



MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

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Media Release

Malta Employers' Association calls for a Fair and Factual Social Dialogue

The Malta Employers' Association has voiced concern over the fact that many public statements about employment conditions in Malta are being based on anecdotal evidence, rather than facts. This state of affairs is generating an overreaction which is leading to legislative measures which are unwarranted. A case in point is the legal notice on self employment which, rather than addressing specific sectors where abusive practices may be taking place, is cutting across all sectors of the economy. The facts, backed by statistics, are that Malta has a significantly lower rate of self employed persons than the EU average, and the same applies to people of definite period contracts and also those on part time employment. Moreover, the absolute majority of persons working on a part time basis are doing so out of choice, rather than because they cannot find alternative employment. This is, in fact, one of the leading causes which reflects the increase in female participation over the past few years from 33% to 40%.

The Association is also unhappy about incidences where legal notices have been issued without adequate consultation with the employers affected, when it transpired that such legal notices were instigated by the unions. One such case is the legal notice affecting security companies which came in force without consultation with security companies even though discussions with trade unions had taken place. The MEA warned that employers cannot be taken for granted and that any decisions that affect them directly have to be preceded by adequate consultation and based on objective research, rather than conjecture.

This statement was issued during an information session organised to explain the implications of the legal notices on banking of hours and the status of self employed persons, which was attended by 300 employer representatives.