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Media Release

MEA calls on Government to share burden of payment for Maternity Leave

In the coming budget, the Malta Employers' Association is recommending to government to pay the maternity leave benefits. MEA is proposing that, over a transitional period of four years, the cost of paying for maternity leave – which currently stands at 14 weeks - will be shifted to the government.

MEA said that Malta is one of the few countries where maternity leave is paid by the employer, and the prospect of an extension of such leave, which is being discussed at EU level, threatens to increase costs to employers and also to create a disadvantage for women seeking employment.

The Association added that if the obligation for female employees to work for six months after the maternity leave is going to be removed, as is being said by some MEPs, then employers should not pay for maternity leave as the employee will not be required to work after the maternity leave has expired. To be competitive, employers need to have a level playing ground with competing companies operating in other countries where maternity leave is paid by government.

This proposal is one of a package that will be presented to MCESD in the coming days.