



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MEUSAC Core Group discusses EU's Shared Commitment for Employment and the Impact of an Ageing Population in the EU**

Two Communications issued by the European Commission were discussed during the meeting of the Core Group of the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC) held on 26 June:

- Communication on A Shared Commitment for Employment<sup>1</sup>; and
- Communication on the impact of an ageing population in the EU<sup>2</sup>.

The Communication on A Shared Commitment for Employment sets out three priorities:

1. maintaining employment, creating jobs and promoting mobility;
2. upgrading skills and matching labour market needs, and;
3. increasing access to employment.

The document on the impact of an ageing population in the EU identifies various challenges that will have to be faced in the near future:

- an increase in public spending by 7 percentage points of GDP or more in a number of EU Member States, including Malta;
- an increase in public pension expenditure;

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A Shared Commitment for Employment [COM (2009) 257]

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU (2009 Ageing Report) [COM (2009) 180]



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- healthcare systems are expected to face substantial challenges;
  - increased public spending on long-term care;
  - increased public spending on education.

Members of the Core Group agreed in general to the proposals of the Communication on A Shared Commitment for Employment. Discussion among members focused on, amongst others:

- the necessity that no further burden should be placed on the business sector;
- studies on poverty should be carried out;
- the effect of the COLA mechanism on the business sector if made use of again this year; and
- how to address unemployment or employees whose jobs are threatened due to lack of skills.

During the meeting it was announced that Mr Malcolm Seychell had resigned from Azzjoni Nazzjonali, and that, therefore, the party was appointing Mr Tonio Mercieca in his stead on the Core Group. Moreover, Mr Julian Zarb was elected as the third civil society representative on the Core Group.

Present for the meeting of the Core Group, chaired by the Parliamentary Secretary Dr Chris Said, were the following members: Dr Vanni Xuereb (Head, MEUSAC), Mr Julian Micallef (Secretary), Dr Godwin Grima (Principal Permanent Secretary, OPM), Dr Gabriella Pace (Head - Information, MEUSAC), Mr Carmel Cacopardo (Alternattiva Demokratika), Mr Arthur Rossi (CMTU), Mr Joe Grech (GBC), Mr Vince Farrugia (GRTU), Mr Kevin Borg (MCCEI), Mr Alex Bonello (MHRA), Mr Joe Farrugia (MEA), Dr Joe Mifsud (PL), Ms Grace Attard and Mr Benjamin Rizzo (civil society representatives), as well as substitute members, members of staff of MEUSAC and officials from the Ministry for Social Policy and the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment, as well as the Employment and Training Corporation.

**MEUSAC – 26.06.2009**



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## **STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA**

### **Impenn Komuni għall-Impjiegi u l-Impatt tat-Tixjih tal-Popolazzjoni fl-UE fuq l-aġenda tal-MEUSAC**

Fil-laqgħa tal-Core Group tal-MEUSAC li saret fis-26 ta' Ġunju, saret diskussjoni dwar żewġ Komunikazzjonijiet tal-Kummissjoni Ewropa:

- Komunikazzjoni dwar Impenn Komuni għall-Impjiegi<sup>3</sup>; u
- Komunikazzjoni dwar Kif għandna nittrattaw l-impatt tat-tixjih tal-popolazzjoni fl-UE (Ir-Rapport dwar it-Tixjih 2009)<sup>4</sup>.

Il-Komunikazzjoni dwar impenn komuni għall-impjiegi għandha tliet prijoritajiet:

1. iż-żamma u l-ħolqien tal-impjiegi u l-promozzjoni tal-mobilità,
2. it-titjib tal-ħiliet u l-adattament għall-ħtiġijiet tas-suq tax-xogħol, u
3. iż-żieda fl-aċċess għall-impjiegi.

Id-dokument dwar l-impatt li qed johlqu l-popolazzjonijiet li qed jixjiehu fl-UE jidentifika diveri sfidi fosthom:

- iż-żieda fl-infiq pubbliku, li fil-każ ta' Malta huwa maħsub li se jkun ta' seba' punti perċentwali jew iżjed tal-PGD;
- li l-infiq pubbliku tal-pensjonijiet jizdied b' mod sinifikanti;
- is-sistemi tal-kura għas-saħħa fl-UE jiffaċċjaw sfidi sostanzjali fil-gejjieni;
- żieda fin-nefqa pubblika għal kura fuq medda twila ta' żmien;

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<sup>3</sup> Komunikazzjoni mill-Kummissjoni lill-Parlament Ewropew, lill-Kunsill, lill-Kumitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali Ewropew u lill-Kumitat tar-Regġuni - Impenn Komuni għall-Impjiegi [KUMM (2009) 257]

<sup>4</sup> Komunikazzjoni mill-Kummissjoni lill-Parlament Ewropew, lill-Kunsill, lill-Kumitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali Ewropew u lill-Kumitat tar-Regġuni - Kif għandna nittrattaw l-impatt tat-tixjih tal-popolazzjoni fl-UE (Ir-Rapport dwar it-Tixjih 2009) [KUMM (2009) 180]



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- infiq oghla fl-edukazzjoni.

B'mod ġenerali l-Membri tal-*Core Group*, laqgħu l-Komunikazzjoni dwar impenn komuni għall-impjiegi. Huma qajjmu diversi punti, fosthom:

- li ma jintefax piż żejjed fuq is-settur tan-negozju;
- li jsir studju dwar il-faqar;
- x'effett jista' jkollu il-mekkanizmu tal-COLA fuq is-settur tan-negozju jekk jerga' jithaddem din is-sena; u
- kif jistgħu jiġu indirizzati aħjar dawk li huma bla xogħol jew dawk li huma medda li jispiċċaw bla xogħol minħabba nuqqas ta' ħiliet.

Matul il-laqgħa thabbar li peress li s-Sur Malcolm Seychell irriżenja mill-Azzjoni Nazzjonali, dan il-partit kien qed jahtar lis-Sur Tonio Mercieca bħala r-rappreżentant tiegħu fil-*Core Group*. Thabbar ukoll li s-Sur Julian Zarb ġie elett bħala t-tielet rappreżentant tas-soċjetà ċivili fil-*Core Group*.

Preżenti għal-laqgħa tal-*Core Group*, li kienet ppreseduta mis-Segretarju Parlamentari Dott. Chris Said kien hemm: Dott. Vanni Xuereb (Kap tal-MEUSAC), is-Sur Julian Micallef (Segretarju), Dott. Godwin Grima (Segretarju Permanenti Ewlieni, OPM), Dott. Gabriella Pace (Kap tal-Infommazzjoni, MEUSAC), is-Sur Carmel Cacopardo (Alternattiva Demokratika), is-Sur Arthur Rossi (CMTU), is-Sur Joe Grech (GBC), is-Sur Vince Farrugia (GRTU), is-Sur Kevin Borg (MCCEI), is-Sur Alex Bonello (MHRA), is-Sur Joe Farrugia (MEA), Dott. Joe Mifsud (PL), is-Sinjura Grace Attard u s-Sur Benjamin Rizzo (rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili), kif ukoll sostituti, membri tal-istaff tal-MEUSAC, uffiċjali tal-Ministeru tal-Politika Soċjali, tal-Ministeru tal-Finanzi, l-Ekonomija u l-Investment, u tal-Korporazzjoni għax-Xogħol u t-Taħriġ.

**MEUSAC – 26.06.2009**