

EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: "The European Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plan in Malta"

<i>Date & location:</i>	22 September 2022, 9:00AM – 13:45 PM. Maltese Parliament, Chamber.
<i>Organiser(s):</i>	EUFORES
<i>Summary</i>	<p>On Thursday 22 September we organised a national parliamentary workshop in the Parliament of Malta on renewable energy and energy efficiency, in cooperation with the Maltese Parliament, Deputy Speaker and Member of the Maltese Parliament Mr. David Agius and the Ministry for Environment, Energy and Enterprise. Overall, the workshop had a great attendance, high level speakers and good discussions also during the informal breaks.</p> <p>Summary of the event:</p> <p>David Agius, Deputy Speaker & MP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today we all have a role to play to achieve higher proportion of renewables in the energy mix and to implement energy efficiency. Ultimately, we are all consumers. • When speaking in the context of the security and independence of energy supply, I am struck by the fact that renewable energy sources are much less likely to be impacted by geo-political considerations. • Malta, a small island state set the example, when in 1988 it put forward a UN General Assembly Resolution by requesting the inclusion of climate change on the Agenda of the 43rd session of the General Assembly. • The Maltese Parliament has acted in many ways in the promotion of renewable energy sources in the fight against climate change:



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- **In 2019 Parliament unanimously declared a climate emergency, where MPs voted to call on the government to take new measures in response to climate change.**
- **In 2020, a draft climate change toolkit was launched in Malta with the aim of serving as a practical manual for parliamentarians to publish good practices within their legislations and use them to adopt new initiatives to fight climate change issues.**

Ciaran Cuffe, MEP & President of EUFORES

- Thanks to the Parliament and David Agius,
- Thanks to the activists, Miriam Dalli, to Josianne Cutajar and Hans vans Steen
- Welcome all Maltese MPs
- **We have the EU Green Deal but with the war we need to accelerate climate action**
- **We are revising 20 pieces of legislations at the EU Parliament.**
- **As rapporteur of the building directive, I have this at heart.**
- Malta is well placed to make a difference in Europe.

Christine Deasey, Young climate activist

- If we look at vegan options, price have gone up to 50%, why are the people who believe in the environment being punished?
- Climate change affects disabled people even more
- **There are not enough actions, initiatives should be more accessible to people**
- **If there is no planet it is useless to have a job or a stable economy, I believe a lot has been done we need to do more**
- **All needs to be included in the discussion, we need the power to people**
- It is far more important it affects everybody, please keep doing what you are doing and include us the normal people
- We need a quick fix, we need to get people on board, if we do not get population on board legislation is just paper

SESSION1:

Miriam Dalli, Minister for the Environment, Energy:

- Until a few years ago there was scepticism on the existence of climate change
- Today we are hearing more different voices and people acknowledging it as a pressing issue
- Challenging times in the energy sector



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- **Solutions we present should be an opportunity to change what we were doing before investing in cleaner technologies and EE**
- **Public and private sector should work together to ensure energy saving wherever possible**
- **Electrification of vehicles, EE , long term plan to attain climate goals**
- **Challenges: tackling transport and investing in clean energy sources**
- **Electrification of transport:**
 - New 30 million investment will decrease electricity consumption
 - Investments will not only enable us to reach higher targets they will ensure affordability security and autonomy
- **Due to the limited space in Malta, we have limits for alternatives, we need to look beyond, offshore, floating renewables investment is relevant for Malta.**
- **In the field of energy efficiency, we need financial support to ensure energy savings, low-income families are supported and can move to cleaner sources of energy**
- **We need measures that promote EE in buildings that create jobs, growth, and opportunity of export**

Josianne Cutajar, Maltese MEP

- Thank you I am proud to be here
- **EU citizens affected by the transition are the most vulnerable, we have to leave none behind**
- For islands, independent energy supply is a priority we need to keep in mind Malta's particularity. Malta is looking into offshore wind.
- 5 years ago, in Malta EU leaders subscribed to the Valletta Declaration on EU islands
- **Despite challenges islands face they have potentials, we need Energy island strategy**
- **I am confident Malta will offer solution for decarbonization,**
- **Funds from EU are to be allocated to boost smarter economy**
- I would like to mention a Danish Island as example which is becoming carbon neutral.
- When we speak of climate people are worried, they will not keep up
- **With EE and RES we can go toward more affordable energy**

Hans van Steen, DG ENER, European Commission :

- We are facing a triple crisis: climate change, security of supply crisis we at the Commission are worried about this winter, energy prices.



