

SME CHAMBER WELCOMES ANNOUNCED TOURISM RECOVERY PLAN

ADVISES CAUTION ON IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN GRADUALLY AND IN THE SAFEST POSSIBLE MANNER

The SME Chamber has been calling on greater visibility and a defined recovery plan for months. Today's announcement by Minister Clayton Bartolo is therefore greatly welcome and a sign that Malta is on the road to recovery.

The Malta Chamber of SME had emphasised that this year-round we were expecting better planning and benefits out of a full year's experience in dealing with the pandemic and also following the vaccine roll-out in Malta. As much as we understood the difficult and changing scenario, our country was in dire need of a plan for 2021, however tentative.

Recent positive developments on the health front are indeed encouraging and it is clear that the restrictions in place, combined with the vaccination strategy are working. It is essential that Malta does not let its guard down and therefore intensifying restrictions during the easter break was also a necessary move that we support.

The SME Chamber therefore hopes that this will be the first important step that will lead to more visibility in relation to economic recovery.

ABOUT MALTA CHAMBER OF SMES

Malta Chamber of SMEs (Formerly known as GRTU) is the largest social partner in Malta representing over 7,000 SMEs from over 90 different sectors. The SME Chamber has been established for over 70 years and its aim is of safeguarding the interest of businesses at large.

SPOKESPERSONS

Paul Abela | President
Abigail Mamo | CEO

HEAD OF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Fabian Demicoli

CONTACT

E fabian.demicoli@smechamber.mt

Many sacrifices have been endured by all and this includes the business community. Some businesses have been closed for months and suffered great difficulties during this period. It is therefore imperative that the steps to recovery are taken with great care and are gradual.

Malta needs to remain and be able to market itself as safe. As such, strict rules must be followed that ensure incoming tourists are not putting our country's health care situation in danger. The SME Chamber believes that Malta now has the necessary experience and infrastructure in place to handle the gradual re-opening of the tourism season appropriately.

The SME Chamber advocates for the general public and especially the business community not to lower their guard and respect the health standards to the full because that is the only way in which strategies for recovery can be successful.

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