

On behalf of

**The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry,
GRTU,
The Malta Employers Association,
MHRA,
The Valletta Alive Foundation,
The Republic Street Business Community Association and
The Merchant Street Business Community Association**

PRESS RELEASE

11th December 2015

Associations refute relocation of open market to upper Merchants Street

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry together with GRTU, The Malta Employers Association, MHRA, The Valletta Alive Foundation, The Republic Street Business Community Association and The Merchant Street Business Community Association today addressed the media to express their position against the relocation of the open market to upper Merchant Street.

The conference explained that the street now enjoyed a Class A classification, at par with Republic Street.

The associations voiced a united front that they were against this relocation for a number of reasons, amongst which the investment made by shop owners in the past years, when there were no plans to set up the open market there. This would also put at risk franchises pulling out of the country, at the cost of employment.

The Associations believe that the decision to relocate the open market will negatively affect the newly UNESCO-approved St John's Co Cathedral museum project and therefore coordination is definitely warranted in this regard.

The associations concluded that an alternative placing for the open market existed and that they are keen to discuss possible solutions to the problem with the authorities.

END