



MALTA COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

The Digital Juncture

Date: 10th November 2022

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



HON. SILVIO SCHEMBRI

Minister for the Economy, European Funds And Lands

Silvio Schembri is a Maltese politician and academic currently serving as Minister for the Economy, EU Funds and Lands.

Previously, he was the Minister responsible for the Economy and Industry, and before this served as Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation.

Hon Schembri attained a master's degree in Economy right after graduating with a Bachelors of Honours in Economics from the University of Malta.

Hon Schembri started off his career by working in a private bank, and was later tasked with the role of Supervisor Economist within the Central Bank of Malta.

Schembri had also served as the chairperson of the Responsible Gaming Foundation Malta on a voluntary basis, an independent institution which was set up with the aim of helping, educating and preventing problems related to gambling. He accepted the responsibility on a voluntary basis. As a Member of Parliament, he also chaired the parliamentary committee for economic and financial affairs and worked as an advisor for the then Economy Affairs Ministry.

He was also the founding member and general manager of the Gal Xlokk foundation.

During his tenure as Junior Minister for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation he was the brains behind Malta's first Artificial Intelligence Strategy which is considered to be among the top 10 AI strategies in the world as well as the launch of the AI Certification Programme - the first of its kind worldwide. Another significant milestone is that of putting the Maltese Government among the first in the world to draw up a strategy for the country tied to the Esports and Videogame Development industries, a step which caught the attention of big players in the field across the globe. He was also behind Malta becoming the world's first Blockchain regulated state. He also worked on seeing that Malta was the first country to put education certificates on Blockchain.

As Minister for the Economy and Industry, he reached a number of milestones in such a short span, most especially during the pandemic, where he played a central and vital role in creating and implementing aid packages on behalf of the Maltese Government to support families and businesses. Known as the Covid-19 economic regeneration plan – it consisted of wage supplements, rent and electricity subsidies, tax incentives and the highly successful voucher scheme. The voucher scheme led to a significant economic cash injection in a time of crisis as it helped bring about confidence in spending. Under his watch, Malta can boast of the lowest unemployment levels and highest rates of employment, and at times, even during the pandemic, Malta surpassed its pre-COVID successes.

Today, Schembri is entrusted with one of the Maltese Government's largest portfolios, which includes the Economic, EU funds and Lands' sectors.



MEP ALEX AGIUS SALIBA

Member of the European Parliament

Agius Saliba (born 31 January 1988) is a Maltese politician who was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 2019 on behalf of the Labour Party.

Agius Saliba was a journalist for 5 years before he graduated as a lawyer. Since then, he worked as a legal advisor to a number of Ministers, including Ministers Helena Dalli (Malta's European Commissioner) and Ian Borg, and Parliamentary Secretary Stefan Buontempo. He was appointed as Head of the European Union Secretariat in 2017 but stepped down to contest elections in 2018.

Agius Saliba's political career started when he was still relatively young. At 17 years of age, he became involved in students politics and occupied the Secretary General post of Pulse – a social democratic student organisation. He then moved to the Labour Party youth branch, Forum Żgħażaġħ Laburisti, where he occupied the role of Secretary General and later on became President.

After being successfully elected to the European Parliament, Alex Agius Saliba has been serving on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, the Committee on Petitions as Coordinator, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. In addition to his committee assignments, he is part of the Parliament's delegations to the ACP–EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Delegation for Relations with Palestine and to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean. Agius Saliba was also appointed as co-chair of the MEP Alliance for Mental Health and Vice-President of the Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside Intergroup.

Agius Saliba, Vice President of the Socialists and Democrats at the European Parliament, was also appointed as rapporteur of the Digital Services Act and Common Charger (RED) by the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee and on the Right to Disconnect by the Employment Committee at the European Parliament. He was also appointed as the rapporteur on the protection of Persons with Disabilities by the Committee on Petitions.



JESMOND BUJEJA

Chief Executive Officer, Malta Communications Authority

Mr Jesmond Bugeja is an accomplished management professional with an extensive track record in managing complex operations in the public and private sector. He held senior executive management roles across diverse industries including ICT, Telecommunications and Identity Management.

