

L.N. 154 of 2017**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ACT
(CAP. 497)****Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee - MEUSAC
(Establishment as an Agency) Order, 2017**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by article 36(1) of the Public Administration Act, the Prime Minister has made the following order:-

Citation

1. The title of this order is the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee - MEUSAC (Establishment as an Agency) Order, 2017.

Establishment
of the Malta-EU
Steering and
Action
Committee -
MEUSAC.

2. (1) There shall be an Agency, to be known as the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee or MEUSAC, hereinafter referred to as "the Agency", which shall carry out functions related to consultation on European Union (EU) policy and legislation, EU-related information and assistance on EU funding programmes. This Agency shall continue to perform the functions and responsibilities in accordance with the decision taken by the government in 2008 to re-establish MEUSAC.

(2) All employees performing duties with, and any other public officers currently deployed with MEUSAC shall be regarded as employees of the Agency under the same terms and conditions prevailing at the date of coming into force of this order.

(3) The employment contracts of employees referred to in sub-article (2) shall continue in force as if they were entered into by the Agency.

Cap. 497.

(4) Public officers deployed with the Agency shall be deemed to be detailed with the Agency in accordance with article 43 of the Public Administration Act.

(5) The Agency shall, as from the coming into force of this order, assume responsibility for all assets, liabilities and obligations previously entered into by MEUSAC or by other bodies who act on its behalf.

Functions and
duties of the
Agency.

3. (1) The Agency shall have the following functions:

(a) to stimulate and lead a national debate on European ideals, values, objectives and long term strategies;

(b) to discuss the impact proposed EU measures could

have on Malta, its institutions, its specific sectors and ordinary citizens through a structured consultation process and other initiatives;

(c) to establish and maintain dialogue between those participating in the EU decision-making processes;

(d) to provide support on EU programmes and funding;

(e) to disseminate EU-related information, seeking to ensure in particular that the public is well and adequately informed on Malta's positions within the EU and its institutions as well as the rights Maltese citizens have as EU citizens.

(2) The Agency shall assume the following duties:

(a) to steer a structured consultation process on EU policy and legislation with stakeholders;

(b) to provide EU-related information to stakeholders and to the public with particular emphasis on Malta's position within the EU and its institutions as well as the rights Maltese citizens have as EU citizens; and

(c) to provide information and assistance on EU funding programmes, in particular by advising and assisting local councils and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to draw up and submit competitive project applications.

4. The Agency shall be housed in 280, Republic Street, Valletta. Office of the Agency.

5. (1) The Minister responsible for MEUSAC shall be the Minister responsible for Social Dialogue or such other Minister as may be designated for such purpose by the Prime Minister. Minister responsible for the Agency.

(2) The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for MEUSAC shall supervise the Agency in terms of article 39 of the Public Administration Act: Cap. 497.

Provided that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for MEUSAC may be assisted in such supervision by another Permanent Secretary in accordance with the proviso to article 13(5) of the Public Administration Act: Cap. 497.

Provided further if the Minister, other than the Prime Minister, assumes responsibility for the Agency, its supervision shall be assumed by the Permanent Secretary of that Ministry.

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Agency
Performance
Agreement.

6. The operations of the Agency shall follow an Agency Performance Agreement which is to be entered into between the Permanent Secretary and MEUSAC.

Financial
arrangement.
Cap 174.

7. The Agency shall be governed by the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act unless otherwise stated in the Agency Performance Agreement referred to in the article 6, in which case the provisions of the Agency Performance Agreement shall prevail.

Amends the
Public
Administration
Act.
Cap. 497.

8. In the Fourth Schedule to the Public Administration Act, immediately after the words "Malta Council for Science and Technology Agency" there shall be added the following:

"MEUSAC To engage stakeholders in the EU processes through consultation, the dissemination of information and assistance on EU funding programmes".

