



Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

## **Malta Night: Celebrating the Euro and Schengen**

The Maltese Delegation in the EPP-ED Group of the European Parliament is organizing a **celebration of Malta's accession to the Euro currency and to the Schengen zone on April 9, 2008 in the European Parliament in Brussels.**

Addressing a press conference at EP information office Valletta, Head of the Maltese EPP-ED Delegation Simon Busuttil said that the event will give Malta a great visibility in the European Parliament and among its 785 Members and comes in the wake of a highly successful Malta Week organised also by the delegation last September in Strasbourg.

The event is intended to celebrate Malta's recent accession to the euro zone (1 January) and the recent completion of its accession to the Schengen zone (30 March). It will consist of a performance featuring traditional Maltese folk music and a reception of traditional Maltese food and drink.

These were the comments of the two MEPs organizing this event.

*"This is our second event in seven months, during which we will be giving another taste of our country in Europe. EU membership is indeed working for Malta. The Maltese citizens are now at the fore-front of our European family"* said David Casa MEP

*"We can tangibly feel two huge achievements. Today we have one of the world's strongest currencies in our pockets and we can by-pass border-check when travelling. This is what we will be celebrating next week, and proudly so."* said Simon Busuttil MEP

Flanking both MEPs during the press conference chaired by Information office head Dr. Julian Vassallo, were representatives of the main sponsors supporting this exhibition, who are Malta International Airport, Air Malta and Virtu Ferries. Supporting sponsors include James Caterers, Marsovin, and Farsons.

The event will take place on 9 April 2008 and is expected to attract some 600 guests from the EU institutions, including Maltese nationals working in Brussels.

Commissioner Joe Borg and Malta's Permanent Representative in Brussels, Richard Cachia Caruana will be inaugurating this event.

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