Mr. Bugeja has a strong background in telecommunications network management and policy development having worked in the industry for more than 15 years. He started his career with the then national telecommunications operator in Malta and subsequently held operational and managerial roles at Ericsson AB in Stockholm, Sweden.

He is currently the Chief Executive Officer and acting Chairman of the Maltese regulatory authority for electronic communications - the Malta Communications Authority. Mr Bugeja represents Malta in the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and is a member of the Board of Administrators of Start-up Island.

Mr. Bugeja holds a Master's Degree in Leadership and Management from the University of South Wales. He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Marketing, is a certified Prince 2 Project Management Professional and a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer.



BERNARD AGIUS

Manager, Digital Services, Malta Communications Authority

Dr Bernard Agius is responsible for digital services policy and initiatives at the Malta Communications Authority. With over 25 years' experience in both public and private sectors, his expertise spans across management, ICT and education. He holds a Doctorate in Business Administration from Durham Business School with a research focus on ICT adoption and diffusion.



MARCELLE ATTARD

Project Coordinator, Malta Communications Authority

Marcelle Attard is a project coordinator at the MCA. She was actively involved in the drafting and setting up of the local Web Accessibility Directive initiative and is currently managing the monitoring process on public sector websites and apps. Marcelle is also involved in the drafting of a number of Awareness Raising initiatives related to Web Accessibility, in the WAD EU Reporting and is an active member of the Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group (WADEX)



VERONICA BOCAROVA

Head of Regulatory Training and Capacity Building, Cullen International

With 20 years of professional experience in electronic communications, digital economy and consumer protection regulation Veronica is responsible for Cullen International's regulatory training portfolio. She has developed training programmes for multiple industry stakeholders, including the European Commission, the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), national policy making bodies and regulators across the globe. Furthermore, she has contributed as one of the lead authors to a study supporting the European Commission's 2016 review of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications and proposals for the European Electronic Communications Code. Before joining Cullen International, Veronica worked for Stockholm-based Ericsson business consulting practice.



DENISE BORDA

Senior eCommerce Analyst, Malta Communications Authority

Denise Borda has been actively involved in eCommerce regulation, as well as in the implementation of initiatives aimed at increasing eCommerce uptake, for the last 14 years. She forms part of the team that is responsible for the drafting and implementation of the national strategy for eCommerce and is the representative for Malta at the eCommerce Expert Group meetings held in Brussels.



KENNETH BRINCAT

Chief Executive Officer, Malta Digital Innovation Authority

Enhancing the successes achieved during the initial years of the MDIA, Mr Brincat is spearheading the strategic direction of digital innovation in Malta. He holds a Master of Science Degree in HR and Training and is currently reading for a Doctorate in Business Administration.



LUCIANO BRINCAT

Deputy Head, Fintech Supervision, Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA)

Luciano Brincat is a Deputy Head within the Fintech Supervision function of the MFSA, responsible for the implementation of the MFSA's FinTech initiatives. Throughout his career Luciano has been actively engaged in financial regulation and the development thereof, with a particular interest in the regulatory implications arising from innovation in the financial services landscape. Luciano was previously involved in the regulation and supervision of investment firms as well as the development of the Virtual Financial Assets Framework, MFSA FinTech Strategy and MFSA FinTech Regulatory Sandbox. Luciano holds a Bachelor of honours degree in Economics and MSc in Banking and Finance from the University of Malta.



JANSON CHETCUTI

Senior Systems Analyst, Project Management Office, Information Management Unit at Ministry for Health

Mr Janson Chetcuti is an IT Professional that has an eye for detail and vision. Always willing to learn about new technologies and techniques that this industry has to offer. He is a Zend Certified Web Engineer but is also competent on hosting environments such as Azure. For Mr Chetcuti, working within a team in such industry is valuable.



OLIVIER DELOS

Senior eSecurity & eSolutions Consultant, SEALED

SEALED is a niche consulting firm grouping the skills and expertise from two acknowledged senior e-Security & e-Solutions consultants based in Belgium, Sylvie Lacroix (CISA, CSXF) and Olivier Delos (CISSP, CISA), combining academic, practical (hands on) and demonstrated experience in technical, standardisation, legal, and business implementation aspects of electronic identities, eID cards and passports schemes, electronic signatures and related ancillary trust services. They each have more than 25 years of professional experience within Belgium, Europe and beyond.