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- **We need to become more EE and speed up RES deployment and energy transition**
- **Green Deal is more important now than ever we need to speed up the fit for 55 package**
- We need the Council and MS in trialogues to be constructive to move fast
- **We all agree on the objectives if we do not have the legislation that allows to go there it is not going to happen**
- RES and EE can help in this crisis
- **EE helps in the immediate, immediate effect and delivery depends on our changed behaviours**
- **Res can be fast, issue switch supply change**
- **In EU we are speeding up permitting, bottleneck in EU, gets too long**
- Green deal was presented during Covid and Before the War in Ukraine
- EE needs to be part of that, EE is good
- **In RES more projects should be part of the National Plan, more money for emission trading scheme**
- Commission set up a toolbox to help members states to alleviate impact for consumers and industries
- It is not enough, after war we see all this is affecting the energy sector.
- **Repower EU as a way to save energy and diversify supplies, fill up gas storages**
- **Compared to rest EU Malta energy situation is different: high share of fossil fuel in the energy mix, lower share of RES, half the share of RES than EU average explained by specific characteristics of Malta, like the lack of space but more can be done.**
- **We need to do everything, we welcome Malta reached its target for 2020 10%, more expensive the offshore option but it's a good technology for Malta**
- **The real solutions lie in EE**

SESSION 2 :

Chris Bonett, MP :

- Climate strategy and economic policy are intertwined, green growth is the only way to achieve climate growth.
- Malta's low carbon development strategy addresses decarbonization.
- **Malta requires strong policy to increase level of public awareness**
- **EU funds, have a crucial role to play in this area, 2020 million euros will be invested by Malta.**
- Malta Recovery Plan was presented as one of the Greener in the Commission.



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- **1st carbon neutral school, by 2025 we will replace public buses with electric busses.**

Bonnie Attard, Secretary General, Chamber of Engineers:

- **EE should be seen as a resource from itself**
- Health and energy are the sectors with which humanity cannot live without, lately they have both been challenged
- A time where fossil fuel prices are reaching sky level prices, challenge due to the dependency on it
- **A bad use of energy efficiently leads to energy poverty, Malta has a mild climate but 10% of the population cannot cool their households.**
- **On the ground there is lack of awareness on energy efficiency**
- **Engineer should be the reference point and be included in the design to sustainability**
- **The crisis is an opportunity, 2021 EU imported 40% gas**

Abigail Cutajar, Ministry

- The transition can happen, but it needs to happen fast
- Today the EU only imports 9 % of gas from Russia compared to the 40 % in 2021
- The storing of electricity is affecting the price of electricity, which is 9 times more expensive, as a result, the price raise will impact our economy
- **Security of supply is a new challenge we are going through which pushes for independence of supply**
- **In Malta our three pillars to make the transition happen are increased energy efficiency, shift direct electrification, use of RES**
- Offshore RES strategy of the EU, we are preparing a platform to push Malta to this transition
- **As a nation we are scarce on land but have close proximity shores, the grid locations are closer, lower infrastructure investment.**
- **We need strong promotion of EE, support vulnerable, and conscious energy use**
- **Unlocking private capital is critical for transition, invest more in green projects**

Alison Mizzo, President Malta Business Bureau

- **As an island we experience issues in insularity, heavy reliance on import for food and inbound tourism which is related to weather condition**
- **Businesses will have to come up with greener technologies in this situation and will rethink the way they operate**



