



PRESS RELEASE

MDA hosts UEPC President

Jean-Paul Florentin, President of UEPC (*Union Européenne des Promoteurs-Constructeurs* – European Union of Developers and House Builders), has been in Malta as the guest of the Malta Developers Association this week.

UEPC, an association of European developers, is recognised as an official group by the European Union for consultation purposes regarding EU decisions on relevant matters. Developers' associations from the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Rumania and Turkey are UEPC members. Further information on UEPC can be sought at: www.uepc.org.

Mr Florentin is a leading developer in Alsace, France, and is based in Strasbourg. During his visit to Malta Mr Florentin held discussions with the MDA on the possibility of MDA becoming a UEPC member, as well on the situation of developers in Malta and in other EU countries. He met the Hon. Michael Farrugia, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Simplification of Administrative Processes, and the MEPA Chairman, perit Vincent Cassar, during courtesy visits and also visited two leading developments in Malta in order to familiarise himself with the local situation.

Although the EU does not have a Commissioner directly involved with development, there are a number of areas in which UE decisions and directives impinge directly on development. These include such issues as the directives on Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) and on energy efficiency in buildings as well as taxation issues. UEPC has a permanent office in Brussels from which it lobbies with the EU whenever decisions directly or indirectly affecting development are being considered by the various Commissioners.

The MDA is committed to promote sustainable development in Malta, while defending the interests of its members. It intends to become an UEPC member so that it will be possible to lobby officially at a European level in the interest of its members. A change in

the UEPC membership fee parameters to make MDA membership affordable is necessary and this is to be made in the coming weeks.

Speaking during the press conference, Mr Florentin said UEPC was set up in 1948 and has over 30,000 member developers and house builders in Europe.

Its members' economic activity represents 10% of Europe's GDP and a high proportion of employment. They build 1 million homes and several million square metres of offices and shopping centres.

This was Mr Florentin's first visit to Malta. He said he enjoyed the visit and was impressed with the MDA's professionalism. He intends to support the MDA's request to join the EUPC when the association has its Board of Directors' meeting and General Assembly in Brussels on 13-14 May, 2013.

Current membership fees are €45,000 for big members and €15,000 for small members. We need to adapt the fees to the reality of the population of the countries that are our members and in relation to their GDP. This will enable all members to be treated equally. Since the economic crisis, the UEPC has lost some key membership who could not afford these fees, including Italy, Greece and Portugal.

Several common issues were discussed with the MDA, including energy efficiency in buildings with existing building stock consuming over 40% of energy, and the VAT paid on social housing, with private developers being put at a disadvantage since they too can build social housing.

The current slogan of the UEPC is 'Building the Future, Restoring the Past'. The UEPC is in favour of restoring old buildings and encouraging state incentives for these buildings to be rehabilitated since a lot of energy is lost from these buildings, which were not build to cater for the current directives on energy efficiency in buildings.

26 April, 2013

Photo, caption and Maltese translation in the following pages.



The President of the Malta Developers Association Michael Falzon (third from left) addressing today's press conference. With him are (from left) MDA Vice-President Sandro Chetcuti, Jean-Paul Florentin, President of UEPC, and MDA Secretary Ian Fitzpatrick.

PRESS RELEASE

L-MDA tospita l-President tal-UEPC

Jean-Paul Florentin, President tal-UEPC (*Union Européenne des Promoteurs-Constructeurs* – il-Unjin Ewropew tal-Iżviluppaturi u Bennejja tad-Djar), din il-gimġha qiegħed zjara Malta bħala l-mistieden tal-*Malta Developers Association* (MDA).

UEPC, assoċjazzjoni ta' żviluppaturi Ewropew, hija rikonoxxuta bħala l-grupp uffiċjali mill-Unjoni Ewropea għal finijiet ta' konsultazzjoni fuq diċiżjonijiet Ewropej fuq affarijiet rilevanti. Fost il-membri tal-UEPC hemm assoċjazzjonijiet ta' żviluppaturi mir-Renju Unit, Franza, l-Italja, l-Olanda, il-Polonja, il-Belġju, ir-Repubblika Ċeka, ir-Rumanija u t-Turkija. Iktar informazzjoni fuq l-UEPC tinstab fuq is-sit elettroniku www.uepc.org.

Is-Sur Florentin hu żviluppatur ewlieni fl-Alsace, fi Franza, u huwa bbażat fi Strasbourg. Matul iż-żjara tiegħu Malta is-Sur Florentin kellu diskussjonijiet mal-MDA fuq il-possibiltà li l-MDA tingħaqad bħala membru fl-UEPC, kif ukoll fuq is-sitwazzjoni ta' żviluppaturi fl-Malta u f'pajjiżi oħra Ewropej. Kellu laqgħat mal-On. Michael Farrugia, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Ippjanar u Simplifikazzjoni ta' Proċessi Amministrattivi, u ċ-Ċermen tal-MEPA il-perit Vincent Cassar, waqt zjarat ta' korteżija u żar ukoll żewġ żvilupi ewlenin f'Malta biex ikun jista' jsir jaf iktar fuq is-sitwazzjoni lokali.

Allavolja l-UE m'għandiex Kummissarju risponsabbli għall-iżvilupp, hemm numru ta' oqsma li fihom deċiżjonijiet u direttivi għandhom effett dirett fuq l-iżvilupp. Fost dawn hemm direttivi fuq *Environment Impact Assessments* (EIAs) u fuq l-enerġija effiċjenti fil-bini kif ukoll kwistjonijiet bħal tat-taxxa. Il-UEPC għandha uffiċċju permanenti fi Brussel minn fejn tagħmel il-lobbying mal-UE kull meta deċiżjonijiet li jaffettwaw l-iżvilupp direttament jew indirettament ikunu qegħdin ikunu kkunisidrati minn Kummissarji differenti.

L-MDA hi mpenjata tippromwovi l-iżvilupp sostenibbli f'Malta waq li tiddefendi l-interessi tal-membri. Għandha l-ħsieb tidhol membru fl-UEPC biex tkun tista' tagħmel lobbying uffiċjalment fuq livell Ewropew fl-interess tal-membri tagħha. Hemm bżonn ta' bidla fil-parametri ta' shubija fl-UEPC biex din tkun iktar affordabbli għall-MDA u din se ssir fil-gimghat li ġejjin.

26 ta' April, 2013