Olivier Delos is a senior eSecurity & eSolutions consultant based in Belgium; he has 30 years of professional experience. He is a European recognised expert in eSignatures, eProofs, PKI and eID design & consulting, combining technical and business expertise in these matters.



JOSEPH FARRUGIA

Director General, Malta Employers Association

Mr Joseph Farrugia has occupied the post of Director General of the Malta Employers' Association since 2001. He is also a visiting lecturer at the Department of Marketing at the University of Malta.



MARCO MIOZZI

Senior Legal Counsel, Office of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner

Marco Miozzi has served as Senior Legal Counsel at the IDPC, the national data protection regulatory authority in Malta, for the last two years. In this role, he routinely works on data protection complaints and personal data breaches received by the IDPC and he regularly attends expert groups at EU level dealing with the interpretation of European data protection law.

Previously, Marco has worked both as data protection officer and legal and compliance executive. Early in his career, Marco spent some months at an international organisation in the law enforcement domain and at an agency of the European Union which forms part of the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' Network.



MARCEL MIZZI

Vice - President, Finance & Administration, Malta Chamber of SMEs

Marcel Mizzi successfully managed various businesses including various retail and service enterprises throughout the years. Today, he is an ICT consultant and an Internet application solution provider. Mizzi holds ICT related BSc and MSc qualifications. Besides his passion for all things digital, Mizzi is also very involved in sustainable waste management solutions. In his many years at The Malta Chamber of SMEs he has effectively used this knowledge and experience to the advantage of the Chamber.



MARTHESE PORTELLI

CEO, Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise & Industry

Dr Portelli is a law graduate from the University of Malta specialized in applied business law and IT. Throughout her 27 years of working experience she occupied several managerial posts and spearheaded nationwide projects within the public and the private sector.

In 2013 she contested the general election successfully and was re-elected again in 2017, during which she shadowed challenging portfolios including EU affairs, energy, environment, transport, infrastructure, capital projects, planning and property.

Following her departure from politics, she ventured into the sphere of sectoral representation while working as a management consultant in her professional capacity.

Since 1st May 2021 she took on the role as CEO of The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry. She is also a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta and sits on the Board of Directors of PBS Ltd, Malta Business Bureau (MBB), Education Malta and Tech.MT.



JOSEPH SEYCHELL

Senior Manager ICT & Technologies, Malta Communications Authority

Joseph Seychell has been working in the IT industry for more than 25 years in both the private and public sectors, having been involved at various levels from hands-on technical work to consulting services and management. His role at the Malta Communications Authority is focused on IT management and on the digital services regulatory remit of the Authority comprising platforms, eCommerce, trust services and digital inclusion.



ROBERT SPITERI STAINES

Consultant, Health Programme, Programme Management Department at MITA

Robert Spiteri Staines is an IT practitioner with extensive experience in the implementation of IT projects in both the private and public sectors. Since joining the Health Programme within the Government of Malta's IT agency MITA, Robert has worked on several high-profile IT projects for the Maltese Public Health Service, including the design, development and implementation of the highly acclaimed health portal myHealth.gov.mt.



CLÁUDIO TEIXEIRA

Claudio Teixeira, Legal Officer, BEUC - The European Consumer Association

Cláudio Teixeira is a Digital Rights Legal Officer with the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC). Working in BEUC's Digital Team, he is currently responsible for Telecoms and Cybersecurity and covering the Digital Services Act.



ODETTE VELLA

Director, Information and Research Directorate, Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority

Odette Vella has been working in consumer affairs for the past 20 years. Since 2016 she holds the position of Director Information, Education and Research at the Office for Consumer Affairs within the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority. Ms. Vella's main areas of work include providing information and advice to both consumers and the local business community on matters relating to consumer affairs.



LAWRENCE ZAMMIT

Lawrence Zammit, Founding Partner and Director, misco

Lawrence Zammit is a Founding Partner and a Director of misco. At misco he serves as a consultant to a number of business organisations across a range of economic sectors and has led a number of marketing and opinion research assignments.