



# Association For Consumer Rights (Malta)

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## Resolution for ACR AGM 2017

### *Title of Resolution*

**Digitising European Industry from the Maltese perspective**  
**Industry 4.0 Digitising European Industry**

### *Name of individual submitting the resolution*

**Grace Attard ACR General Secretary**

### *Justification/reasons and current situations to be addressed*

- Malta has been developing a Digital Agenda for a number of years; however, so far measures are fragmented and there is therefore the need for a wider and stronger strategic approach.
- Digitalisation in industry is a key part of a broader transformation of the economy that includes robotisation, material sciences, and new production processes, referred to as Industry 4.0.
- Digitisation and Industry 4.0 profoundly affect business models and the entire context in which companies currently operate.
- Awareness building and a common sense of purpose among all stakeholders are paramount: in addition to business, this means social partners at all levels, academia, research institutes, regional and local public actors, the education sector and consumers
- No single European country is able to grasp on its own all opportunities in the digital era successfully. Europe as a whole is the critical scale, comparable to big markets such as the US and China. Digitisation of industry requires a shared industrial strategy for the EU and MS.
- Increasing disparities between and within MS in terms of industrial output and technological performance are worrying.
- Digitalisation will have considerable consequences for the labour market and work organisation, such as greater income disparities and reduced access to social security systems, which can prove negative if not properly countered.

### *Proposals/Recommendations*

#### **Addressing the opportunity**

#### **Measures at National and EU level**

- There is a direct link between education programmes and facilities and social cohesion.

- Priority to be given to up-to-date skills and qualifications for digital technology users and reskilling
- To ensure that career guidance provides professional advice regarding the importance of subjects that are of utmost relevance to a digitalisation process (STEM) in particular to girls who often have wrong perceptions of these subjects
- The Malta Communications Authority in collaboration with the Education Department to provide sessions on the use of Smart Phones for vulnerable groups and the elderly
- Business and social partners should be more closely involved in developing curricula for all levels and forms of education raising awareness in all parts of society, in particular to promote acquisition of digital skills, analysing the worldwide picture and providing improved statistical data on services at national and EU level
- National governments to increase pressure on EU for investments in infrastructure (telecommunication, broadband) pushing for transparent public and private financial arrangements
- Monitoring, benchmarking and evaluating, including CSRs at national level and in the annual EU Semester
- Promoting 4.0 Platforms and PPPs as well as cooperation among stakeholders, including by bringing them together at EU level.
- Promoting the Digital Innovation Hubs as centres for advanced training of the work force deepening EU social dialogue at all levels to discuss labour market consequences as well as adjustments in the field of social and labour law, in particular concerning economic and political measures that should ensure protection for the entire workforce<sup>1</sup>.
- The setting up of an Agency as early as possible to develop and monitor the strategy .  
The Agency should be made up of different stakeholders referred to above and academia

**The effects on the economy and society** are enormous, taking into consideration the global competition that Malta has to deal with as a result of its limited market size.

- ✓ It is therefore important that it develops strategic alliances with other EU member States and beyond
- ✓ The proposed interventions require human and financial resources. Specific funds from Annual Budgets, European Social Fund and other EU funding sources are necessary.
- ✓ The topic being dealt with in this proposal is not static; on the contrary it is a fast developing area that we are dealing with.
- ✓ The Strategy should provide the necessary monitoring and evaluation measures as well as statistics to further strengthen its outcome from short to long term

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*See CCMI/136, point 6.3.*

