

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT - MALTA 28-29 MAY 2010

The Committee on Economic Affairs and Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) shall be meeting at the Corinthia Palace Hotel, Balzan on 28 May 2010. The Hon Robert Arrigo MP and the Hon Marie Louise Coleiro Preca MP are the Maltese Parliamentary Representatives on the Committee.

The session shall be opened by the Hon Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Hon Francis Agius MP, Head of the Maltese Delegationⁱⁱ to the PACE. The Committee shall commence its work programme with a discussion on "Malta's economy: withstanding the global financial and economic crisis".

During this item the delegates shall be addressed by the Hon Tonio Fenech MP, Minister of Finance, the Economy and Investment; the Hon Gavin Gulia MP, Opposition main spokesperson on Economy and Self employed; Prof Edward Scicluna MEP, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament; Mr Michael Bonello, Governor of the Central Bank of Malta; and Mr Anthony J Tabone from the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry.

The second item on the agenda shall provide an opportunity for a discussion on a Motion for a Resolution presented by the Hon Marie Louise Coleiro Preca MP entitled "The challenges faced by small national economies". Following an address by the Hon Member and presentations by Dr Godwin Cordina and Dr Rose Marie Azzopardi from the Department of Economics - Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy of the University of Malta, the floor shall be open for an exchange of views with the delegates present.

Other items on the Committee agenda include "The activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2009: Facilitating economic integration in Europe" and "The impact of the European Union Eastern Partnership on economic growth in eastern Europe";

Considering the importance that the tourism sector holds in the Maltese economy, the opportunity shall be taken to also convene a meeting of the Sub-Committee on Tourism and Development on Saturday 29 May 2010. The two items on the Agenda shall be "The role of tourism in the Maltese economy" and "Tourism for elderly people".

The discussion on the first topic shall be opened by the Hon Mario De Marco MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism; the Hon Marie Louise Coleiro Preca MP, Opposition main spokesperson for Tourism; Mr Josef Formosa Gauci, Chief Executive of the Malta Tourism Authority; and Mr Alfred Quintano from the Department of Tourism Studies - Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy of the University of Malta.

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