

PRESS RELEASE

18th April 2016

One step forward, a few more to go

The Malta Chamber notes the step forward on Government's part in re-thinking its plans as originally outlined in LN 103 as a result of the Chamber's timely arguments. In fact the Government confirmed to the Chamber this morning that the €1,500, will only be applicable to billboards.

This however is not enough, as it is clear in the Chamber's mind that the fee of €1,500 on billboards will only serve to increase expenses to businesses without necessarily improving the environmental considerations and standards relating to billboards.

The Chamber believes that the country has the necessary institutions and laws in place that can regulate amply well, in favour of every law abiding business and citizen. Therefore, billboards that are compliant and have all the paperwork to show for it should remain, while the authorities should properly enforce to clamp down on illegally placed structures once and for all. This will certainly improve the visual impact in our streets as the Government declared its intentions to be.

The Chamber has taken this matter very seriously, from the outset, when it informed the same Parliamentary Secretariat its position that the Legal Notice published on 5th April was not acceptable. This position was further illustrated during an urgent meeting the Malta Chamber requested with the Hon Dr Deborah Schembri, which took place last week. Consequently members were kept regularly updated and a Press Release to the media was issued.

The Malta Chamber has today met its interested members from a variety of sectors which are directly affected by this Legal Notice and is in the process of finalizing a set of recommendations to the LN.

The Chamber sees the latest development as a step in the right direction, but certainly the problem is not yet entirely solved. Unfortunately, the complete mismanagement of the matter has resulted in a waste of valuable resources and confusion for all parties concerned. This would have best been avoided by approaching the matter appropriately from the start.

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