



Convening of the Eighth Monitoring Committee Meeting

28 March 2023

The eighth meeting of the Monitoring Committee set up to monitor the workings for the process of the granting of Maltese citizenship by naturalisation for exceptional services (GCES), and in terms of the previous programme, namely the Individual Investor Programme (IIP) was held on the 27 of March 2023. This Committee is set up as per provisions of Article 25B of the Maltese Citizenship Act (Cap 188) and is composed of the Prime Minister the Hon Dr Robert Abela (who presides over this Committee), the Minister responsible for matters relating to Maltese Citizenship, the Hon. Dr Byron Camilleri, and the Leader of the Opposition Dr Bernard Grech. Mr Carmel L. De Gabriele (Regulator GCES) also attended this meeting.

During the meeting, Mr De Gabriele delivered a comprehensive presentation on matters relating to his role and functions as laid down in the Maltese Citizenship Act along with a resumé of the activities carried out by his Office specifically during the period under review in conjunction with such role and functions together with a quick overview of how the Programme (IIP) itself, as well as the new GCES scheme had fared during the twelve-month period between January 2021 – December 2021.

Mr De Gabriele's presentation, as delivered during the Monitoring Committee Meeting, in essence was based on his Annual Report which will be published in the coming days, and which will be the 8th in the series of such Annual Reports. This is the first time since the start of the Programme that the Regulator's Annual Report covers a full **calendar** year and not a year starting from the 1st of July of a particular year and ending on the 30th of June of the following year as has been the case till the 6th Annual Report. The 7th Annual Report had covered a period of eighteen months, from July 2019 – December 2020. However, all important data and statistics which had previously been published in the various Annual Reports for yearly periods starting off on July 1st and ending on June 30th of the following year were converted into calendar years for comparison purposes.

On the date of the Meeting of the 7th Monitoring Committee in January 2022 Mr De Gabriele had already briefly updated the Committee with certain vital statistics

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pertaining to the period January 1, 2021 - November 30, 2021. The Regulator today gave a full overview of the whole year which will now officially form part of the 8th Annual Report.

It is expected that, in the short term, a copy of this Eighth Annual Report will be laid on the Table of the House of Representatives as required by sub-Article (9) of Article 25 of the Maltese Citizenship Act, following which it will officially be made public and reproduced online on the portal of the Office of the Regulator.