

76 special arrangements

During the course of negotiations for accession in the EU, Malta obtained a total of 76 special arrangements in 13 sectors. All special arrangements take note of Malta's particular circumstances. Some of the special arrangements are permanent while the majority consist of transitional periods.



Free movement of goods

1. Transitional period until the end of 2006 for the renewal of authorisations for the marketing of pharmaceuticals.
2. Malta will retain current labelling on milk and chocolate products.



Free movement of persons

1. For the first seven years after date of membership, Malta may impose restrictions unilaterally in urgent and exceptional cases where the influx of workers from the EU creates pressure on the local labour market or particular sectors.
2. After the first seven years since the date of membership, in case of great influx of workers from the EU, Malta will still seek a remedy with the EU institutions.

Negotiations at a glance

Negotiations with Malta were started on February 15, 2000 and were concluded on December 13, 2002.

CHAPTERS	OPEN	CLOSED
1. Free movement of goods	01 Jun 2001	01 Jun 2001
2. Free movement of persons	12 Jun 2001	27 Jun 2001
3. Free movement of services	29 Mar 2001	01 Jun 2001
4. Free movement of capital	16 Nov 2000	21 Dec 2001
5. Company law	16 Nov 2000	16 Nov 2000
6. Competition	16 Nov 2000	18 Oct 2002
7. Agriculture	12 Dec 2001	13 Dec 2002
8. Fisheries	24 Oct 2000	28 Jun 2002
9. Transport	29 Mar 2001	26 Oct 2001
10. Taxation	12 Jun 2001	13 Dec 2002
11. Economic & Monetary Union	16 Nov 2000	16 Nov 2000
12. Statistics	24 Oct 2000	24 Oct 2000
13. Social policy, employment	16 Nov 2000	28 Nov 2001
14. Energy	01 Jun 2001	01 Jun 2001
15. Industrial policy	25 May 2000	25 May 2000
16. Small, medium-sized enterprises	25 May 2000	25 May 2000
17. Science and research	25 May 2000	25 May 2000
18. Education and training	25 May 2000	25 May 2000
19. Telecommunications	25 May 2000	25 May 2000
20. Culture & Audiovisual policy	25 May 2000	24 Oct 2000
21. Regional policy	29 Mar 2001	29 Jul 2002
22. Environment	01 Jun 2001	01 Oct 2002
23. Consumers & Health Protection	24 Oct 2000	24 Oct 2000
24. Justice & Home Affairs	27 Jun 2001	21 Mar 2001
25. Customs Union	01 Jun 2001	13 Dec 2002
26. External relations	25 May 2000	25 May 2000
27. Common foreign and security policy	25 May 2000	25 May 2000
28. Financial control	29 Mar 2001	29 Mar 2001
29. Budgetary and financial provisions	29 Mar 2001	13 Dec 2002
30. Institutions	10 Jun 2002	10 Jun 2002
31. Other matters	13 Dec 2002	13 Dec 2002

* Sectors typed in bold are those in which Malta has obtained special arrangements.

*Happy new Year
to all readers of
Aggornat*



Agriculture

Fruit and vegetables

1. Fruit and vegetables sector will get €28.39m in financial support until 2014.
2. Potato growers will get €27.08m in direct financial support until 2014.
3. Tomato growers will get €31.16m in financial support until 2014.
4. National threshold for production of tomatoes set at 27,000 tonnes.
5. Tomatoes used for *kunserva* eligible for EU aid.
6. Transitional period until the end of 2009 allowing Maltese tomato processors to sign a share of their contracts with individual producers who would not be participants of a producers' organisation.
7. EU aid of €132.25 per 100 kilos of olive oil produced.

Wine industry

1. Vintners and farmers will get €18.29m in financial support until 2014. Aid includes support for new plantings and additional aid per hectare.
2. New planting rights for a total planted wine area in Malta of 1,000 hectares.
3. Transitional period until the end of 2008 for the enrichment of wine from indigenous varieties.

Pigmeat

1. Pigmeat sector will get €34.08m in financial support until 2010.
2. National quota of 135,200 slaughtered pigs every year.

Dairy sector

1. Dairy sector to be given direct financial support of €19.72m to be given until 2010.
2. Milk quota set at 48,698 tonnes.
3. Transitional period of five years on the stocking density requirements in farms for qualifying for the special premium

and the suckler cow premium.

4. Transitional period of five years to keep current minimum of 2.5% milk fat content.

5. Transitional period until the end of 2009 on EU hygiene and quality requirements in dairy farms.

Poultry and eggs

1. Eggs sector to get €14.46m in financial support until 2010.
2. Poultry sector to get €10.91m in financial support until 2010.
3. Transitional period until end 2006 on EU rules on the welfare of laying hens.
4. Malta will use laboratories in other EU member states for tests of residues and substances in live animals and animal products.

