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Media Release

## **MEEA calls on Government to set an example on Unethical and Illegal Employment Practices**

The Malta Employers' Association has received information that a number of government contracts in the security and cleaning sectors are still being awarded to the lowest bidder at hourly rates that barely cover the minimum wage. This practice is placing serious operators at a severe competitive disadvantage and is also fuelling the hysteria about precarious employment in these sectors which is casting a negative image on all employers.

The Association is calling on government to be consistent with its stated aim to tackle so-called precarious employment by establishing a minimum rate below which no tenders will be awarded. In its proposals for the national budget, the MEA proposed setting such an hourly rate at €7.50 (excluding VAT) in conjunction with adequate enforcement of labour legislation and the setting up of a services charter to encourage compliance with legal and ethical employment practices. The proposed rate will cover wages, social security, vacation leave, bonuses and sick leave and allow for a margin of profitability and manoeuvrability for collective bargaining in these sectors. In the absence of such actions, any talk about decent working conditions in the security, cleaning and care working sectors would be superfluous. The Association also urged unions to support these proposals in the interest of workers in these sectors.