



## **MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION**

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### **Media Release**

#### **MEA calls for social dialogue at Air Malta**

The Malta Employers' Association stated that industrial action will definitely not solve the issues at Air Malta and the way forward can only be through dialogue between the stakeholders. It is clear that unpopular decisions have been postponed for years and the situation has become unsustainable requiring drastic corrective action to save the airline. On the other hand it is pointless and irresponsible to ignore stark realities and threaten a withdrawal of labour which can only lead to a worse situation for the airline, the country and the employees working at Airmalta.

The MEA is calling on all parties concerned to focus their collective energies and work together towards bringing the Company back to profitability and sustainability with as little pain as possible. The Association stated that reducing the labour force, although inevitable, will not by itself remedy the condition facing the airline, and that any decision to lay off people must be part of a wider strategy to revive the airline. It is imperative that this strategy has the input of all stakeholders and looks at all aspects of the airline's operations.

Pilots should also be aware that their actions will not only hurt the airline, but will also have an immediate impact on the livelihood of thousands of other workers in the tourism industry at a critical time during the year. This is definitely not in anyone's interest!