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MISSJONI PERMANENTI TAR-REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA  
GHALL-ORGANIZZAZZJONI GHAS-SIGURTÀ  
U L-KOOPERAZZJONI FL-EWROPA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

## **28<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum Concluding Meeting**

Promoting Security, stability and economic growth in the OSCE area by preventing and combating corruption through innovation, increased transparency and digitalisation

Session II: Enhancing Transparency through good governance and the rule of law

### **Statement delivered by the Delegation of Malta**

Mr Chairperson,

As we conclude the series of Economic and Environmental Forums, allow me to first and foremost, to thank the Albanian Chairmanship, that has put combatting corruption as one of its main priorities, and the Coordinator for the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for the extensive focus on this timely topic.

Unfortunately, corruption has been with us since the dawn of civilization, and continues to be one of the major challenges of the twenty-first century. It is a curse that brings with it increased economic and societal disparities, paving the way to lawlessness and criminality.

Malta places great importance to good governance, and in the recent months, my country committed to put in place measures that further strengthens good governance and eradicate corruption. Proof of this is the establishment, of the Committee on Governance, headed by Justice and Governance Minister Edward Zammit Lewis earlier this year.. Amongst other things, this Committee is tasked with reviewing current laws and regulations and the drawing up of new legislation.

Recently, Parliament adopted unanimously a bill to amend various laws aimed at reforming the procedure by which appointments to the Permanent Commission against Corruption are made. Apart from revising the method of appointments of the members of the Commission, this act will enhance the powers of the Commission by widening the definition of corrupt practices and provides additional powers, whereby the Commission can report to the Attorney General directly when the former suspects a corrupt practice. Other legislations that were also approved and entered into force include amendments in the appointment of judges and magistrates, laws that regulate the Office of the Ombudsman.

Malta has also increased its efforts to tackle money laundering. Recently, a series of amendments to both the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism Regulations were published. Examples of the amendments made to the Prevention of the Anti-Money Laundering Act include the setting of clear timelines within which an appeal against an administrative sanction imposed by the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit is to be heard and decided; rendering supervision efforts to be more efficient; changing the way the publication of penalties takes place; making publications regime more effective, whilst at the same time respecting the principle of proportionality, and introducing new authorities to sit on the Board of Governors of the Financial



Intelligence Analysis Unit, such as the Malta Gaming Authority and the Commissioner for Revenue. Furthermore, a number of training courses have been organised for officials dealing with Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism. Future sessions will include a webinar on Forensic Accounting and Due Diligence, and sessions to the judiciary, which will provide a platform for members of the judiciary to be exposed to how foreign courts tackle Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism cases.

Last but not least, my country has always shown willingness to cooperate with other international organisations, such as the Council of Europe, to further strengthen measures on good governance. Malta reaffirms its commitment to continue working with international organisations in this regard.

Malta has, in the past, invariably devoted significant relevance to transparency and will continue to do so in the coming years. We want to see the values of democracy and human rights, values which we hold dear, being enjoyed equally by those around us.

Corruption is a multifaceted problem and knows no boundaries, be them physical or abstract, and cannot be solved by governments or entities alone. A coordinated approach is the way forward towards a region free from corruption. We know that the task is huge, but as we have always done, we look forward to playing an active role in the implementation of projects and initiatives that will ensure that all of us live in a more peaceful and prosperous region.

Thank you.