



**MALTA ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND  
RENEWABLE ENERGIES ASSOCIATION  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Is Malta Seriously Acting on Energy Saving and Renewable Energies? 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2007**

Over thirty representatives from local companies specialised in renewable energies and energy efficiency attending a Business Forum on 28 February called for a more dynamic government policy to promote energy efficiency and use of alternative energy sources.

The Forum on Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency, sponsored by the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise, was organised by the NGO, Malta Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies Association

Participants discussed the present status of legislation and policies, sales, consumer incentives and the need for a more structured and dynamic government policy.

#### Questionnaire

Answers to a comprehensive MEEREA questionnaire sent out before the seminar indicated disappointment of the business community with the present status of legislation and policies. MEEREA agrees with the respondents that adequate legislation would bring about the much needed boom in energy efficiency and renewable energy business activities. The fact that the Draft Energy Policy and the Draft Renewable Energy Policy are still pending, six months after being published does not augur well for this country's standing.

MEEREA also agrees with answers stating that legislation is not complete without offering real incentives. The incentives offered by Government so far for the installation of solar water heaters, solar photovoltaics and small wind turbines for electricity production, roof insulation and electric cars have not yielded the expected results.

Participants have expressed their concern on Enemalta's conditions with regards to net-metering and feed-in tariffs for electricity produced by householders, as these are not encouraging renewable energy installations.

MEEREA and the respondents believe that pressure from the European Commission could accelerate local implementation of energy saving and renewable energy measures in Malta.

#### **MEEREA's CALL**

MEEREA stresses the imperative need for education at all levels about energy saving, use of energy efficient methods and appliances and the implementation of renewable energy systems.

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Member of the World Council of Renewable Energy

Member of the International **INFORSE-EUROPE** Network for Sustainable Energy

MEEREA decries the lack of information on energy saving and renewable energy, which is a serious constraint on consumers to take action, and calls on Government to open a free help line whereby citizens can phone in with their queries on such topics and receive advice.

MEEREA is also calling on Government to set up a National Independent Energy Commission composed of knowledgeable people, who will identify the nation's long-term interests and make concrete and practical proposals relating to the three main issues of legislation, incentives and education in energy saving and renewable energies.