

CHILDCARE CENTRE PROVIDERS VOICE THEIR CONCERN OVER DELAYED SERVICE AGREEMENT

The Childcare Centre Providers Association (CCPA) together with the Malta Chamber of SMEs, representing more than 80% of Malta's childcare centre operators, voice their concerns over delays in negotiations surrounding the new service agreement, which expired last December.

A new agreement, initially expected to be finalised by end of December, has yet to materialise —prompting frustration and concern within the sector.

Speaking on behalf of the association, President Simon Zammit stressed that childcare providers urgently require an updated agreement to sustain the service and quality offered within childcare centres to align with the overall education ecosystem. "Unfortunately, although discussions with the government have been initiated, no concrete proposals have been presented on the table," he said.

Malta Chamber of SMEs, echoes CCPA's concerns, noting the lack of progress. The discussion is far from having the momentum it needs.

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

Simon Zammit | CCPA Malta President
E ccpamaltap@gmail.com

HEAD OF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Fabian Demicoli

CONTACT

E fabian.demicoli@smechamber.mt

Although both CCPA and the SME Chamber have been given the re-assurance that this agreement is a top priority for the government, actions are falling short of this promise.

CCPA and the SME Chamber continue to support Free Childcare, with Quality and Standards remaining the top most priority. The current service agreement, however, does not ensure sustainability within this important sector. Childcare providers play a vital role in Malta's social and economic framework by enabling parents to contribute to the workforce. This is an essential service that must be supported appropriately and sustainably.

The CCPA and Malta Chamber of SMEs remain open to dialogue and urge the Government to act with urgency to reach a fair and sustainable agreement for the sector.

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