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- **Businesses will have to rethink the use of materials, water consumption and the waste**
- **Businesses have potential to increase EE levels, some are unaware about the benefits of EE**
- **Public authority should invest in capacity building, to support businesses who have limited capacity and knowledge on EE**
- **Public building and infrastructure should lead by example, but government needs to ensure that funding is shared with private buildings too**
- **Bureaucracy should be kept at the minimum**
- **Drive to incentivise EE measures should be pushed harder**
- **A lack of investment will bring limited result in EE**

SESSION 3

Malte Gephart, Guidehouse

- Impact of narratives in EE policy implementation
- One aspect we looked at in this project how are narratives fitted with the broader societal discourse
- **Today we have a toolbox of good EE policy instruments who have performed well in practice**
- **We still experience insufficient implementation of EE policies**
- We grouped the formulation of policies in different areas:
- **Participation and Transparency:** We need communication and transparent databases
- **Economic Aspect:** energy efficiency should talk about a real business case, the image of technologies is a crucial element, EE should be seen as an integral improvement of the production cycle
- **Connotation of Change:** we need to make people understand it is good to be a front-runner, we should focus on research innovation and training and upskilling
- **Social Acceptance** needs to take place to make the transition happen.
- There has always been a supply side view, but we need to have a demand side view as well

What do you think about what is presented about the need to embed narratives in policies? Do you have an example where policy was presented in a convincing way?

Mark Anthony Sammut, MP:

- **EE means doing more with less**
- **We should take EE seriously; we need political will to implement**



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Charles Yousif, University Malta:

- **The Maltese parliament is one of the greenest parliaments of EU: there is photovoltaics, smart systems, I did not see EPC certificates**
- I want to highlight that **Malta has the lowest emission per capital**, if I normalize these values with the population, I come up with a reduction of 13%.
- **Government has made a lot of improvements in the supply side and not on the demand side**
- **We are seeing the energy is at the constant price thanks to the financial measures of the government, we are encouraged to be a business as usual**
- Malta has exemption of 15% reduction, **I would have loved a commitment during this year that does not increase the energy consumption**
- **This system does not support EE, all the shops have their doors open with air conditioning on summer and winter**
- If you do this in France you will have to pay a fine
- Do we need to come to this point to see that a few things done in the commerce should not be done?
- **Because these businesses have the means to pay so they do not care**
- **With the temperatures in Malta if you set the airconditioning at 26 they will work harder. With a van you can afford 26.5 which should be the limit.**
- Second question on highlighting EE policies that are interesting:
- **In 2009 government gave LED lights to household, there is a directive where LEDS need to be eliminated from the market? How can we safely dispose of them?**
- Recycling of waste has been the flagship of this government; we need to do more on that. Waste is energy wasted, we need to reduce it
- **Electromobility has been mentioned, the Ministry wants to open the market for private investor for charging point. We should provide a scheme with more incentives.**
- I recommend that EU for Res, all parliaments should have their energy bills online and should lead by example
- The second point is **why do we keep calling RES alternative energy? Fossil fuels should be called alternative energy. By changing the name people start understanding we need to cater from where we get our RES energy.**

Sandro Lauri, Policy Officer, Energy and Water Agency:

- It is instructive to hear the opinions on EE, the role of the agency where I am involved supports the ministry to develop the policies



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- **We manage an education centre, called AIN where we have daily young students to learn by playing about water and energy conservation**
- **Water in Malta is important as we produce half of it by using energy to desalinate the water**
- We go to the households; we have a scheme where we do home visits to learn how best to address challenges faced on a daily basis
- We also audit in SMEs
- The challenges we are facing is to have uptake of this schemes
- The money put by the government for these schemes is not taken up
- The issue is the limitation of the design post by state aid measures
- **You can get more efficient buildings if you do it by design, we need to engage more with the professional sector of architect and engineers**
- **Building energy efficient buildings from day one is easier than renovating**

Diane Cassar, Project Manager, MIEMA:

- As an energy agency, from our perspective, ultimately, we are all consumers and that is true
- **If the message does not get through, we have a big gap to address**
- people worry about making the decision between food and heating
- incentives are fundamental for people to invest in RES directly and to engage everyone
- **We are involved in nationwide educational campaign where we addressed all households, important to engage different actors in society**

Malte Gephart:

- Good to hear the importance you put on the educational aspect.

