



7th November, 2007

MEP satisfied that agency is up and running

MEP Simon Busuttil expressed his satisfaction that Malta’s national agency responsible for the EU’s youth, education and training programmes, is now fully equipped to do its job.

Dr Busuttil was visiting the European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) in Old Mint Street, Valletta, which has recently taken over the previous “EUPU” unit as an agency accredited by the European Commission.

During his visit, Simon Busuttil was updated on the new agency and its work programme by its new head Mauro Pace Parascandalo who was accompanied by a number of programme managers working with the agency.

The agency deals with Malta’s participation in the EU’s Youth and LifeLongLearning programmes, including the previous programmes, popularly known as Socrates, Comenius, Grundvig and Leonardo da Vinci.

Dr Busuttil said that during this year, whilst the agency was still in transition from its previous status, he had been approached by many people who expressed concern over Malta’s participation in these programmes and specific project applications.

On his part Mr Pace Parascando assured Dr. Busuttil that after a period of transition, the agency was now fully-operational and had been granted the green light from the European Commission to handle EU funds and get on with its work plans.

Dr Busuttil said that, following this visit, he felt reassured that the agency had sufficient capacity to ensure that Maltese youths and students would be able to tap these programmes successfully and that they would find an agency that was fully equipped to help them do so.

“Your set-up reassures me that people who want to participate in these EU programmes will be able to find reliable support.” Dr Busuttil told the agency’s head.

EUPA will be officially launching its new programmes 2007-2013 this month.

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