**AGM Association for Consumer Rights (ACR ) focuses on a National Digitalisation Strategy**

**The Annual General Meeting of the Association for Consumer Rights held on Saturday 1 April 2017 was an interactive and a keenly debated morning during which the various aspects of Digitalisation, embedded in the European Digital Agenda were presented from a national perspective.**

**The topic , which is high on the Malta Presidency agenda addressed different sectors of society, the Business sector, SMEs, consumers of all ages including children, youth and the elderly. Specific topics such as Unjustified Geo-blocking, Cross-border Parcel-delivery Services, as well as Retail Payment Services for the Elderly and the Disabled were debated, amended and approved**

**The Assembly also discussed a general approach to a national strategy with a holistic approach to Digitalisation and how the strategy needs to ensure that any possible negative impact , in particular on consumers should be addressed. The role of education for all ages and ensuring the acquisition of skills is paramount so that Malta’s social and economic development would not be handicapped by another digital divide as the future Digital Revolution develops.**

**Other consumer resolutions discussed included Medicines and the Consumer-Patient and Awareness Amongst Consumers about Benefits of Consuming Local Produce in line with the Rural Development Plan for Malta 2014 – 2020.**

**The members were also provided with latest EU information on The Risks of Internet-connected Toys, The European Accessiblity Act, Service Standards by Supervising Authorities, Window Covering Cord Safety and Risks of Charcoal Barbecue inside – the risk of lethal CO Poisioning ( a case was recently in the local news )**

**The ACR Executive Committee team for 2017 includes Mary Mangion, President, Barbara Buttigieg, Vice-President, Grace Attard, Hon General Secretary, Anna Dalli, Hon Treasurer and members Pauline Azzopardi, Marie Demicoli, Lina Caruana, Magda Magri Naudi and Dr Fransina Abela. The ACR GA also took this opportunity to launch the new website: www.acrmalta.com**

***Grace Attard, ACR General Secretary***