



35/1, South Street, Valletta VLT 1100, Malta.

Tel: (+356) 21 237585, 21 222992

Fax: (+356) 21 230227

E-mail: admin@maltaemployers.com

Web Site: <http://www.maltaemployers.com>

18th July 2013

Media Release

MEA not satisfied with Appointments of Industrial Tribunal Chairpersons

The Malta Employers' Association expressed serious concerns about the fact that the majority of persons that have been appointed as chairpersons of the Industrial Tribunal come from the trade union camp, and have an employment history or close connections with one particular union. The Association emphasised that its position is not questioning the credentials of the individual chairpersons, some of whom have served on the Industrial Tribunal for years without any issues. However, it said that the manner in which they were selected and the overall composition creates a negative perception of the impartiality of the tribunal which could jeopardise its role as an objective body which takes decisions on cases both from the private and government sectors.

The Association is also against the manner in which chairpersons were asked to offer their resignation, and that some of them were removed even though they had pending cases. These cases will now have to be heard from scratch, which results in a waste of time and resources. MEA appealed to government to reconsider these appointments and seek consensus with the social partners to ensure an effective Industrial Tribunal which is respected by employers, unions and society in general irrespective of partisan opinions and allegiances.