Malta Employers’ Association announced that it has set up a help desk for SMEs. This initiative is a follow up to the EU funded project: Capacity Building for Equipping and Representing Micro Business Employers which the MEA conducted during 2011 and 2013, which highlighted the requirements of SMEs. The breakfast seminar included a number of presentations from experts involved in SMEs. These included the Hon.Dr. Michael Falzon (Commissioner for Simplification and Reduction of Bureaucracy), Mr. George Francalanza (Malta Enterprise); Mr. Lorenzo Mule Stagno (Allied Consultants Ltd); Mr. Alex Scicluna (CEO, Jubilee Foods Ltd.); Ms. Angese Giuliano (Managing Director, Across Limits); Mr. Mario Duca (Managing Director 2M Management Consultancy Ltd); Mr. Albert Frendo (Bank of Valletta plc) and Mr. Euchar Sultana (CEO Young Business Entrepreneurs), Dr. Charlotte Camilleri and Mr. Arthur Muscat (President, MEA). The MEA SME desk will provide advice and important information on how an SME can be fully compliant with all local employment legislation and other regulatory bodies. It will also offer handholding services when entrepreneurs apply to benefit from any existing grant schemes, or other EU funded programmes. The SME Helpdesk intends to organise seminars, courses and information sessions whenever the need arises in order to keep SMEs aware of all eventual changes in policies and regulations, and guide them accordingly. It will be run by Mr. Anton Vella and shall be accessible on a 24/7 basis on 21222006.