

**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

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The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry and the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association (MHRA) have been following, at the MCESD and in the media, and concerned about the conflicting situation between the Malta Employers' Association and the General Retailers and Traders Union, which situation has arisen following the Government's announcement of the nominated representatives for the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The two employer bodies feel that of the two nominations, only Mr. Mallia represents the employer group.

The Malta Chamber and MHRA would like to point out that the EESC is made up of three groups which represent the different social partner groupings. As per the official structure of the EESC, the Employers' Group (Group I), is made up of entrepreneurs and representatives of entrepreneurial associations supporting employers in industry, commerce and services.

Group II refers to the Employees Group which typically is made up of trade unions. On the other hand, Group III refers to Various Interest Groups, which includes among others, small businesses and the crafts sector. In this regard both organisations feel that given the interests represented by the GRTU, it would be well suited for the GRTU to have a representative in Group III.

To this extent, the Malta Chamber and MHRA are of the same view as the MEA and are of the opinion that any GRTU nomination for the EESC should be allocated to Group III. The Malta Chamber and the MHRA are calling on Government to address the situation and ensure that the representatives nominated on the EESC do in fact represent their correct sectorial interests in the correct EESC groupings.

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