



## Press Release

### Malta Chamber of SMEs Warns Against Unsustainable Electoral Pledges

The Malta Chamber of SMEs calls on the political parties to exercise caution in regards to the increasing number of electoral promises being announced without any form of prior consultation with social partners, and which would directly impact employers and businesses.

Such measures, without proper consultation, affect the business community and would especially and disproportionately affect micro and small enterprises, which make up the absolute majority of businesses in Malta.

While we recognise that electoral campaigns generate considerable enthusiasm and at times, overly ambitious pledges, we cannot remain passive when such promises have a direct impact on the livelihoods of small businesses and their employees.

Social partners expect to be consulted in advance, on any proposed incentives that may affect SMEs, in line with established practices over the years.

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We are concerned that several of these proposals do little to enhance productivity and address the labour shortage, which when implemented through a blanket approach, may prove unsustainable in practice and have repercussions on both businesses and the business community.

The SME Chamber calls for greater maturity and responsibility in public commitments, ensuring that proposals are grounded in proper feasibility assessments rather than driven solely by electoral promises. Moreover, even

#### 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

**HEAD OF COMMUNICATION**  
Mr. Fabian Demicoli

**CONTACT**  
E [fabian.demicoli@smechamber.mt](mailto:fabian.demicoli@smechamber.mt)

Malta Chamber of SMEs (Former GRTU)  
43-45, Kapuċċini Street,  
Floriana FRN 1052, Malta

T +356 21232881  
E [admin@smechamber.mt](mailto:admin@smechamber.mt)

[smechamber.mt](http://smechamber.mt)



measures that do not directly target the small business community can have wider economic repercussions, including possibly reducing investor confidence.

The SME Chamber is currently working on a number of constructive proposals and remains committed to engage with all stakeholders. The SME Chamber looks forward to seeing proposals targeted at SMEs that genuinely drive productivity and safeguard the wellbeing of employers and their employees.

We welcome discussion on solutions that support sustainable economic growth while effectively addressing the realities faced by Malta's SMEs.

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