

13th December 2024

## Media Release

### **Malta Employers' Association Former Director General Awarded the Midalja Għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika**

The Malta Employers' Association (MEA) proudly congratulates its outgoing Director General Joseph Farrugia on being awarded the Midalja Għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika for his contribution to employment law, industrial relations and social policy.

Joseph Farrugia, a stalwart of social dialogue, led the MEA for over two decades during which he guided the Association and its members through several challenges and milestones including Malta's accession to the EU and the adoption of the euro; the Social Pact; and the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the recent pandemic for which he was involved in negotiations on the wage subsidy scheme. He represented Malta and the MEA in numerous national and international fora including the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), SGI Europe, Eurofound and other EU Committees.

Over the past two decades, Mr Farrugia represented employers on the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) and on the Employment Relations Board (ERB) since its inception. Furthermore, he has been a major contributor to key negotiations at national level such as the 2008 shipyards workers agreement and the 2017 national minimum wage agreement.

Mr Farrugia continues to be active in the Association in his new role as Consultant dealing with employment and industrial relations matters and the Industrial Tribunal. Earlier this year, Mr Farrugia was also appointed as reserve member of the governing body of ILO based in Geneva.

The Midalja Għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika is indeed a worthy recognition for his tireless efforts aimed at constructive social dialogue, ensuring industrial peace and a smooth functioning of the local labour market all of which, in turn, contributed in no small measure towards ensuring the right environment for investment and job creation.

This is truly a remarkable achievement and a proud moment for Mr Farrugia and the Malta Employers Association.