THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

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Press Release: The Gozo Business Chamber's Annual General Meeting

On the 23 February 2022 the Gozo Business Chamber held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Queen Mary University Campus in Victoria, Gozo. The introductory part was dedicated to the commemoration of the memory of Marlene Muscat, former EUROPE DIRECT manager who passed away in November of last year. The Chamber is the host structure of this office. Daniel Borg highlighted the crucial role of Marlene Muscat in the set-up of this office as we know it today.

An important part of the Annual General Meeting is the presentation of the annual administrative report by the Chief Executive Officer of the Gozo Business Chamber, Daniel Borg. In his introductory remarks Daniel Borg highlighted that the Chamber will continue to support the green agenda and digitalisation and that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that we "not only need to work towards diversifying the Gozitan economy, but that we also need to move forward in those areas that are considered as traditional sectors." He mentioned as an example tourism. In his presentation the Chief Executive Officer focused specifically on the work done by the Chamber on digitalisation and the green economy, not only nationally but also internationally. He continued that as the country is on the brink of a general general election the business community needs to understand that regulation must be targeted towards all those segments which are required, and not only those aspects which suit the business community. Within this context comes in the responsibility of the "commercial community to see that its gains are sustainable and just, but also that of the politician to legislate not for one electoral term but for the long term future."

During each AGM the Chamber also presents a topic of interest to its members. This year Colonel Mark Said from Transport Malta presented the potential application of a rural airfield for Gozo. Interventions during this year's AGM featured also Hon Dr Chris Said, spokesman of the Opposition for Gozo, and the intervention of Hon Clint Camilleri, Minister for Gozo which was read by Ronald Sultana, Director Tourism and Economic Development, within the same Ministry.

Joseph Borg, President of the Gozo Business Chamber closed the Annual General Meeting. In his speech he highlighted the importance of protecting the environment, a topic on which the Chamber has worked consistenly in the past period. He remarked how the Chamber will continue to insist on "sustainable development for the island of Gozo, development which makes good use of the land and takes into consideration the recycling of waste, the impact of climate change, and the protection of biodiversity, and the cultural heritage of our island, sustainable economy, and green energy."

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He also remarked that the Chamber will continue to work on fostering good ethical conduct among the business community. This was a commitment that the Chamber took on the celebration of its 20th year anniversary. The Chamber is already working towards the organisation of a second event to be organised this year. Joseph Borg referred to his intervention made during the event on ethics in business organised last year where he highlighted how "labelling all business people as corrupt because of the behaviour of a small number of business people is not acceptable.Instead we should be answering questions such as: What is leading society to accept certain forms of behaviour, without any ethical consideration? What is motivating us to do business? How do we act to achieve business models that benefit the common good"

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Press Release: Il-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tal-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex

Fit-23 ta' Frar 2022 il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex organizzat il-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali fil-*Queen Mary University Campus* fil-belt Victoria f'Għawdex. Il-parti ntroduttiva kienet iddedikata lill-kommemorazzjoni tal-memorja ta' Marlene Muscat li kienet il-maniġer tal-uffiċċju tal-EUROPE DIRECT fi ħdan il-Kamra u li mietet f'Novembru li għadda. Daniel Borg tkellem dwar ir-rwol kruċjali ta' Marlene Muscat biex tinbena l-istruttura tal-EUROPE DIRECT fi ħdan il-Kamra.

Parti mportanti tal-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali hija l-preżentazzjoni tar-rapport amministrattiv mill-Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex, Daniel Borg. Fil-kummenti ntroduttorji Daniel Borg irrimarka kif il-Kamra se tkompli tagħti s-sapport tagħha lill-aġenda l-ħadra u d-diġitalizzazjoni u li l-pandemija tal-COVID-19 uriet li "mhux biss iridu nkomplu naħdmu biex verament niddiversifikaw l-ekonomija Għawdxija, imma wkoll f'dawk li huma s-setturi tradizzjonali irridu nimxu 'l quddiem." Hu semma bħala eżempju t-turiżmu. Fil-preżentazzjoni tiegħu l-Kap Eżekuttiv iffoka fuq il-ħidma tal-Kamra tan-Negozju fuq id-diġitalizzazjoni u l-ekonomija l-ħadra, mhux biss fuq livell nazzjonali 'mma wkoll internazzjonali. Hu kompla kif hekk kif il-pajjiż qiegħed f'lejlet elezzjoni ġenerali il-komunita' kummerċjali għandha bżonn tifhem li r-regolamentazzjoni trid isseħħ f'kull settur li hu neċessarju, u mhux fuq dawk l-aspetti biss li trid il-komunita' kummerċjali. F'dan il-kuntest tidħol "ir-responsabilta' tas-settur kummerċjali li jara li l-qligħ tiegħu ikun wieħed sostenibbli u ġust, imma wkoll tal-politiku li jilleġiżla mhux għal terminu elettorali imma għall-ġejjieni fit-tul".

F'kull Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali il-Kamra tistieden kelliem biex jagħti preżentazzjoni fuq suġġett ta' interess għall-komunita kummerċjali. Din is-sena l-Kurunell Mark Said ta preżentazzjoni fuq il-potenzjal ta' *rural airfield* f'Għawdex. L-interventi fil-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali kienu jinkludu l-intervent tal-kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni għal Għawdex, l-Onorevoli Dr Chris Said, kif ukoll l-intervent tal-Onorevoli Clint Camilleri, Ministru għal Għawdex, li ġie moqri minn Ronald Sultana, Direttur għat-Turiżmu u Żvilupp Ekonomiku fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex.

Joseph Borg, President tal-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex għalaq il-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali. Fid-diskors tiegħu hu saħaq fuq l-importanza li nipproteġu l-ambjent, suġġett li l-Kamra ħadmet konsistentament fuqu f'dan l-aħħar perjodu. Hu rrimarka kif il-Kamra se tkompli taħdem fuq "żvilupp sostenibbli għal gżira tagħna, żvilupp li jagħti każ tal-użu tajjeb tal-art, tat-tibdil fil-klima, tal-iskart u r-riċiklaġġ tiegħu, tal-protezzjoni tal-biodiversita', tal-wirt naturali u kulturali ta' gżiritna, tal-ekonomija sostenibbli, u tal-enerġija ħadra."

Hu rrimarka wkoll li bħala Kamra se tkompli taħdem biex issaħħaħ kondotta etika tajba fost il-komunita' kummerċjali. Dan kien impenn li l-Kamra ħadet f'għeluq l-għoxrin sena tagħha. Il-Kamra ġa qed taħdem biex torganizza t-tieni avveniment, wara li s-sena l-oħra ġiet organizzata konferenza li ddiskutiet din it-tema. Joseph Borg irrefera għall-intervent li kien għamel f'dik il-konferenza fejn kien qal li "mhux aċċettabli li n-negozjanti kollha jiġu ttimbrati bħala nies korrotti. Minflok irridu nistaqsu ċertu mistoqsijiet bħal: "X'qed iwassal is-soċjeta biex taċċetta ċertu forom ta' mġieba, mingħajr l-ebda kunsiderazzjoni etika? X'qed jimmotivana biex nagħmlu n-negozju? Kif nistgħu naġixxu biex nibnu mudelli ta' negozju li jibbenefikaw il-ġid komuni."