



Press Release

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Parliamentary Secretary Deo Debattista addresses the seminar ‘Standardisation – Involvement of Maltese Trade Unions’

Speaking on behalf of the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority, the MCCA, Parliamentary Secretary for Consumer Protection and Valletta 2018 Deo Debattista noted how standards provide a harmonised environment in which products and services can be utilised by the wider community interchangeably.

Standards are developed through a joint effort of technical experts, representatives of legislators, and academics, but consumers and workers can and should also contribute to this process.

The successful introduction of voluntary standards having a positive impact on national economies has led to standards becoming a sort of “soft regulation”, and as such the importance of interested parties to have their say in the development of standards is essential so as to safeguard their interests. This includes Maltese trade unions when it comes to protecting the interest of workers they represent.

“Standards are instrumental in the development of interoperable networks, systems and market surveillance. They are therefore an important tool for the operation of the Single Market, mainly to enhance the competitiveness of nations, growth and innovation of businesses, and to support the quality and protection of consumers, workers, businesses and the environment”, Deo Debattista said.

The workshop explained how the European Commission has recognised the important role European standards play to support the European Internal Market. The EU directives, known as the “New Approach Directives”, enabled the different European Standards Organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) to take part in the legislative make-up.

“Today we find a successful partnership between legislators, industry and societal stakeholders working towards an efficient Single Market, whereby legislation, such as on product safety, defines essential safety requirements while technical requirements to achieve such requirements are defined in harmonised standards issued by the European Standards Organisations. The MCCA is a full member in such organisations and fully participates in the process of the development of standards and in the governing structures of these institutions. Despite limitations in size, Malta has all the opportunities to safeguard the national interest in standardisation matters like any other country. Therefore, it is up to us to make the best use of these opportunities”, the Parliamentary Secretary said.