**Daily News Summary - 17.8.2020**

**HEALTH**

**63 new cases of Covid-19**

63 new cases of Covid-19 were registered between Saturday and Sunday, the health authorities said. This brings the total number of active cases up to 537. Sunday’s cases are still being investigated, the authorities said. From Saturday’s cases, 10 were linked to the Paceville cluster, 7 were family members of previously reported cases, 9 were in direct contact with the active cases, 6 were colleagues of previously reported cases and 4 were imported cases. Malta has so far registered 1,306 cases of the Coronavirus. 749 people have so far recovered. 2,142 swab tests were carried out over the past 24 hours, for a total of 156,664. 72 cases were recorded on Saturday, the highest number since the start of the pandemic.  
  
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"63 new cases of COVID-19 / 63 new cases of ..." page: 2 info: by NA date: Monday, August 17, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *63 more new cases found / 63 more new cases found page: 2 info: by NA date: Monday, August 17, 2020*  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Prime minister to announce new COVID measures today / Prime minister to announce new COVID measures today page: 4 info: by Jessica Arena date: Monday, August 17, 2020*  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Warning of more curbs as new virus cases hit 72 / Warning of more curbs as new virus cases hit 72 page: 1,8 info: by Claire Caruana date: Monday, August 17, 2020*  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *‘Worrying spill of COVID-19 from the young to elderly’ / ‘Worrying spill of COVID-19 from the young to elderly’ page: 3 info: by Claire Caruana date: Monday, August 17, 2020*

**A new agreement for anti-Covid-19 vaccine by EU Commission.**

Orizzont today reports that after the recent news that Russia announced the production of an anti-Covid-19 vaccine, the EU Commission has announced an agreement with pharma company AstraZeneca. This agreement will see the EU purchase of sufficient numbers of the vaccine that will not only be offered to all EU citizens, but also as a donation to underdeveloped countries.  
  
  
[*In-Nazzjon:*](https://netnews.com.mt) *"L-UE timpenja investiment fil-vaccin tal-futur..." page: 10 info: by na date: Saturday, August 15, 2020*   
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *A new agreement for anti Covid 19 vaccine by EU Commission. / A new agreement for anti Covid 19 vaccine by EU Commission. page: 6 info: by NA date: Monday, August 17, 2020*

**MEMBER STATES - INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Peter Grech's 10 turbulent years as attorney general**

Peter Grech on Saturday handed in his letter of resignation as attorney general to president George Vella. The resignation, effective 9 September, brings Grech's often turbulent career as attorney general to an end.  Grech declined to comment when asked what had prompted him to quit. Grech was retained as attorney general by the Labour government after it shot to power in March 2013. He faced calls for his resignation in 2016 over the lack of prosecutions in the Panama Papers scandal. Despite the flak Grech came in for, Muscat’s governments stood steadfastly by him. In response to growing criticism about the Attorney General’s, the government said in 2017 that Grech had served the country impeccably for 33 years, and had been appointed to his post by a Nationalist government. Grech has consistently defended his actions, arguing he always acted within the parameters of the law.  
  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Attorney general to resign / Attorney general to resign page: 1,4 info: by Jacob Borg date: Monday, August 17, 2020*  
  
[*timesofmalta.com:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Peter Grech's 10 turbulent years as attorney general / Peter Grech's 10 turbulent years as attorney general info: by Editorial date: Monday, August 17, 2020*

**RULE OF LAW AND CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

**Moody’s gave an A2 credit rating to Malta, with stable prospects**

Moody's has praised Malta's constitutional reforms, the government said in a statement. The government statement read that Moody's confirmed that the reforms are based on the Venice Commission recommendations, and gave an A2 rating to Malta's institutions while saying that the good governance level is "in line with peers.” On the economic aspect, the report states that while the Coronavirus left a positive economic impact, "we currently expect that the impact of the shock will be largely transient, with the Maltese economy returning to growth in 2021.”  
  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Moody’s ‘praises Malta’ on new laws reform / Moody’s ‘praises Malta’ on new laws reform page: 5 info: by NA date: Monday, August 17, 2020*  
  
[*TVM-Malta:*](https://www.tvm.com.mt) *"Moody’s gave an A2 credit rating to Malta with a ..." info: L-ahbarijiet, 2020-08-17 06:21:00, 00:01:50, by Nigel Mifsud date: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:21:00 AM CEST*

**Middleman Theuma gets more police supervision**

The Times today leads with the news that the star witness in the Daphne Caruana Galizia assassination case is under increased police supervision after what he claims was a suicide attempt earlier this summer. Sources told Times of Malta that Melvin Theuma, the self-confessed murder middleman turned state witness, was now being monitored more closely by police officers “for his own safety.” An officer is understood to be stationed inside his property but Theuma is not on suicide watch. Theuma, who was granted a presidential pardon to turn state witness, was admitted to Mater Dei Hospital on 21 July after he was found in a pool of blood in his bedroom. He was discovered with multiple stab wounds to his neck and gut at his home in Swieqi. Police have said the injuries were believed to be self-inflicted after Theuma was found holding a large kitchen knife. He had also indicated to first responders that he had injured himself and both the scene and his wounds were compatible with self-harm.  
  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Middleman Theuma gets more police supervision / Middleman Theuma gets more police supervision page: 1,2 info: by Ivan Martin date: Monday, August 17, 2020*

**SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SKILLS AND LABOUR MOBILITY**

**The new EU Skills Agenda**

The backpage of today’s Independent carries an op-ed by Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, and Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, in which they both focus on the European Commission’s vision presented in the new Skills Agenda whereby everyone, young and old, should have access to training to acquire skills for jobs that allow them to thrive in an increasingly green and digital economy. Currently, more than half of adults currently do not have basic digital skills, and few adults attend training to improve their skills or learn new ones. The article concludes by saying that Europe’s skills base is a major driving force for its competitiveness and is creating an inclusive and sustainable society.  
  
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"The new EU Skills Agenda / The new EU Skills ..." page: 20 info: by Mariya Gabriel date: Monday, August 17, 2020*