Imported sugar and cereals

1. Upon membership, prices of imported sugar, cereals (Wheat, barley, maize, rice, malt and semolina), semi-processed tomato products and some beef and dairy products (concentrated milk powder, butter and cheese) will be subsidised until 2010. Subsidies must benefit consumers and will be paid to industry and recognised retailers on price difference between EU price and world market price.

Rural development

1. €4.64m in EU funding (2004-2006) for Rural Development Plan.

Special safeguard, status

1. Five-year safeguard to protect agricultural sector in case of difficulties.
2. Specific ad hoc measure for Maltese agriculture to assist full-time farmers in adapting to the new market environment.
3. Malta will be eligible for EU aid of €2.2m per year as a Less Favoured Area. This aid is paid on a per hectare basis.
4. Transitional period of five years for the continuation of existing support for transport of agricultural goods from Gozo to Malta.

Pets

1. For cats and dogs to be placed in the local market they must first have an individual vaccination record.

Traditional products

1. Malta will still protect the traditional Maltese *Gbejna and irkotta*.

Plant health

1. Transitional period of five years during which Malta would postpone the application of EU rules on the marketing of seeds of those varieties listed in its official catalogues of agricultural plant species and vegetable plant species which have not as yet been accepted according to EU law.
2. Provisional protected zone status for Malta in respect of the Colorado Beetle and Citrus Tristeza plant health harmful organisms.

Fisheries

1. A 25-mile fishing conservation zone around Malta.
2. *Lampuka* to be included in the list of fish for common market organisation.

Competition

1. Transitional period until end of 2008 for Malta to implement its seven-year Restructuring Plan at the shipyards, starting 2002.
2. Transitional period until end of 2011 for Maltese small firms to continue benefiting from incentive packages that were given under the old Industrial Development Act.
3. Transitional period until the end of the end of 2008 for Maltese small firms to continue benefiting from operating aid under the Business Promotion Act.
4. Transitional period until end of 2005 for the orderly and complete adjustment of the market in the importation, stocking and wholesale marketing of petroleum products.

Free movement of capital

1. Malta may maintain restrictions, on a non-discriminatory basis, on the right of EU citizens, who have not legally resided in Malta for at least five years, to acquire and hold secondary residences.

Environment



1. Transitional period until end of 2004 to adapt tanker fleet on VOC emissions.
2. Transitional period until end of 2005 to bring the Delimara power station in line with EU standards.
3. Methyl bromide will be phased out by end 2005.
4. Nitrates and fluoride in water will be reduced by end 2005.
5. Transitional period until March 2007 to allow industry to adapt to EU rules on dumping of dangerous substances into the sea.
6. Transitional period until March 2007 to complete waste water infrastructure.
7. Transitional period until end 2005 to reach the overall recycling target.
8. Transitional period until end 2009 for the recycling of plastics.
9. Transitional period until end of 2007 to keep ban of bottling of soft drinks in plastic bottles until a new environmentally friendly bottling regime is introduced.
10. Malta will apply a derogation whereby Maltese hunters can continue hunting quail and turtledoves in Spring.
11. A derogation will also trappers to continue trapping seven songbirds, quails and turtledoves in Spring and Autumn (along with song thrushes and golden plovers). By end 2008, Malta will establish a full captive breeding system to maintain traditional trapping. A moratorium on new trapping licences was introduced in August 2002 and will apply throughout the transitional period.



Customs Union

1. For the first two years after membership no external tariff rate will be charged on woven fabrics of combed wool or of combed fine animal hair (CN Code 5112 11 10) up to a maximum of 20,000 sq metres per year, denim (CN Code 5209 42 00) up to a maximum of 1.2 million square metres per year, woven fabrics of artificial filament yarn (CN Code 5408 22 10) up to a maximum of 110,000 square metres per year and other made up clothing accessories (CN Code 6217 10 00) up to a maximum of 5,000kg per year. The tariff will be phased in from the third to the fifth year of membership.



Justice and Home Affairs

1. No special arrangements were requested or obtained in this chapter. However, on Malta's request, the EU accepted that in the area of jurisdiction, recognition and enforcements of judgements in matrimonial matters and in matters of parental responsibility for children, the relevant EU Convention need not apply to Malta in cases of particular concordats with the Holy See.

Institutions

1. No special arrangements were requested or obtained in this chapter. However, during negotiations it was declared that the Maltese language will be among the official languages of the European Union upon Malta's entry in the next enlargement.



Other matters

1. Protocol on Abortion
2. Declaration on Neutrality
3. Declaration on Gozo

EU INFO NOTICE BOARD

Monday-Friday,
December 30-January 3

NEGOTIATIONS – Viva Malta,
TVM, before the 8pm news.

Presenter:
Marie Briguglio.