



**Malta-EU Steering  
& Action Committee**

**Sectoral Committees  
Update - 27 March 2009**



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## Employment, Social Policy and Health (12 March 2009)

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Green Paper on the European Workforce for  
Health - COM (2008) 725



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## Issues raised by members:

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- The fact that the population is ageing is well known.  
The next step is to react to this reality.
- On workers in the sector, the following were indicated:
  - Lack of interest by young people towards such careers is causing recruitment problems
  - A need to involve the voluntary sector more in this sector
  - A need for more incentives to attract new people and retain professionals



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## Issues raised by members:

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- Suggestions were made to improve community care including supporting a framework that is encouraging for community carers so that, among others, the elderly may remain within the community.
- Workers' mobility from one country to another should not lead to developments where the rights acquired by workers along the years are reduced, such as with the case of importing 'cheap labour'.



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## Transport Telecommunications and Energy (13 March 2009)

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Commission Communication - Strategic Goals  
and Recommendations for the EU's maritime  
transport policy until 2018 - COM (2009) 8



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## Issues raised by members:

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- Suggestion that the University of Malta caters for subjects related to professional maritime engineering.
- Suggestion that the EU could increase security by establishing a monitoring body, similar to the US coastguard, to survey maritime activity.



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## Issues raised by members:

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- Suggestion that the EU should speak with one voice in international fora to encourage the implementation of the International Maritime Law Convention across the board, for EU members and third countries alike, and thus increase harmonisation (and not lead to loss of competitiveness for EU operators) especially in the context of the ban of Halon on European vessels.



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## General Affairs (18 March 2009)

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European Commission Work Programme for 2009

- COM (2008) 721



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## Issues raised by members:

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- The need to know which jobs are being affected by the current situation and what jobs are needed for the coming years.
- The need to have more students following University courses related to energy.
- Suggestion that the Maltese Government shows support to the Sahara project (related to the exploitation of solar power for energy needs).
- Suggestion that a study be undertaken on the number of jobs that could be created by renewable energy/energy efficient technology and thus convince citizens to make better use of energy and adopt more energy efficient technology.



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## General Affairs (18 March 2009)

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The EU's enlargement strategy – COM (2008)  
674



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Issues raised by members:

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It was suggested that future enlargements are not to be decided by national referenda but open to an EU-wide referendum, with a double majority, thus avoiding that one country holds hostage the other Member States and prospective members.



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## Competitiveness and Consumer Affairs (20 March 2009)

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Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 78/660/EEC on the annual accounts of certain types of companies as regards micro-entities – COM (2009) 83



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## Issues raised by members:

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It was suggested that measures aimed at reducing administrative burden should also tackle auditing issues, since these are considered as presenting more of a burden for small enterprises than accounting exercises.



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## Competitiveness and Consumer Affairs (20 March 2009)

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Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on consumer rights – COM (2008) 614



## Issues raised by members:

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- The lack of an indication on *penalties* was pointed out and a suggestion made to have *minimum harmonization* on these so that uniformity among Member States is attained.
- It was pointed out that the proposal does not mention a minimum percentage of profit that a trader should be allowed to factor in his/her transactions.
- It was suggested that in every sale or purchase contract, standard clauses become applicable so that consumers may read them once and be assured that these would be the same in every purchase contract. In this way, problems arising due to too many clauses which are at any rate hardly read by consumers are addressed.



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## Issues raised by members:

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- The importance of ensuring that the public is informed of the impact that such a European law (if adopted) will have on the Maltese legal framework was mentioned.
- Emphasis was also laid on the importance of consumers having *effective right of redress*.



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**Thank you!**