Alexander Tranter, Independent energy expert:

Malta is first EU nation launched the smart grid initiative; **we have amount of energy data sitting in the cloud that should be utilized to understand behavioural patterns**

Take up of energy audience has not been enough

We need to utilize and study these data; I would advocate policy makers to look at this to see how this data can improve further with direct campaigns



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<p><i>Objective & main programme point</i></p>	<p>The main objective of the workshop was to trigger a fruitful discussion on the latest situation on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources development in Malta and more specifically the European Green Deal, the Climate Law and the Recovery Plan that will improve the status of the Maltese National energy efficiency and renewable energy sources legislation and instruments.</p> <p>The discussion took place between Members of Maltese and European Parliament, representatives of ministries, industry, NGOs, scientists and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Another objective was that to introduce the EEW4 survey results to the Maltese energy community in order to brainstorm on successful narrative development for the implementation of policies that aim at the energy transition.</p>
<p><i>Conclusions</i></p>	<p>The event presented the current situation for energy efficiency and renewable energies in Malta, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Energy Efficiency should be seen as a resource from itself as Bonnie Attard phrased. David Agius, Deputy Speaker & MP called on all citizens to implement energy efficiency as ultimately, we are all consumers. A criticism from the young climate activist came loud and clear, initiatives in the field of energy should be more accessible to people, we must leave none behind.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment stated that in the field of energy efficiency, we need financial support to ensure energy savings, low-income families are supported and can move to cleaner sources of energy. We also need measures that promote EE in buildings that create jobs, growth, and opportunity of export.</p> <p>The Commission contributed underlining the importance of the Green Deal, we need to speed up the fit for 55 packages. We all agree on the objectives if we do not have the legislation that allows to go there it is not going to happen. Also, EE will help in this crisis in the immediate and delivery depends on our changed behaviours.</p> <p>Bonnie Attard from the Chamber of Engineers, stated engineer should be the reference point and be included in the design to sustainability, it was generally agreed that building energy efficient buildings from day one is easier than renovating.</p>





ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Alison Mizzi, President Malta Business Bureau pointed out that businesses will have to rethink the use of materials, water consumption and the waste as they have the potential to increase EE levels. Public authority should invest in capacity building, to support businesses who have limited capacity and knowledge on EE

The EEW4 survey results were presented by Malte Gephart and well received. Mark Anthony Sammut, agreed that we should take EE seriously and that we need political will to implement. Charles Yousif, University Malta stated that the government has made a lot of improvements in the supply side and not on the demand side. His main point of criticism is that this system does not support EE, all the shops have their doors open with air conditioning on summer and winter as the incentives given to help them do not make them conscious consumers of energy. In general, he would like to see all public building to lead by example and show their energy consumption online including Commission and Parliament.

Diane Cassar, Project Manager, MIEMA agreed with Malte Gephart on the role of education to promote EE, they are involved in nationwide educational campaign where they address all households as it is important to engage different actors in society.

