



THE MALTA CHAMBER

PRESS RELEASE

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Air Malta Pilots deal is not reflective of industrial relations norms and practices

The Malta Chamber is disappointed by the decision taken by Government in relation to Air Malta's pilots.

The decision is not reflective of industrial relations norms and practices. Such a precedent will certainly create difficulties in the future when Government will be dealing with other sensitive sectors, companies and professions in society.

The agreement creates an unlevel playingfield, as it discriminates between workers. We have seen over the years across other industries, that when companies, both public or private, are faced with financial difficulties, redundancies are dealt with appropriately in line with industrial relations norms and practices, irrespective of the regrettable challenges that such an approach inevitable brings about on both the employer and the employee. The Malta Chamber does not see any valid reason why this case warrants preferential treatment.

The differential treatment of employment relations is unacceptable, unfair and unwarranted at any time, even more so during these trying periods.

The Malta Chamber calls for transparency on the details of the alternative employment the pilots will be engaged in, what their terms of reference will be and what they will be expected to be doing, as clearly the assumption is that they will not be carrying out their profession as pilots in their alternative roles.

The Malta Chamber is further concerned on the cost this will bear on the national coffers, at a time where substantial financial challenges are already being endured

END