

Trade Finance – Navigating COVID-19

Webinar

18 June 2020

Introduction

I welcome you for our fourth webinar that is being organised in collaboration with Bank of Valletta. I would like to thank first of all Joseph Rodgers, Trade Finance Executive, from Bank of Valletta who will be the main speaker for today's event.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a change both in the way we do and experience things. When we first started this journey of doing these webinars, we were not sure how these sessions will turn out to be. However, our objective was to reach out as much as possible despite the difficult times we have all experienced. We have decided to open up our events even to those who are not members of the Chamber. We have also decided to stream it live on our facebook page, though those who will be seeing it there, will not be able to interact with this session.

Though you will not have the opportunity to interact verbally during the session, on the bottom right hand corner of your screen there is the comments box. Please feel free to post your questions and comments throughout the session. Joseph Rodgers will be able to answer your questions and concerns towards the end of the session. The formal Q & A session will be opened after Joseph Rodgers's intervention.

To this end we hope that you will find this session useful. I now kindly invite our President, Joseph Borg, to make his introductory speech.

Closure of Webinar

We now come to the end of our webinar. I would like to thank you all for accepting our invitation to join us today. I sincerely hope that this webinar has been fruitful to all those who have participated. I would like to thank Joseph Rodgers for his interesting presentation.

I am happy to announce our fifth webinar for this year '**Digitalisation and Businesses – A Post COVID-19 scenario**' on **Friday 03rd July at 11:00 hrs**, that we will be organising in collaboration with Microsoft Malta and Bank of Valletta.

In its Communication on its proposals related to the EU recovery package on the 27th May, the European Commission highlighted that "our generational challenges – the green and digital transitions – are even more important now than before the crisis started"¹. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the necessity for businesses to shift their business model to a digital one. The scope of this webinar will be to examine the challenges for businesses in this scenario and possible solutions, both from a payments and operational perspective.

¹ European Commission (2020), *Europe's moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions*. COM(2020) 456 final, p.2.

Paris P. Savva, Territory Channel Manager for Microsoft, SMB (Cyprus – Malta) will be one of the main speakers during the event.

To this end I would like to invite you to continue following us, on our webpage and facebook page, as we will be announcing more details in the coming days and weeks. Thanks once again for joining us today.

Be Well, Keep Safe and Stay Connected!