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Media Release

MEA – Redundant Air Malta Employees should not be deployed in the Public Sector

The Malta Employers' Association said that the current situation at Air Malta is a result of delayed action and wrong strategic decisions, to the extent that matters have now escalated to a stage where a drastic cost-cutting exercise is the only way in which the airline can keep operating. The Association added that it is essential that when action plans are formulated these are implemented without to constant political interference.

The Association stated that transferring the redundant section of the labour force in Air Malta to the public sector should not be considered, given that the public sector is already overstaffed and such employment will add a further €15m to recurrent expenditure. This will also send a wrong message to Maltese employees that some people have special rights, where others have to queue in an unemployment line if they become redundant. At the same time, many companies are complaining of a shortage of employees, and it is likely that many Air Malta employees do have skills that are in demand in many companies in the tight labour market we are experiencing. This will lead to a win-win situation for everyone involved.

MEA added that it will be willing to participate with government authorities in an exercise to redeploy these employees into productive employment with the private sector.