

NEWSTRING



GRTU replies to consultation - Policy Guidance for Fuel Stations

In implementing a new policy Fuel Station Policy, one that was much awaited, one cannot but first take stock of the current situation.

The policy came following a public outcry to take regulatory action that would safeguard Malta's interest first and foremost from the developments that were witnessed in relation to Fuel Stations. It is therefore of the essence that this policy addresses this cry so that the commercial, the social and the environmental dynamic can co-exist in peace.

GRTU's aims as a national business representative and as an official member of the MCESD Board is to safeguard the commercial interest but this is within the scope of the good of our country. We believe that justice can be

achieved for economic operators without the necessity of stepping on important principles.

It is undeniable that fuel stations are currently indispensable, however it is also undeniable that these stations come at a significant impact, especially environmental, on our country. This makes fuel stations a necessary evil, a necessary activity that is essential for the continuation of our economy and the provision of this essential service. The reality is however also that the market for fuel stations is overly saturated and great caution needs to be exercised when deciding to expand this market because the exercise of such expansion is no longer a necessary evil but an avoidable consequence.

From a purely commercial point of view it is pertinent to note that the investment existing fuel stations have and still are carrying out is substantial. This investment has a deadline that is already resounding and within a relatively short period we should start seeing the demand for these stations drastically decrease. This continues emphasising on the lack of necessity to add more of these operations as the sustainability of existing ones will be jeopardised. On these lines GRTU is putting forward the following balanced proposal, which in our opinion addresses the scope of this document.

Proposals

- Applications submitted following the introduction of the new policy should **only apply for relocations and not new fuel stations**.
- GRTU echoes the request made by civil society organisations to **bring current applications still in the pipeline or currently up for decision to a halt**. We believe that it makes little sense to advocate such a policy on one side and doing the complete opposite on the other. Should current applications continued to be considered, the policy will immediately become irrelevant and it will be pointless to carry forward. We want to make policy makers aware of this distinction between just addressing the issue as a forwarding thinking policy without addressing the current 'waiting list' is simply a cosmetic exercise.
- GRTU agrees perfectly with ERA that the policy must incorporate a distance requirement **of at least 1.5km radius between the applicant station and any other existing station**.
- GRTU feels that a lot of emphasis, as it should be, is placed on fuel station standards. This however is in stark contrast with other EXISTING operations that also carry a risk and should be regulated accordingly. It is essential that **garages and other operations that keep fuel stored are also required to have all the necessary permits in relation to ERA, PA and REWS**.
- Apart from this, GRTU believes that **no new permits for storing of fuel should be given**. This with the only exception of stationary objects such as generators, compressors, etc... This exception must naturally come with the necessary permits. In such cases the amount of fuel permissible to be stored should be indicated and this should be at a bare minimum. Current and future approved storage should also be required to put up visible warning signage as is regular with potentially dangerous operations and relevant storage facilities.
- **GRTU is not in favour of using ODZ**. We believe that many mistakes have been made in this regard and it is unacceptable for a fresh policy not to be strict and close all options, especially for an operation having a high impact as a fuel station. GRTU therefore welcomes positive steps in this regard and puts forward suggestions in order to strengthen this stance.
- Areas of Containment were practically ODZ and the policy on these areas is to contain development and not facilitate it. As such GRTU proposes for the **1000sqm limit is be extended to Areas of Containment**, without such limit the 'ODZ' will continue being exploited and the 'containment' policy overruled.
- **Current commercial permits, of whatever nature, within ODZ should not be available for change of use to fuel stations**. Fuel stations are like no other and the scope of the original permit should always prevail. GRTU is against further speculation in ODZ and overuse in all cases.

GRTU Meets PN Delegation, ahead of the MEP Elections.



Earlier this month a GRTU delegation, formed by President Mr Paul Abela, CEO Ms Abigail Mamo, Vice-President Mr Philip Fenech, Councillors Ms Joan Haber, Mr Marthese Micallef, Mr Mario Debono and Ms Claire Shoemake met with the Nationalist Party Delegation, headed by Leader Dr Adrian Delia.

During the meeting, Mr Abela affirmed that the Maltese economy is doing very well; however, this does not mean every business is benefitting from this. A few important points that are vital for Maltese businesses were raised.

