

PRESS RELEASE

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Chamber makes presentation to Opposition on labour market

Following the presentation made to the Cabinet of Ministers in May, the Malta Chamber presented its report on the labour market to an Opposition delegation which was led by Dr Adrian Delia.

President Mr Frank V. Farrugia noted how the Chamber was once again taking a proactive approach to a problem which was affecting the day-to-day operation of thousands of businesses in Malta.

"As the potential alternative government, it is in our members' interest to keep you abreast with the challenges being faced by our businesses, as well as the solutions we are proposing to mitigate the situation.

Additional active labour market policies, further incentivising active ageing, skills audits, reforms to the country's education curricula, facilitation of recruitment of foreign nationals and an international marketing campaign showcasing employment opportunities in Malta were among the solutions proposed by the Malta Chamber.

'The Labour Market in 2018 and Beyond - Demographics and Trends Characterising Malta's Labour Market and Workable Proposals To Alleviate Labour Gap Pressures' was compiled by the Policy Unit within the Malta Chamber, with the aim to propose solutions to country's policy makers on the subject-matter.

Delivering his presentation to cabinet, Nigel Mifsud, Policy Executive, explained how the challenges most relevant to the business community, as a result of the year-on-year growth experienced by the economy, were the present labour market conditions.

"Malta presently has the largest labour force in its history, a significant increase in the domestic supply of productive hours, the largest cohort of foreign workers and the lowest level of unemployment rates. Despite this, Malta's employers face a severe lack of labour supply further aggravated by falling levels of productivity" Mr Mifsud said.

"The report provides policy makers with a blue print of effective policies designed to ensure that the most fundamental resource required for continued and sustainable economic growth is readily available and well-equipped with the many diverse skillsets required by Malta's economy" he explained.

The Opposition delegation was led by the Leader of the Opposition Dr Adrian Delia, who was flanked by Secretary General Clyde Puli, Shadow Minister for the Economy, Financial Services and Innovation Kirsty Debono and Shadow Minister for Finance Dr Mario de Marco. From the Chamber's side, they were welcomed by President Mr Frank V. Farrugia, Charles Zahra Deputy Chairman of the Importers Economic Group, Patrick Cachia Chairman of the Manufacturers Economic Group, Matthew Sullivan Chairman of the Services Economic Group, Kevin J. Borg Director General, Andre Fenech Head of Policy and Nigel Mifsud Policy Executive.

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