



MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

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Media Release

Employers express Satisfaction on outcome of Discussions on Working Time

The Malta Employers' Association stated that the outcome of the discussions regarding the Working Time Directive are positive for Malta. All social partners in Malta were united in defending the right to an employee to work any amount of overtime subject to the opt-out clause. The Association said that the opt out clause already provides sufficient protection to employees who do not want to work in excess of an average of 48hrs per week, and it is unrealistic to enforce a limit of an average of 48 hours per week on all employees, even if and when they give their consent to do so.

Besides the overtime limit, the discussions about the directive also involved the issues of on call time and multiple contracts, but the main disagreement between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers was on the opt out clause. The MEA said that the matter of on call time is still unresolved and this is having a negative effect on many companies. Whilst the current Working Time Directive remains in force, the Malta Employers' Association appealed to the European Parliament to be realistic and more in tune with the fundamental need to generate productive employment opportunities by improving Europe's competitiveness.