



23 November 2006

INFORMATION & CONSULTATION SEMINAR FOR STAKEHOLDERS:

Contributing to the EU's Market Access Strategy

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 10 November 2006 a consultation process on the EU's Market Access Strategy in a changing global economy was initiated by the European Commission's DG Trade. Any initiative aimed at improving market access clearly requires consultation with stakeholders and members of the business community. It is of great importance for all Maltese stakeholders to register both their views and ideas for updating and re-shaping the Market Access Strategy with the European Commission's DG Trade over the next two months. This will pave the way for the issue of a Commission Communication in April 2007.

The drive towards competitiveness is a common theme. Malta is faced with different challenges and our accession into the European Union has heightened our exposure to this reality. The globalization process calls for a strategy to benefit from these developments. The EU's trade policies at home, converging to implement the single internal market concept, are increasingly being reflected in its external trade policies. The need to open markets and opportunities for trade is constant.

It is in this context that Forum Malta fl-Ewropa and the European and Economic Affairs Division within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are holding an Information and Consultation Seminar entitled 'Contributing to the EU's Market Access Strategy'. The event is being held as follows:

Date: 6 December 2006

Time: 9am – 11.30am

Venue: Arvid Pardo Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Valletta



TARGET AUDIENCE:

This Seminar should be of particular interest to:

- Manufacturers and exporters of goods
- Service providers
- Entrepreneurs and the business community
- Commercial Banks
- Associations representing any of the above interests

Participants will be addressed by Philo Meli (Advisor at the General Affairs and International Trade Directorate within the European and Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Dr Joseph Bugeja (Director - International Economic Relations within the Economic Policy Division, Ministry of Finance). There will be ample time for questions and discussion with participation from the floor, while a presentation of the online questionnaire will also be conducted.

You are therefore encouraged to attend and provide feedback which should also in turn be taken into consideration by the EU Commission, once the online questionnaire is completed by each stakeholder.

Participation is FREE OF CHARGE however, in view of seating restrictions, registration is highly recommended. Registrations should reach Forum offices by not later than noon of Monday 4th December on fax number 2122 7580 or be emailed to Brian Pace on brian.a.pace@gov.mt. For further details and assistance on this event, kindly contact Brian Pace on the email mentioned above or telephone 2590 9321.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Best regards,

Dr. Gabriella Pace
Chief Executive Officer
Forum Malta fl-Ewropa