The first being the 6/7ths issue—GRTU believes that this is hurting Maltese businesses greatly and it is very unjust for Maltese businesses to be treated as second class. The second point was regarding the MEP election, Mr Abela believes that the MEPs elected should increase their communication between them and social partners, bridging the gap. He also hopes that the MEPs will remain firm on their stance when it comes to EU directives and not adopt a one size fits all approach.

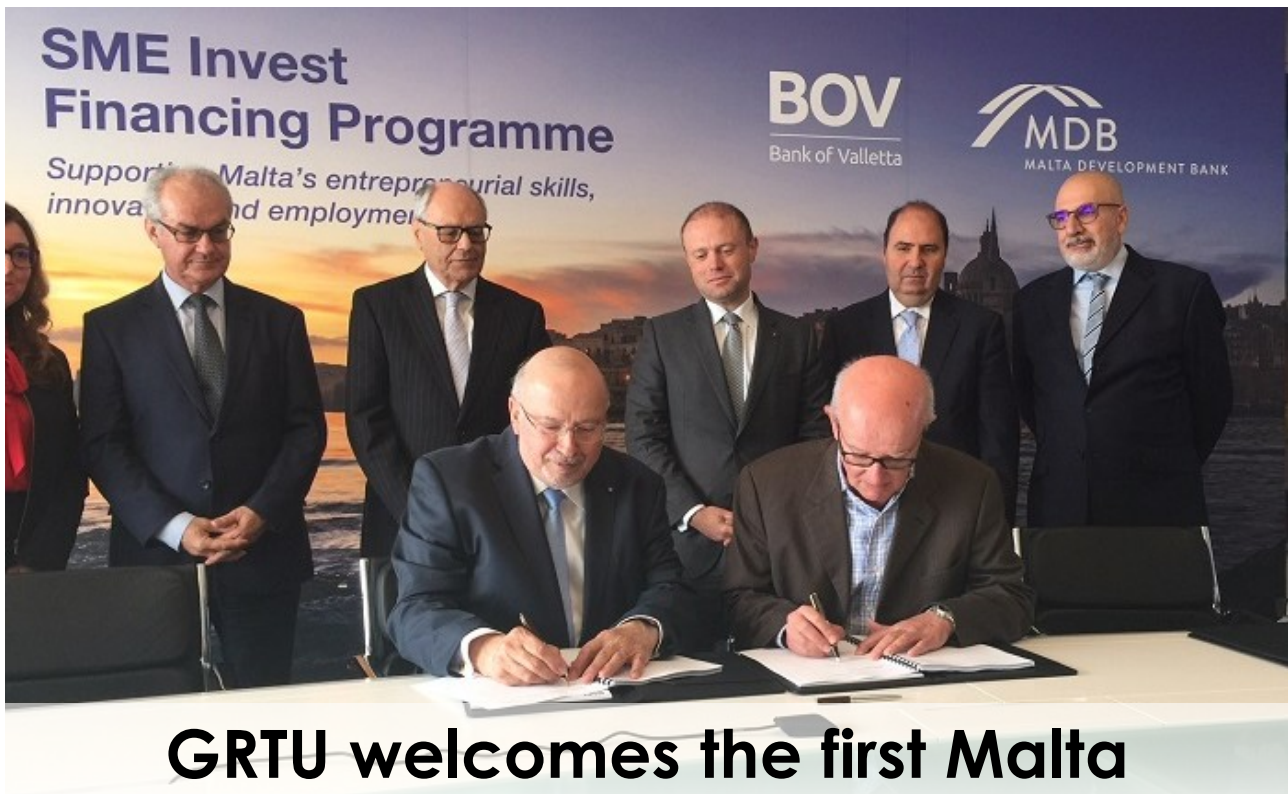
Furthermore, Mr Abela lamented that Access to

Finance remains a huge problem for Maltese businesses and the the availability of banking facilities is greatly hampering their growth.

Additionally, Mr Fenech, praised the influx in the distribution of tourists that Malta keeps having which is beneficial towards our economy. However, he also stated that the government needs to adopt a better sustainable approach vis-à-vis the applications which are being granted.

Dr Adrian Delia affirmed that his wish is to help shop owners and small businesses address the challenges they experience, including the drop in sales and the challenge stemming from the inability to compete, due to the size of Maltese businesses.

