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| ***EuropeanEconomic and Social Committee*** | GR III logo  ***Group III – VariousInterests*** |  |

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**Group III extraordinary meeting in Malta on 23 March 2017**

*At the Westin Dragonara offered by the Malta EU Presidency unit*

MORNING SESSION (9.30 –13.00)

**MALTA –EU MEMBERSHIP: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD**

**9.30OPENING AND GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

Hon. Joseph MUSCAT – Prime Minister of Malta

Luca JAHIER – President of Group III "Various interests"

**10.00–12.00- ACHIEVEMENTS: Economic impact and recognition of the role of civil society organisations**

**CHAIR: Ben RIZZO**, Member of Group III

* John BENCINI, President of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD)
* Gordon CORDINA – Administrator, E-Cubed Consultants
* Frank FARRUGIA, Deputy President of the Chamber of Commerce
* Joseph BARTOLO – Anti-Poverty Forum Malta
* Lorraine SPITERI – Chairperson, Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations
* Marthese MUGLIETTE - Malta Federation of Persons with Disability

**Debate**

**12.00 – 13.00- CHALLENGES: Bringing the EU closer to citizens**

Hon. Ian BORG – Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU funds

**Chair:Ariane RODERT** - Vice-President of Group III "Various interests"

* Vanni XUEREB - Head of the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC)
* Vanessa MACDONALD –Assistant Editor, Times of Malta
* Maria-Louisa BUSUTTIL - Fund Manager, Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties

**Debate**

**13.00 – Lunch hosted by the Malta EU Presidency unit**

AFTERNOON SESSION (14.30 – 16.30)

**OFFERING A BETTER SERVICE TO CITIZENS**

**14.30 - OPENING AND GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

Luca JAHIER – President of Group III "Various interests"

**15.00 – 15.45 SETTING THE FRAMEWORK: DEMAND AND OFFER**

**CHAIR: Rudolf KOLBE**, member of Group III "Various interests"

* David FABRI - Head of the Department of Commercial Law at the University of Malta
* Theodoros KOUTROUBAS - Director General - Senior Policy Advisor European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS)
* Benny BORG BONELLO – President, Consumers' Association Malta
* Abigail MAMO- CEO of General Retailers and Traders Union Malta Chamber of SMEs

**Debate**

**15.45 – 16.30 HOW TO IMPROVE AND OPTIMIZE THE ENCOUNTER OF DEMAND AND OFFER**

**CHAIR: Arno METZLER,** Vice President Group III "Various interests"

* Helga PIZZUTO - Chairperson of Consumer and Competition Authority in Malta
* Baiba MILTOVIČA - Member of Group III– Latvian National Association for Consumer Protection
* Ronny LANNOO - Member of Group III – Union of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs, the union for SMEs and the professions

**Debate**

**16.30 – Closing of the meeting**