**Daily News Summary - 14.7.2020**

**BUDGET**

**Prime Minister on next European budget**

Asked about the European budget for the next seven years to be discussed at the European leaders summit this weekend, Prime Minister Robert Abela said yesterday the government was committed to bringing forward the best package for Malta. In addition to the one-trillion-euro European budget, a discussion on a €750 billion recovery package is also expected in Brussels to make up for the economic problems caused by the pandemic. The prime minister also revealed he had given an order for the MOU signed with Vitals Global Healthcare about the management of three hospitals to be found by latest yesterday. In a report published last week, the auditor general expressed the view that the agreement provided reasons for disqualifying VGH from tenders, concluding that in the procedures for the award of this concession there was a serious lack of governance.  
  
  
[*In-Nazzjon:*](https://netnews.com.mt) *Anticipation for European Budget / Stenniija ghall-Budget Ewropew page: 2 info: by Robert Cremona date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*  
  
[*TVM-Malta:*](https://www.tvm.com.mt) *"Prime Minister on next European budget / Il-Prim Ministru dwar ..." info: L-ahbarijiet, 2020-07-14 05:32:00, 00:02:20, by Glen Falzon date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:32:00 AM CEST*

**HEALTH**

**No new virus cases**

The Times reports that Malta yesterday had no new COVID-19 cases for the fourth day in a row. Neither were there any recoveries. The number of active cases of coronavirus remains stable at five, according to the daily tally announced by the Health Ministry on Facebook. Malta has so far bucked the trend in some other European Union countries that have seen a surge in cases after borders were reopened. The island lifted restrictions on travel to 21 “safe corridor” countries on 1 July and will open to 28 more places tomorrow. The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases remains at 674, with 660 recoveries and nine deaths.  
  
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"Active cases remain at five after no new cases or ..." page: 3 info: by NA date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *No new virus cases / No new virus cases page: 5 info: by NA date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*

**MEMBER STATES - INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**President says Delia to stay, despite will of PN majority**

Most media today lead with the news that the president yesterday said he could not remove the opposition leader, a decision welcomed by Adrian Delia but slammed by the majority group of dissident Nationalist MPs as being in breach of the constitution after they had passed a vote of no confidence in him. In a lengthy statement yesterday afternoon, President George Vella said that after meeting the opposition parliamentary group, he had established that Delia no longer enjoyed their support. But Delia, Vella reasoned, could not be removed as leader of the opposition. Despite an article in the constitution laying down that he must be stripped of the position if he loses the confidence of the majority of opposition MPs, the president also cited another clause saying that the role should be held by the leader of the largest party in opposition to the government. That position is held by Delia. The president said he had established that 16 opposition MPs – the majority of the 28-strong PN parliamentary group – no longer trusted Delia.  Eleven MPs declared they still had trust in him while one abstained. Vella said that if Delia were stripped of the position, the question over who should take his place would be immediately raised.  The constitution, he argued, outlined that there has to be a leader of the opposition at all times.   “This means that this constitutional office cannot be left empty [...] at least not for a long time,” he said.  
  
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"Delia’s position as Opposition leader safe as President will not ..." page: 1,4 info: by NA date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *President says Delia to stay, despite will of PN majority / President says Delia to stay, despite will of PN majority page: 1,2 info: by IVAN MARTIN and JACOB BORG date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *PN executive meets today with party’s future in the balance / PN executive meets today with party’s future in the balance page: 3 info: by Keith Micallef date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*  
  
[*timesofmalta.com:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *President's decision on Delia breaches the constitution, MPs say / President's decision on Delia breaches the constitution, MPs say info: by Editorial date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*  
  
[*TVM-Malta:*](https://www.tvm.com.mt) *"President decides that Adrian Delia should not be removed as ..." info: L-ahbarijiet, 2020-07-14 05:26:00, 00:06:00, by Nigel Mifsud date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:26:00 AM CEST*

**MIGRATION**

**Plans for new open centre are shelved**

The Times reports that plans to build a new €7 million open centre, which would have increased bed capacity by 400 this year, have been shelved, Times of Malta understands. The EU co-financed project would have seen the construction of a new open centre at Ħal Far. It was aimed at improving reception facilities and becoming “the first specific centre to cater better for the welfare of asylum seekers”. However, those plans are now being revised. Asked about the status of the project – meant to have kicked off in 2016 and be completed by this year – a Home Affairs Ministry spokesperson said the government “is considering different options in view of the number of migrants currently residing in Malta’s initial reception centres.” “Priority is being given to the regeneration of existing migrants’ centres in Ħal Far,” she said. “The Agency of the Welfare of Asylum Seekers maintained the same objectives of the project in terms of the intended capacity of the migrants’ centres,” she added.  
  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Plans for new open centre are shelved / Plans for new open centre are shelved page: 6 info: by Sarah Carabott date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*

**SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SKILLS AND LABOUR MOBILITY**

**Malta to have second highest number of elderly in EU**

L-Orizzont reports that according to the latest EU surveys by Eurostat, Malta will, by 2100, have the second highest rate of elderly persons in the Union. Eurostat predicts that whilst the average rate in the EU will hover around the 57% mark, Malta Finland and Italy will reach 62%.  
  
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *Malta to have second highest number of elderly in UE / Malta to have second highest number of elderly in UE page: 2 info: by NA date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020*