Dr Delia expressed that he disagrees with the model based on population growth that is currently being used, as Maltese businesses are sometimes experiencing a loss in sales, instead of an increase, as one would expect with a higher population growth. Furthermore promising that PN will work on a model that will work.



GRTU welcomes the first Malta Development Bank Scheme

The scheme announced this morning by Bank of Valletta with the support of the Malta Development Bank is very good news for Maltese Businesses. Businesses will be able to apply for financing of their projects up to a maximum of Eur 750,000, at a 3.5% interest rate and lower collateral requirements.

GRTU welcomes this announcement as the first positive tangible step made by the Malta Development Bank. The development bank was the mover behind this scheme but GRTU thanks all the parties involved, both foreign and local, that came together to make this possible.

GRTU had campaigned for the establishment of a Development Bank for Malta for many years and what we are experiencing today was

specifically the reason. Many businesses, especially SMEs, experience difficulties in accessing finance because of the high interest rates and collateral requirements, making access to finance very expensive.

This scheme puts businesses at par with many other EU countries when accessing finance. On average businesses will now pay the same for an investment as their counterparts would do in a number of Member States, not twice or three times as much.

The scheme is currently accessible through Bank of Valletta and GRTU encourages businesses to make the most out of this invaluable opportunity.

Business interested can contact GRTU for further information.



Ms Mersia Mackay-Zammit is a student reading for a Master of Science Degree in Management at the University of Chester (UK). A study on the effects towards employee management should a full-time reduced working week be introduced in Malta

If interested in participating, kindly click [here](#) to start the survey.

GRTU meets Mr Bokhari - Pakistan

Last month, International Vice-President Mr Joe Zerafa met with Mr Syed Ul Hassan Bokhari, a candidate for the position of Honorary Consul for Pakistan.

Mr Bokhari is a multinational entrepreneur in Pakistan. Among his other interests, his area of business is in the property and construction industry. He is also having success in the telecom industry in the United Kingdom as well as in Pakistan.

Mr Bokhari explained that Pakistan boasts an excellent skilled work force and that many are looking for job opportunities in Malta. He hopes that Maltese businesses would be interested in providing such opportunities.



Valletta Shop Scheme



GRTU is holding consultation sessions with its Members on the Valletta Shop Scheme.

Should you be interested, kindly email andrew.aquilina@grtu.eu or call 21232883



3 Malta Customs Notices



Proof of Status of Union Goods

The proof of status is required at the final Union port of destination, issued and authenticated by the competent authority (T2L).

It is recommended that in these cases the proof of status accompanies the goods from the start of the transport operation.

ONLY original T2L/T2LF supported by an original **copy 4** of the Single Administrative Document (SAD) and original invoices/transport documents are accepted.

EORI Number

Anyone importing commercial goods from outside the EU needs an EORI number. In accordance with the VAT Act, an Economic Operator is not required to apply with the VAT Department for importation purposes however the same EO needs to be VAT registered when declaring goods for export.

Union Transit Procedure

Article 233 of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 (the Union Customs Code) provides that the principal is responsible for producing goods intact, within prescribed time limits, at the Customs Office of Destination. The Article goes on to provide that a carrier or recipient of goods who accepts goods knowing that they are moving under Community Transit is also responsible for meeting these obligations. The provisions are replicated in the Common Transit Convention.

For the full notices click [HERE](#)

THE NEW EURO BANKNOTES 28 MAY 2019

The new €100 and €200 will be introduced in all the euro area countries on 28 May 2019. It is important that you familiarise yourself with the security features using the feel, look and tilt method.

**NEW SECURITY FEATURES
WHEN TILTING THE BANKNOTES**

2 Emerald number
the emerald number shows € symbols

6 Satellite hologram
small € symbols move around the number

OTHER SECURITY FEATURES

- 1** Raised print
- 3** Portrait watermark
- 4** Hologram stripe
- 5** Portrait window

THE CURRENT €100 AND €200 BANKNOTES WILL REMAIN LEGAL TENDER

www.centralbankmalta.org
www.ecb.europa.eu/banknotes



GRTU at FSB Small Business Awards

GRTU President Paul Abela attended this year's Small Business Awards hosted by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

The night was the largest gathering of entrepreneurs in the small business calendar. The awards, which were in their second year, celebrated the very best small businesses and self-employed from right

across the UK.

