Forum Malta fl-Ewropa welcomes positive euro recommendation

Malta's expectations to enter the eurozone as of January 2008 loom closer as the European Commission and the European Central Bank today gave their thumbs-up on Malta's economic situation. It has been shown that Malta has fulfilled the set of Maastricht criteria, that indicate the economy's resilience to adopt the euro currency, and is "ready to adopt the euro" as of next year. With regard to the budgetary criteria, the Commissioner Almunia has stated that the fulfillment is clear in this respect, and the inflation rates are based on sustainable arguments, with the latest figures showing further progress in this respect.

The next stages should lead to a formal decision to be adopted at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council on the 10th of July, following discussions to be held in June. Based on today's recommendation, a positive outcome is being expected. The rate to be applied will also be publicly declared at the July meeting.

The results that are being achieved are the product of hard work from all concerned. With regard to the preparatory arrangements, Almunia has today publicly stated that "Malta is doing things very, very well", and that the economic and social agents together with the authorities are working positively. More remains to be done. Yet, now that it has been officially indicated that major hurdles have already been overcome, the next steps should seem as a natural progression in the path that has been set. Malta's particular medium to long-term economic challenges, including an ageing population, the viability of the health sector and an emphasis on a competitive labour product have been mentioned for particular attention.

Forum Malta fl-Ewropa welcomes this development which undoubtedly augurs well in the process of the currency transition and our country's further integration in all spheres of the European Union.

Forum Malta fl-Ewropa jilqa' b'sodisfazzjon ir-rakkomandazzjoni marbuta mal-ewro

Jannar 2008, iż-żmien li fih Malta għandha tidħol fiż-żona ewro qiegħed dejjem joqrob, hekk kif illum il-Kummissjoni Ewropea u l-Bank Ċentrali Ewropew approvaw is-sitwazzjoni ekonomika Maltija. Ġie muri li Malta ssodissfat is-sett ta' kriterji ta' Maastricht li jindikaw is-saħħa ekonomika biex taddotta il-munita ewro mis-sena li ġejja. Il-Kummissarju Almunia, responsabbli mill-Affarijiet Ekonomiċi u Monetarji, stqarr li fir-rigward tal-kriterji baġitarji, it-twettiq tagħhom hu wieħed ċar, u li r-rata ta' inflazzjoni hija bbażata fuq argumenti sostenibbli, waqt li l-aħħar figuri juru iktar progress f'dan ir-rigward.

L-istadji li jmiss għandhom iwasslu għall-deċiżjoni formali li trid tiġi adottata mill-Kunsill għall-Affarijiet Ekonomiċi u Finanzjarji fl-10 ta' Lulju, wara diskussjonijiet li se jsiru f'Ġunju. Fuq ir-rakkomandazzjoni ta' llum, hu mistenni li r-riżultat ikun pożittiv. Ir-rata li se tkun applikata għandha tkun dikjarata b'mod pubbliku fil-laqgħa ta' Lulju wkoll.

Ir-riżultati li nkisbu huma prodott ta' ħidma sfiqa minn dawk ikkonċernati. Fir-rigward ta' l-arranġamenti preparattivi, Almunia llum stqarr pubblikament li "Malta qiegħda tagħmel l-affarijiet b'mod veru, veru tajjeb", u li l-aġenti ekonomiċi u soċjali flimkien ma' l-awtoritajiet qegħdin jaħdmu b'mod pożittiv. Hemm iktar xi jsir. Pero`, issa li uffiċjalment ġie ndikat li l-problemi l-kbar ġew megħluba, il-passi li jmiss għandhom jitqiesu bħala progress naturali fit-triq lejn l-introduzzjoni ta' l-ewro. L-isfidi ekonomiċi għall-perjodu medju u fit-tul ta' Malta ġew imsemmija biex jingħataw attenzjoni partikulari, fosthom il-popolazzjoni anzjana, il-vijabilita` tas-settur tas-saħħa u l-enfasi fuq xogħol kompettittiv.

Forum Malta fl-Ewropa jilqa' b'mod pożittiv dan l-iżvilupp li bla dubju jawgura tajjeb għall-proċess ta' transizzjoni tal-munita u integrazzjoni aħjar fl-oqsma kollha ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea.