



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

**280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta**

*Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt*

PRESS RELEASE

MEUSAC Core Group discusses EU Common Immigration Policy and Participation by NGOs in the consultation process

The Core Group of the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC) held its second meeting today. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Chris Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue and Information.

There were two main topics on the Agenda:

1. Eligibility Criteria for NGOs

The Core Group discussed a Report compiled by the Secretariat of MEUSAC and the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations on the Eligibility Criteria for the participation of non-government organisations in the MEUSAC consultation process. This process will take place within the nine Sectoral Committees to be established for this purpose in the coming weeks. Members agreed that voluntary organisations that are enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, as well as those that are not enrolled yet fulfill the criteria established for enrolment are to be eligible to participate in the Sectoral Committees.

Agreement was also reached on the procedure to be adopted for the selection of three NGOs to represent the sector on the Core Group. The process will be conducted by the Council for the Voluntary Sector according to a method agreed upon by the Core Group members during the meeting.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

**280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta**

*Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer*
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt

2. Common Immigration Policy

The Core Group also discussed the Commission Communication to the European Parliament, to the Council, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of Regions on a Common Immigration Policy for Europe. The Minister of Justice and Home Affairs, Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici and senior officials from his Ministry also participated in the Core Group's discussion on this Communication. Maltese members of the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee were also invited to participate in the discussion on this specific item. During the discussion, the Minister, in response to various questions raised by members of the Core Group, had the opportunity to expand on the Agreement reached on the 25th September by the EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers on a European Pact on Immigration and Asylum. It was agreed that due to the importance of this item on the national agenda, the Communication on a Common Immigration Policy would be discussed further between the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs and the Core Group members.

3. Other matters

The Core Group also took note of a significant number of Explanatory Memoranda drawn up by the Implementing Ministries and incorporating the position of the Maltese Government on the various Commission proposals. Memoranda that require further discussion will eventually be referred to the Sectoral Committees once these are established. Core Group members requested a number of clarifications on a number of issues dealt with in the Memoranda.

Present for the meeting of the Core Group were the following members: Parliamentary Secretary Dr. Chris Said (Chairperson), Dr. Vanni Xuereb (Head), Dr. Godwin Grima (Principal Permanent Secretary), Mr. Richard Cachia Caruana (Permanent Representative to the EU), Ms. Cecilia Attard-Pirotta (Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Ms. Graziella Pullicino (Acting Head of the EU Secretariat at the OPM), Mr. Sonny Portelli (Chairman Malta council for Economic and Social Development), Ms. Helen D'Amato, Dr. Josette Grech, Mr. Carmel Cacopardo (Alternattiva Demokratika), Dr. Josie Muscat (Azzjoni Nazzjonali), Mr.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

**280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta**

*Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt*

Arthur Rossi (CMTU), Mr. Paul Abela (GRTU), Mr. Victor Carachi (GWU), Mr. Joe Grech (Gozo Business Chamber), Mr. Kevin J. Borg (Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise), Dr. Paul De Battista (Malta Employers' Association), Mr. Ray Muscat (FOI), Mr. Alexander Bonello (MHRA), Dr. George Abela (MLP), Dr. Paul Borg Olivier (PN) and Mr. Jesmond Bonello (UHM) as well as a number of substitute members who attended as observers. Members of MEUSAC staff were also in attendance.

Also present for the discussion on the Communication on a Common Immigration Policy were: Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici (Minister of Justice and Home Affairs), Dr. Josette Zerafa (Director EU Affairs MJHA), Mr. Joseph St. John (Director Policy Development MJHA), Mr. Louis Grech MEP (Head of the MLP delegation in the EP), Ms. Claudette Abela-Baldacchino (member of the Committee of the Regions), Ms. Grace Attard and Mr. Michael Parnis (members of the European Economic and Social Committee).

MEUSAC – 26.09.2008



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta

Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt

STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

Il-Core Group tal-MEUSAC jiddiskuti l-Politika Komuni dwar l-Immigrazzjoni u l-partecipazzjoni ta' għaqdiet mhux governattivi fil-proċess ta' konsultazzjoni

Nhar il-Ġimgħa 29 ta' Settembru f'Dar il-Mediterran għall-Konferenzi, reġa' ltaqa' l-Core Group tal-Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC) taħt il-presidenza tas-Segretarju Parlamentari għad-Djalogu Pubbliku u Informazzjoni, Dott. Chris Said.

Fuq l-aġenda kien hemm għad-diskussjoni:

1. Kriterji ta' eliġibiltà ta' għaqdiet mhux governattivi:

Il-membri tal-Core Group iddiskutew Rapport mhejji mis-Segretarjat tal-MEUSAC u mill-Kummissarju għall-Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji fuq il-Kriterji ta' Eliġibiltà għall-partecipazzjoni ta' għaqdiet mhux governattivi fil-proċess ta' konsultazzjoni tal-MEUSAC. Id-disa' Kumitati Settorjali, li għandhom jitwaqqfu fil-ġimgħat li ġejjin, se jkunu qedgħin imexxu parti mill-proċess ta' konsultazzjoni. Il-membri qablu li organizzazzjoni volontarja tkun eliġibbli tiegħu sehem fil-Kumitati Settorjali, ladarba tkun iskritta mal-Kummissarju għall-Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji jew tkun eliġibbli biex tiġi iskritta mill-Kummissarju għall-Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji.

Intlahaq ukoll qbil dwar il-metodu li għandu jintuza għall-għażla tat-tlett rappreżentanti tal-għaqdiet mhux governattivi bħala membri tal-Core Group. It-tlett membri għandhom jintagħzlu permezz ta' elezzjoni li ssir mill-Kunsill għas-Settur Volontarju skond metodu li qabel fuq l-Core Group.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta

Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt

2. Politika Komuni dwar l-Immigrazzjoni:

Il-*Core Group* iddiskuta wkoll Komunikazzjoni mill-Kummissjoni lill-Parlament Ewropew, lill-Kunsill, lill-Kumitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali Ewropew u lill-Kumitat tar-Reġjuni - Politika Komuni dwar l-Immigrazzjoni għall-Ewropa: Prinċipji, azzjonijiet u strumenti. Waqt din id-diskussjoni hadu sehem ukoll il-Ministru għall-Ġustizzja u l-Intern, Dott. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici u uffiċjali tal-Ministeru tiegħu. Għal din id-diskussjoni kienu mistedna jiehdu sehem ukoll rappreżentanti Maltin fil-Kumitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali Ewropew, tal-Kumitat tar-Reġjuni, kif ukoll tal-Parlament Ewropew. Il-Ministru spjega f'hiex jikkonsisti il-ftehim li ntlahaq fil-25 ta' Settembru mill-Ministri tal-Ġustizzja u l-Intern tal-Unjoni Ewropea fuq il-Patt Ewropew għall-Immigrazzjoni u l-Ażil. Kien hemm qbil li minhabba l-importanza tal-materja għal Malta, id-diskussjoni fuq il-Komunikazzjoni fuq il-Politika Komuni dwar l-Immigrazzjoni titkompla fi hdan il-*Core Group* flimkien mal-Ministru għall-Ġustizzja u l-Intern.

3. Affarijiet oħra

Il-*Core Group* iddiskuta numru ta' *Explanatory Memoranda* mhejjija mill-Ministeri konċernati li jinkludu l-pożizzjoni tal-Gvern fuq il-proposti tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea. La jitwaqqfu l-Kumitati Settorjali, fil-gimghat li ġejjin, il-*Memoranda* li jinhtiegu jkomplu jkunu diskussi se jintbagħtu lil dawn il-Kumitati Settorjali. Il-membri tal-*Core Group* staqsew għall-iktar kjarifika fuq numru ta' materji msemmija fil-*Memoranda*.

Preżenti għall-laqgħa tal-*Core Group* kien hemm: is-Segretarju Parlamentari Chris Said (*Chairperson*), Vanni Xuereb (Kap, MEUSAC), Godwin Grima (Segretarju Permanenti Ewlieni), Richard Cachia Caruana (Rappreżentant Permanenti għall-UE), Cecilia Attard Pirotta (Segretarju Permanenti, MFA), Graziella Pullicino (A/Kap, Segretarjat UE), Sonny Portelli (*Chairman*, MCESD), Helen D'Amato, Josette Grech, Carmel Cacopardo (AD), Josie Muscat (AN), Arthur Rossi (CMTU), Paul Abela (GRTU), Victor Carachi (GWU), Joe Grech (GBC), Kevin J. Borg (COCE), Paul De Battista (MEA), Ray Muscat (FOI), Alexander Bonello



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

**280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta**

Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt

(MHRA), George Abela (MLP), Paul Borg Olivier (PN), Jesmond Bonello (UHM), kif ukoll is-sostituti u membri tal-*istaff* tal-MEUSAC.

Preżenti waqt id-diskussjoni dwar il-Komunikazzjoni fuq il-Politika Komuni dwar l-Immigrazzjoni kien hemm il-Ministru għall-Ġustizzja u l-Intern Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Josette Zerafa (*Director EU Affairs* MJHA), Joseph St. John (*Director Policy Development* MJHA), Louis Grech MPE (Kap tad-delegazzjoni tal-MLP fil-Parlament Ewropew), Claudette Abela-Baldacchino (membru tal-Kumitat tar-Reġjuni), Grace Attard u Michael Parnis (membri tal-Kumitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali Ewropew).

MEUSAC – 26.09.2008