

Government should wake up to noise pollution – Brincat

Leo Brincat, Labour Party environmental spokesman said the government should wake up and appreciate that noise pollution affected the quality of life. It was shameful, he added, that a Maltese court should declare that there is no legislation in effect in Malta which controls noise pollution.

The EU has its EU Environmental Noise Directive, aimed to control noise, which used to be considered as an inconvenience, but is today seen as a cause of hypertension and high levels of stress, among other effects, Mr Brincat said.



Mr Leo Brincat

MEUSAC core group discusses Swedish EU Presidency

The core group of the Malta EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC) discussed the programme of the Swedish presidency of the EU and the European Parliament's work in the new legislature.

Joseph Cole, director general designate for economic and European affairs in the foreign ministry, explained the Swedish presidency programme, which has to deal with, among others, climate change, alternative sources of energy, energy cooperation with others, the financial crisis and economic stimuli, the Lisbon strategy, the Hague programme, migration and development, EU enlargement and ratification of the Lisbon treaty.

The core group members raised various points including implementation of the German constitutional court on ratification of the Lisbon treaty, Malta's position about talks on Turkish membership of the EU, the effects on Malta of the European Security and Defence Policy, the Maltese government's position about the excessive deficit procedure, Malta's position about energy and voluntary burden sharing.

Mr Cole said Malta is urging the EU to look to Africa for alternative sources of energy production and is working to obtain responsibility for the European Asylum Support Office.

Ambassadors meeting in Malta on foreign investment

ELAINE ATTARD

Twenty-seven Maltese ambassadors will be meeting to discuss foreign investment in Malta from tomorrow till 31 July.

The conference titled "Maximising Malta's networks abroad" will focus on attracting foreign investment to Malta on a three-day programme chaired by Foreign Affairs Minister Tonio Borg.

Gozo and tourism will be

discussed on the first day of the conference. The Gozo Business Chamber and Gozo Tourism Association will deliver presentations.

Foreign direct investment will be discussed on the second day followed by presentations delivered by Malta Enterprise, Malta Financial Services Authority and Finance Malta.

The ambassadors will visit 11 companies ranging from pharmaceuticals to high-level manufacturing and IT

companies during afternoons.

On the last day of the conference the participating ambassadors will deliver presentations regarding the region they represent. The group was split into four groups according to region.

European Commissioner Joe Borg shall also attend while company Ernst & Young will deliver a presentation following their report on what foreign investors think about Malta.

€1.2 million red wine project

A €1.2 million red wine tank farm development project at Delicata moves into its final phase this week as the stainless steel wine tanks are moved into position. The state-of-the-art stainless steel, temperature controlled tanks, made specifically for the vinification of quality red wines arrived at the winery almost a year ago and during that time they have been thoroughly tested and in some cases used to ferment Delicata's 2008 D.O.K. red wines.

The specialised red wine tanks have now

been moved to their final resting place, ready to receive their first batch of 2009 grapes for fermentation. This year's grapes will also take a new route as they are directed to a brand new grape receiving area, which includes a weigh-bridge, and is located right next to the new tanks.

There is also a new press house, additional office space, specialised wine making rooms and a second laboratory, specifically for grape analysis and improved quality control measures.

University and MCAST receive thousands of course applications

The University of Malta and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) are processing thousands of course applications after the university course registration week ended last Friday while MCAST will be receiving applications until Friday.

University of Malta

UoM received 4,200 applications for undergraduate and postgraduate courses from local applicants and 4,160 of these were submitted through the new online system. The number of applications compares favourably with those received by July last year, with 360 more applications.

Despite the closing date last Friday, late applications are expected to trickle in until the end of August, except for certain courses limited with a numerus clausus.

The same process will take place in September, once the Matsec matriculation certificate resits results are out.

This year the university offered applicants the possibility of submitting an online application without the need of applying

manually by submitting a paper application form on campus.

As a result, the number of applicants who went to the university decreased dramatically while those who met difficulties when filling the online application were assisted by setting up a computer station on campus.

Meanwhile, the Students Advisory Services available on campus gave applicants, who were not sure which course of studies to pursue, specialised advice. Also, a helpdesk was operating via email and phone to assist those having queries or difficulties.

Besides the traditional courses offered every year, the UoM expanded the list of courses available. This includes a new diploma in logistics and transportation management, two bachelor programmes in early childhood education and health science, a post graduate diploma in pastoral psychology and nine new masters programmes, in hospital studies, sustainable environmental resource management, integrated marketing communications, strategic innovation and future cre-

ation, family ministry, matrimonial canon law and jurisprudence, youth ministry, social policy and social work.

MCAST

Those wishing to pursue vocational courses at MCAST are to apply until this Friday. MCAST is offering 123 full-time courses and 140 part-time courses at different entry levels.

"MCAST has become a conscious choice for those wishing to pursue an alternative route towards employment," said MCAST president Paul A. Attard.

"MCAST should not be considered as an alternative to university but complementary to it," added MCAST principal Prof. Maurice Grech.

In the meantime several information meetings according to the different MCAST institutes were held for prospective students and their parents or carers. The MCAST prospectus for the scholastic year 2009/10 is available for more information while those students who are yet undecided are invited to discuss their future learning and training.

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Today's weather forecast

MAX 32°C MIN 22°C UV INDEX 10

GENERAL SITUATION: High pressure covers the western and central Mediterranean as a trough of low pressure covers the eastern Mediterranean.

WIND: Light mainly westerly.

SEA: Slight.

WEATHER: Sunny.

SWELL: Negligible or low northeast.

VISIBILITY: Good.

SEA TEMPERATURE: 25°C