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Media Release

Gordon Cordina deserves a Public Apology – MEA

‘The outcome of the analysis by Eurostat of the Maltese statistical data as submitted by NSO leaves no doubt about the correctness of the methodology applied. The verification exercise completely exonerates Dr. Gordon Cordina of any manipulation of the figures and it is expected that those who cast doubt on his professional integrity as one of the foremost economists in Malta should issue a public apology’. Joe Farrugia, Director General of the Malta Employers’ Association made this statement following the conclusions of the verification exercise conducted by Eurostat. He said that MEA was following developments on the matter with great concern, as the implications of the accusations were of a very serious nature. Mr. Farrugia added that: ‘We cannot have a situation where we cannot trust the objectivity of data that is the basis of many business and policy decisions. In the unlikely outcome that Eurostat had confirmed the charges against the NSO, MEA would have been the first to call for the resignation of Gordon Cordina.’

This incident should send a clear message that economics and propaganda do not mix. Political activists were too eager to jump the gun and sow seeds of doubt on the NSO, when it would have been a much more mature approach had they waited for the outcome of the Eurostat investigation before naming and shaming Gordon Cordina. In this instance, the smear campaign has completely backfired. Eurostat officials took account of the objections that were raised against the revisions and the conclusion fully backed the methodology that was used by NSO. This was no surprise, as the NSO has for years, provided a sterling service and the general perception has always been that it was detached from any sort of partisan manipulation.

This was a pointless controversy that has led to the unfortunate resignation of Gordon Cordina from the NSO. It is a known fact that economists of his calibre and integrity are few and far between. It is therefore expected that the individuals who levelled the accusations against Dr. Cordina should own up to this blunder and make a public apology to regain their credibility.