Corona Virus – Latest News

On the 26th February, Employers were informed through an email that an Employment Relations Board meeting was set up for Monday 2nd March at 9.00am to discuss the situation concerning the Corona Virus. This meeting was first postponed to the afternoon, and later on we were informed that the meeting was cancelled, and that a ‘central approach’ was going to be communicated. MEA immediately voiced its protest at this attitude through a strongly worded email:

‘This is a very disappointing development, as such matters are meant to be discussed in our established social dialogue structures and not dictated through a ‘central approach’ or unofficial meetings. I am making it clear that MEA will not bind itself to accept any outcomes in which it was not consulted, and which will have an impact on its members’.

Other social partners followed with their objections to the cancellation of the meeting. This morning we have been informed that instead of the ERB meeting, an MCESD meeting shall be held on the 5th March.
As things stand at this point, there is a lot of confusion about the measures that are to be taken at the workplace. For example, it appears that in the UK, the self-quarantine is being recommended only for persons who have travelled and who also feel symptoms indicative of the virus. This makes sense as otherwise there would be no point in imposing quarantine on Maltese travellers and not on incoming tourists! This has not been clarified by the health authorities. This and many other aspects of the situation have to be clarified.

In the meantime, do not commit yourselves to any payment for self-quarantine until these issues are clarified.

We will keep you updated on developments.