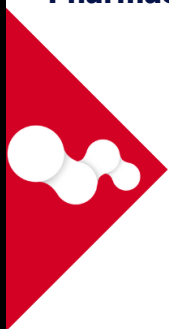
GRTU was invited as part of the FSB efforts in building a solid network in preparation for the UK's exit from the EU.

In this picture together with Mr Paul Abela are Kelly Tolhurst - UK Minister for Small Businesses and Mike Cherry - FSB Chairman.

**Pharmacies &
Pharmaceutical Sector**

**Tuesday 18th June
12:30**

**Microsoft Innovation
Hub**



enabling Artificial Intelligence





Notice! Construction Works in Summer

The Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) has published the list of streets in Malta and Gozo where excavation and demolition works cannot be carried out between the 15th June and the 30th September 2019.

The full list of localities and streets where demolition or excavation works are prohibited during the summer months may be viewed on the Planning Authority's website

<http://www.pa.org.mt/summer-breaktime>.

If there are any streets that you wish to see included in next year's Tourist Areas List, please send an email to admin@grtu.eu or by phone on 21232883.

Enterprise Incentives; The App

The Enterprise Incentives - An app designed in order to provide local enterprise with an overview of all the incentives being offered.

This App allows users to browse through local and EU funded grants, tax credits, awards and other initiatives; such as crowdfunding, loan guarantees and rent subsidies which aim to assist businesses in Malta to set-up, innovate and grow.

This app is available for download from both the Play Store and the App Store.



ENTERPRISE
INCENTIVES

Do you Import or Sell any of the Following?

Plastic Carrier Bags
Disposable cutlery and plates
Beverage cups and stirrers
Food containers
Plastic Kebab Sticks
Balloons and sticks to support them
Detergent containers
Fishing gear
Straws
Lollipop sticks (sold separately)

wet wipes

Beverage bottles
Containers for toiletries
Pizza lid support
Packets and wrappers
Plastic Toothpicks
Plastic confetti
Sanitary items, including sanitary towels,
Beverage containers
Tobacco product filters
Cotton bud sticks

Plastic wristbands

Kindly note that GRTU is organising a consultation session, specifically for businesses, where representatives from ERA will be coming to discuss the Single Use Plastic Strategy.

This consultation session will be held at GRTU Offices, on Wednesday 12th June 2019 at 15:00. Should you wish to participate, kindly sign up by clicking this [link](#).

Refund for your employees' Maternity Leave?



You are eligible to receive an average of **€4,000** in refunds for each employee that went out on maternity leave since July 2015!

GRTU can help you apply through a simple procedure and will ensure that the application is submitted in full.

For further information you are required to Contact Ms Diane Scerri on 21232883.

GRTU Calendar of Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	REGISTRATION
Business Enhance Scheme	19th June	13:00	Business First	http://www.business1st.grtu.eu/
Business Planning	20th June	17:00	Business First	http://www.business1st.grtu.eu/
Business Enhance Scheme	17th July	13:00	Business First	http://www.business1st.grtu.eu/

The 2019 edition of the Galileo Masters

The poster features a dark space background with a large satellite in the foreground and several smaller satellites in the distance. A network of circular icons is overlaid on the scene. In the top left is the Galileo logo (a stylized 'G' with a starburst) and the text 'GALILEO MASTERS'. In the top right is the AZO logo with the tagline 'Space of Innovation'. In the bottom right, a circular badge contains the text 'SIGN UP 1 MAY - 31 JULY 2019'. A small copyright notice '© ESA/CSG/ESA' is visible in the bottom right corner.

· · AZO · ·
Space of Innovation

GALILEO MASTERS

SIGN UP
1 MAY –
31 JULY 2019

© ESA/CSG/ESA

The Galileo Masters seeks to award applications, services and new ideas that use Galileo and EGNOS to respond to pressing challenges facing business and society. The most innovative solutions will be able to share in more than EUR 1 million worth of cash prizes. Sounds interesting? Then why not apply for this year's competition? To register, click [here](#).

In addition to the cash prizes, the winners will be able to take advantage of business development opportunities, tailored E-GNSS Accelerator business support packages worth EUR 62,000, a crowd funding campaign worth EUR 35,000, and much more.

Contact GRTU Malta Chamber of SMEs on **21232881 / 3** or e-mail **admin@grtu.eu**