

# PRESS RELEASE

26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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## Social Partners deserve respect

Reference is made to the case, yesterday, in which Mr Josef Vella Secretary General of Union Ħaddiema Magħqudin (UHM) was asked to surrender his mobile phone, during a meeting with a Minister, leading to the cancellation of the meeting.

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry denounces the request made by the Ministry as a sign of disrespect towards Social Partners and the integrity of their representatives. Consequently the Malta Chamber expresses its support to Mr Vella in his stance to decline the meeting.

The Malta Chamber believes in social dialogue which is based on trust. Trust is a two-way street, and all efforts must be made in order to preserve and strengthen it. If Government values the contribution of Social Partners in the country's social and economic development, it must treat them with the due respect.