

## SME Chamber calls for strengthened trust and governance in Inquiries Reform

The Malta Chamber of SMEs acknowledges the need for legal improvements in the proposed inquiries reform. However, the Chamber is concerned that the reform, as currently presented, the amendments undermine the independence of the judiciary. The SME Chamber insists that any changes should reinforce trust in the system rather than diminish it.

The latest SME Barometer, published by the SME Chamber in collaboration with MISCO, highlighted that 42% of respondents identified the “lack of good governance,” while 40% pointed to the “level of corruption” as two of the most pressing issues the country is facing. These findings underscore the need for government action to address these concerns and implement measures to strengthen the fight against corruption.

Therefore, any amendments to the inquiries system must ensure they enhance good governance and actively combat corruption.

The SME Chamber also notes that the proposed changes are being fast-tracked. Given the significance of the matter, the Chamber also urges authorities to address and prioritize pressing issues and concerns raised by businesses, particularly:

- A reduction in income tax for businesses
- A stronger fight against corruption, particularly in light of Malta's lowest-ever ranking on the international corruption index

### 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.

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- Improvements in governance, especially in public procurement processes

These, among other recommendations, were put forward by the SME Chamber in its Budget 2025 proposals.

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