



MALTA CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION

AT LONG LAST: THE MCF OBTAINS FUNDING FROM CCF

MCF UPDATE - JUNE 2018

YEARS OF HARD WORK PAY OFF

After a full five and a half years, we are pleased to announce that the Malta Co-operative Federation (MCF) received the first tranche of funding from the Central Co-operative Fund, as per Legal Notice 408 of 2016. Up till this payment, the Malta Co-operative Federation had been repeatedly discriminated against and starved of funds. Your Council had been repeatedly insisting with the authorities that the state of affairs was unjust and untenable. This hard work has paid off - The MCF has now been given administrative funds as well as funding to cover international memberships.

In the meantime, the MCF has held meetings with Dame Pauline Green and Mr. Bob Burlton, who were in Malta on the invitation of the other federation to convince the authorities to amend the CCF Legal Notice and increase funding possibilities. The MCF agreed with this, but insisted that these amendments need to be accompanied by other changes, including fairer representation on the CCF, as well as revisiting issues regarding discriminatory treatment at the expense of the MCF during the last years.

Meetings between federation representatives

Three representatives of the Malta Co-operative Federation and of Koperattivi Malta respectively met under the chairmanship of Dame Pauline Green and Mr. Bob Burlton to find common issues that both federations could agree upon. A document was drafted, which has now been passed on for discussion by the respective Councils in the next few days.

Legacy Committee to investigate past claims

A committee, called the Premises and Legacy Review Committee (PLRC) has been set up to investigate and decide/put forward recommendations to CCF for funding issues in the past years. The Chairman CCF has sent communication to individual co-operatives, inviting them to make any claims pertaining to the past years. This invitation has also been sent to the federation, enabling it to make its own representations in this regard. With this communication, a terms of reference was also annexed. The Committee is made up of Dame Pauline Green, Mr. Bob Burlton and Mr. Simon Grech, with Dr. Amanda Spiteri Grech being the Secretary and legal advisor to the committee. Although we, in principle, are in favour of this committee, we need to make sure that the Terms of Reference effectively address the discrimination issues raised by the MCF over the years.

We will be informing you of further developments as they arise.

All this is the fruit of years of hard work by Council members. We are committed to working harder, now that the Federation is being funded, for your benefit, the Federation's members, as well as for the exploiting the co-operative potential in Malta.

We would like to thank you all for the support you are giving to the Malta Co-operative Federation. We will be informing you of exciting initiatives that we will be organising in the near future.