

## MEUSAC Core Group meets with Maltese MEPs



by di-ve.com - editorial@di-ve.com  
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The European Union's Swedish Presidency and the European Parliaments' initiative in the new legislation were discussed during the Meusac Core Group meeting held with Maltese MEPs on July 24. Four out of five Maltese MEPs were present, including Mr Joseph Cuschieri.

Mr Joseph Cole, General Director of Designate and Economic European Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained the various challenges that the Swedish Presidency will be facing during the upcoming 6 months of the Presidency. The issues mentioned were namely climate change and the Kyoto protocol, maritime resources and alternative energy, the financial crisis and the economic stimuli, the new Lisbon Treaty strategy, the Hague Programme, migration and the Albanian and Croatian EU membership application, among other issues.

Mr Cole said that Malta will be given the responsibility for the European Asylum Support Office. He mentioned that Slovakia already offered to help Malta to burden share a number of illegal immigrants.

MEP David Casa stressed the importance of strict measures to be taken to safeguard our environment without obstructing the economic environment. MEP Simon Busuttil said that when the Lisbon Treaty will be ratified it will carry the same legislative power as the Council of Ministers and so it is of vital importance for the Core Group to be notified of the MPE proposals. He said that lobbying could take place once the European Asylum Support Office would be set up in Malta.

MEP Louis Grech claimed that there should be more consumer protection regulations and that Malta should start preparing for the 2013 budget. MEP Edward Scicluna gave prominence to the Euro report and to the Central European Bank report and said that Malta should be given more time to lower the deficit. Mr Joseph Cuschieri as a runner up of the June 6, EP election said that eventually he will occupy his MEP seat when the Lisbon Treaty is ratified.