Also, on the issue of transparency and data, Alexander Tranter stated that we have amount of energy data sitting in the cloud that should be utilized to understand behavioural patterns

Programme



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WORKSHOP

**The European Green Deal and the
National Energy and Climate Plan in Malta**

Organized in cooperation with the Maltese House of Representatives

**22 SEPTEMBER 2022
9:00 – 13:45 VALLETTA TIME**

Parliament Building, The Chamber, Freedom Square, Valletta

Working language: English

OPENING SESSION - 9:00 - 9:30

- **9:00 - 9:05** **Opening words**
Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORIS
- **9:05 - 9:15** **Welcoming speech**
David Agius, Deputy Speaker and Member of the House of Representatives
- **9:15 - 9:20** **Welcoming speech**
Ciaran Cuffe, Member of European Parliament & President of EUFORIS
- **9:20 - 9:30** **Climate action: a main driver for change**
Christine Ann Deasey, Climate Activist in Malta



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SESSION 1 - 9:30 - 10:15

Setting the ambition for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Malta

The session will present the current situation for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Malta, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan. The session intends to set the picture of the present and discuss the development of policies for the renewable energy and energy efficiency system of the future for Malta.

Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **9:30 - 9:40** **The role of renewable energy and energy efficiency for the Maltese green energy transition**
Miriam Dalli, Minister for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise
- **9:40 - 9:50** **Energy democracy: Public policies and best practices to end energy poverty**
Cressida Galea, Member of the House of Representatives
- **9:50 - 10:00** **The switch to a climate neutral island**
Josianne Cutajar, Member of European Parliament
- **10:00 - 10:10** **The challenges for EU islands for the integration and development of a sustainable carbon neutral energy grid and system**
Hans van Steen, Principal Adviser for an integrated renewable energy strategy towards the 2050 carbon neutrality objective, DG ENER, European Commission

10:10 – 10:15 Questions and Answers

10:15 – 10:30 Break



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH



SESSION 2 – 10:30 – 11:15

EU energy efficiency policy implementation in Malta

This session discusses success stories on implementing energy efficiency policies in Malta and good practices for boosting investments. Held as part of the Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project, the session aims at exploring the conditions and argumentative drivers for effective policies.

Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **10:30 – 10:40** **A Maltese perspective on the opportunities and challenges to reach ambitious energy efficiency targets**
Chris Bonett, Member of the House Representatives
- **10:40 - 10:50** **Maltese energy efficiency trends and policies by sector**
Bonnie Attard, Secretary General, Chamber of Engineers
- **10:50 - 11:00** **Tackling the Energy Crisis: How increased energy efficiency can enable Security and Affordability**
Abigail Cutajar, Advisor on Energy and Sustainable Development to the Minister for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise
- **11:00 - 11:10** **A perspective from business on how to support Maltese investments in energy efficiency**
Alison Mizzi, President, Malta Business Bureau - MBB

11h10 - 11h20 Questions and Answers



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SESSION 3 – ENERGY EFFICIENCY - 11:15 - 12:00

Enabling factors and barriers for implementing energy efficiency in Malta

The Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project tries to create a better understanding of the national debate and motivation on efficiency policies and good practices. This session focuses on the influential narratives in Malta. Preliminary feedback received from business stakeholders in the project will be part of the discussion.

Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **11:20 - 11:30** **Successful narratives in the Maltese context for effective policy implementation**
Malte Gephart, Associate Director Energy, Sustainability and Infrastructure, Guidehouse
- **11:30 - 11:50** **Expert Panel**
Moderator: Malte Gephart, Associate Director Energy, Sustainability and Infrastructure, Guidehouse
 - Mark Anthony Sammut, Member of the House of Representatives
 - Charles Yousif, Associate Professor, Institute for Sustainable Energy, University of Malta & Secretary General at Malta Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies Association– MEEREA
 - Sandro Lauri, Chief Energy Policy Officer, Energy and Water Agency
 - Diane Cassar, Project Manager & Finance Officer, Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency – MIEMA

11:50 - 12:00 Questions and Answers

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch Break

Sessions 1, 2 and 3 are organized in the framework of the Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project. Energy Efficiency Watch 4 (EEW4) is a HORIZON 2020 project, coordination, and support action, aiming at supporting policy makers in EU MS in improving the degree of a successful implementation of policy instruments for energy efficiency, and thus contributing to reaching the target of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED).



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Pictures



Photo: DOI - Pierre Sammut



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