

Press Release

MALTA CHAMBER OF SMES CALLS FOR A LONG-TERM BUSINESS RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK FOLLOWING POWER OUTAGES

The Malta Chamber of SMEs acknowledges the significant investment and continuous efforts undertaken over recent years to strengthen Malta's electricity distribution network. It is evident that substantial work has been carried out to modernise infrastructure, improve resilience and respond to the increasing demand placed on the national grid.

At the same time, the recent power outages experienced across multiple localities once again highlight the importance of ensuring that national infrastructure continues to evolve in line with Malta's economic and demographic growth. As the country's population, business activity and energy demand continue to increase, investment in critical infrastructure must remain a national priority.

For many businesses, particularly SMEs, power outages are far more than a temporary inconvenience. They result in interrupted operations, lost sales, damaged stock, cancelled appointments, disrupted production schedules, business productivity level and additional operational costs. In such cases Interruptions can have significant financial consequences and impact customer confidence. Furthermore, employees turning up for work after sleepless nights, with some handling heavy machinery, does not help the business function safely and efficiently.

Rather than focusing solely on the causes of individual incidents, the SME Chamber believes the discussion should now evolve towards strengthening Malta's long-term

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

resilience while ensuring that businesses are better protected when unforeseen disruptions occur.

The Malta Chamber of SMEs is proposing the establishment of a structured Business Continuity Compensation Mechanism that would automatically come into effect following electricity disruptions that exceed clearly established thresholds.

Such a mechanism should provide businesses with a transparent, predictable and efficient means of obtaining compensation for losses directly attributable to prolonged power outages, without requiring adhoc processes that could themselves cause further stress and loss of productivity.

Importantly, the SME Chamber believes that such a mechanism should complement the continued investment in Malta's electricity infrastructure. Compensation should never be viewed as an alternative to infrastructure investment. Rather, both should form part of a comprehensive national strategy that seeks to minimise disruptions while ensuring that businesses are not left to shoulder the financial burden when exceptional events occur.

Businesses understand that no electricity distribution network can ever be entirely immune from unexpected failures. However, modern economies require systems that not only reduce the likelihood of disruptions but also provide fair and timely support when they occur.

The Malta Chamber of SMEs remains committed to working constructively with Government, Enemalta and all relevant stakeholders to develop practical, forward-looking solutions that strengthen Malta's infrastructure, enhance business resilience and safeguard the competitiveness of the country's enterprises.

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