

## MALTA CHAMBER OF SMES AND CCPA WELCOMES RENEWED CHILDCARE SERVICE AGREEMENT

The Malta Chamber of SMEs together with the Childcare Centre Providers Association (CCPA) welcomes the renewed free childcare scheme service agreement signed following discussions with Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment and Jobsplus.

The SME Chamber positively notes that Government has understood the sector's main concerns and priorities, particularly the need to focus on maintaining quality service within childcare centres and ensuring staff retention, which formed the basis of the agreement reached.

Mr. Paul Abela, President of the Malta Chamber of SMEs said:

"This agreement provides more certainty for operators and allows childcare centres to focus on delivering a high-quality service while keeping experienced staff within the sector."

CCPA President Mr Simon Zammit stated:

"Childcare providers have been facing challenges, especially when it comes to retaining qualified skilled staff. CCPA welcomes the Government's willingness to

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recognise these realities and work with us towards practical solutions that protect quality."

The Malta Chamber of SMEs and CCPA thanks the Government, Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment, Jobsplus and the Public Sector for their cooperation and commitment and willingness to reach an agreement for the benefit of the government, service providers and more importantly families benefitting from this scheme.

The SME Chamber together with CCPA remain committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure a strong, sustainable and quality childcare sector in Malta and Gozo.

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