

14th January 2013

Dear Dr Gonzi and Dr Muscat

Open letter to Dr Lawrence Gonzi – Leader of the Nationalist Party and to Dr Joseph Muscat – Leader of the Labour Party: Discrimination with Maltese Officials in the European Institutions

According to new regulations in the European Institutions which took effect on 1st May 2004 – exactly on the entry in the EU of Malta and nine other countries – new officials in the European Institutions were (and are still being) recruited under much inferior conditions to those enjoyed by officials recruited before this date, with a negative effect on their prospective careers, salaries and future pensions (of officials recruited after 2004). This has created an environment of rampant discrimination especially vis-à-vis officials from the "new" Member States (EU-12) – including Malta. Stuck in the lowest grades, for the past years, they have been fighting for equality of treatment and opportunities as for officials from the "old" Member States (EU-15) who although performing the same work, enjoy far more advantageous conditions.

I am sure that you appreciate that the active presence of Maltese established officials in the European Institutions is essential in order to assure an adequate contribution and the full participation of Malta in the European project and in a wider context, in order to guarantee a significant and balanced presence and a beneficial reciprocity for Malta as well as for the EU.

This matter goes beyond fair conditions of work, it relates to **the right of access for Maltese citizens to the European Civil Service – not only in numerical terms, but also as regards fair grades and levels.**

I wish to ask if your (political) party is aware of this problem and what is its position regarding this – especially if it is elected to government after the General Election of 9th March 2013?

I also ask what is your position with regard to the financing of the pension scheme for EU officials, and particularly about the **37.7 billion EUR** liability, most of which was accumulated *before* Malta's entry in the EU in 2004.

Whilst it was the "old" Member States (EU-15) who were supposed to take care of this, they have failed to do so, with the result that now they are asking the Maltese taxpayers – together with those from the nine Member States who joined with us in 2004 – to finance the pensions of people practically all coming from the old member states (see also: COM(2012) 37¹/ page 31, para 3).

Do you think that this is fair, especially when one notes how the officials from the Members States who joined after 2004 are being treated?

Best regards

Stefan Grech, Brussels

N.B. a copy of this letter is also being sent to the editors of all the major Maltese newspapers

¹ This is the REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL on the Pension Scheme of European Officials and Other Servants of the European Union

Gheziez Dr Gonzi u Dr Muscat,

**Ittra Miftuha lil Dr Lawrence Gonzi - Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista u Dr Joseph Muscat
– Kap tal-Partit Laburista: Diskriminazzjoni ma Ufficjali Maltin fl-istituzzjonijiet
Ewropej**

Taht regolamenti godda fl-istituzzjonijiet tal-Unjoni Ewropea li dahlu fis-sehh fl-1 ta' Meju 2004 – ezattament mad-dhul ta' Malta fl-UE flimkien ma disa pajjizi ohra – ufficjali godda fl-istituzzjonijiet Ewropej gew (u ghadhom jigu) reklutati taht kundizzjonijiet ferm inferjuri ghal dawk li gawdew ufficjali reklutati qabel din id-data, b'effett ferm negattiv fuq il-karrieri prospettivi, salarji u penzjonijiet futuri (tal-ufficjali reklutati wara l-2004). Dan holoq ambjent ta' diskriminazzjoni lampanti speċjalment vis-à-vis ufficjali mill-iStati Membri “l-godda” (EU-12) – fosthom Malta. Imwahhlin fil-gradi l-iktar baxxi, ghal dawn l-ahhar snin, dawn ilhom jiggieldu ghall-ugwaljanza fit-trattament u l-opportunitajiet l-istess bhal ufficjali mill-iStati Membri “l-qodma” (EU-15) li ghalkem iwettqu l-istess xoghol, igawdu kundizzjonijiet ferm izjed vantaggjuzi.

Zgur tapprezza li l-prezenza attiva ta' ufficjali stabbiliti Maltin fl-istituzzjonijiet Ewropej hija essenzjali biex tassigura kontribut adegwat u partecipazzjoni shiha ta' Malta fil-progett Ewropew u fi kwadru usa, biex tiggarrantixxi prezenza sinifikanti, bilancjata u reciprokament ta' beneficcju sew ghal Malta kif ukoll ghall-UE

Din il-kwsitjoni tmur lil hinn minn kundizzjonijiet gusti tax-xoghol imma tirrigwarda d-**dritt t'access ghal cittadini Maltin gewwa s-servizz civili Ewropew - mhux biss f'termini numerici, izda fi gradi u livelli gusti.**

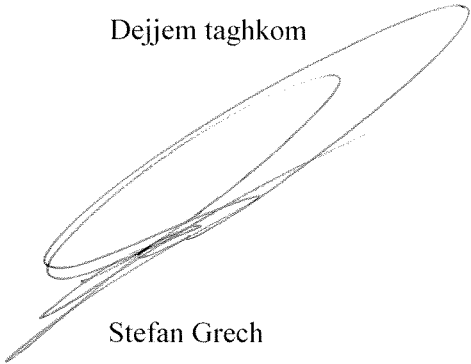
Nixtieq nistaqsi jekk il-partit tieghek huwiex konxju minn din il-problema u x'inhija l-pozizzjoni tieghu f'dan ir-rigward – partikolarment jekk jigi kkonfermat fil-gvern wara l-elezzjoni generali tad-9 ta' Marzu 2013?

Nixtieq nistaqsi wkoll x'inhija l-pozizzjoni tieghek rigward l-iffinanzjar tal-iskema ta' penzjonijiet ghal ufficjali tal-UE, u partikolarment tas-**€37.7 biljun** f'*liability* li l-bicca l-kbira giet akkumulata *qabel* id-dhul ta' Malta fl-UE fl-2004:

Filwaqt li kienu l-iStati Membri "l-qodma" (EU-15) li kellhom jahsbu ghal dan, dan naqsu milli jaghmluh bir-rizultat li issa qeghdin jitolbu t-*taxpayers* Maltin – flimkien ma dawk mid-disa Stati Membri l-ohra li dahlu maghna fl-2004 – biex jiffinanzjaw penzjonijiet ta' nies kwazi kollha gejjin mill-iStati Membri l-qodma (ara wkoll: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0037:FIN:EN:PDF> / p.31, para 3).

Tahseb li dan huwa gust, partikolarment meta mbaghad wiehed jinnota kif qeghdin jigu trattati ufficjali mill-iStati Membri li dahlu wara l-2004?

Dejjem taghkom



Stefan Grech

Brussell

N.B.: kopja ta' din l-ittra qeghda tintbaghat ukoll lill-edituri tal-gurnali kollha ewlenin Maltin
