

PRESS RELEASE

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Malta Chamber calls for utmost caution

While the rights and health and safety of workers must at all times be safeguarded, the social partners must never lose focus of the country's competitiveness. The Malta Chamber fears that a dangerous precedent may have taken place in the past days, when operations were interrupted at the Malta Freeport. This may precipitate an unwanted situation in the future.

In truth the Working Time Regulation (WTR) stipulates parameters concerning the maximum number of hours workers can work (including overtime), over an average period of time. Different parameters also exist for different workers, depending on the nature of their work, and the time of day or night they carry out such work and the number of night shifts they work.

The Malta Freeport plays a crucial role in economic cycle of the country and the interruption of service, has adversely affected both businesses and consumers alike. Extreme and utmost attention must be paid when dealing with such a sensitive element in the Maltese economy chain which are the ports. If repeated, this could result in extremely serious effects on the operation of business in Malta.

The Malta Chamber augurs that in the future, all parties involved endeavour towards ensuring jobs and incomes (of both employees and businesses). The Malta Chamber reiterates that while all concerns of health and safety must be paid utmost attention, the competitiveness of the country, is also a crucial matter.