

I assent.

(L.S.)

Ugo MIFSUD BONNICI  
President

10th June, 1997

**ACT No. XI of 1997**

*AN ACT to amend the Industrial Development Act, Cap. 325.*

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Industrial Development (Amendment) Act, 1997, and shall be read and construed as one with the Industrial Development Act, hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”. Short title  
and  
commencement.  
Cap. 325.

(2) This Act shall come into force on such date as the Minister responsible for Industry may by notice in the Gazette establish and different dates may be so established for different provisions or different purposes thereof.

2. Section 2 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(i) for the definition of “company” there shall be substituted the following new definition:

Amendment of  
section 2  
of the  
principal Act.

“ “company” means:

(a) any partnership constituted under the Commercial Partnerships Ordinance or the Companies Act, 1995, being a partnership *en nom collectif*, *en commandite* or a limited liability company;

(b) any body of persons constituted, incorporated or registered outside Malta, and of a nature similar to the aforesaid partnerships;

(c) any co-operative society duly registered as such under the appropriate law for the time being in force in Malta;";

(ii) in the proviso to paragraph (b) of the definition of "export sales" for the words "together with a copy authenticated by him of the relative export documents" there shall be substituted the words "together with an undertaking that the Corporation may examine the relative export documents", and for the words "such declaration and documents" there shall be substituted the words "such declaration and undertaking";

(iii) for paragraph (c) of the definition of "export sales" there shall be substituted the following new paragraph:

"(c) the value of services rendered or performed by a qualifying company which are exported by the same company and in the case of a company qualifying in terms of paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 3 of this Act the value of services rendered or performed for another qualifying company which satisfies the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 4 of this Act;" ;

(iv) immediately after the definition of "export sales" there shall be added the following new definition:

Cap. 197. " "hotel" means a hotel licensed as such under the Hotels and Catering Establishments Act, or a building in the course of construction which is intended to be so licensed upon completion;"; and

(v) in the definition of "Maltese company", immediately after the words "Maltese citizens" there shall be added the words ", directly or indirectly,".

Amendment of  
section 3 of the  
principal Act.

3. Section 3 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in subsection (1) thereof, the words "of section 24" shall be substituted by the words "of section 24, section 24A and section 24B";

(b) in paragraph (b) thereof, immediately after the words "machinery or equipment" there shall be added the following words "and the recycling or treatment of waste material";

(c) for paragraph (e) of subsection (1) thereof there shall be substituted the following paragraph:

"(e) the rendering of a service by a company to non-resident persons or to a company which satisfies the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 4 of this Act, whether the service is performed or rendered in Malta or from Malta, provided such service is prescribed by the Minister to be a qualifying export service; or"; and

(d) immediately after the proviso to subsection (8) thereof, there shall be added the following new provisos:

"Provided further that notwithstanding any other provision of this Act in respect of qualifying companies incorporated outside Malta, the incentives and benefits contemplated by this Act may only be obtained by qualifying companies registered as an overseas company in accordance with the Companies Act, 1995 in respect of their activities happening on or after 1st January, 1997;

Provided further that the incentives and benefits contemplated by subsection (1) of section 6, subsection (7) of section 8, section 9, section 15 and section 24B of this Act may only be obtained by a company constituted under Maltese Law."

4. Immediately after section 3 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new section:

Addition of new section 3A to the principal Act.

"Transfer of business to an overseas company.

3A. (1) Where by means of an extraordinary resolution it is decided to transfer the trade or business of a company constituted under Maltese Law, hereinafter referred to as the first company, to a company which is registered as an overseas company in terms of the Companies Act, 1995, hereinafter referred to as the second company, and the Corporation is satisfied that the ultimate beneficial shareholders of the said companies are the same and are not resident in Malta,

(i) all rights and obligations of the first company arising from the provisions of this Act shall be deemed to be the rights and obligations of the second company

as if such rights and obligations had always appertained to the second company;

(ii) the second company shall be entitled to the incentives and benefits contemplated by this Act to the same extent as the first company would have been entitled had the transfer of business not taken place and this irrespective of whether the first company was dissolved.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, where a company registered as an overseas company in terms of the Companies Act, 1995 transfers its business to a company constituted under Maltese Law and in subsection (1) of this section "the first company" shall mean a company registered as an overseas company in terms of the Companies Act, 1995 and "the second company" shall mean a company constituted under Maltese Law.

(3) For the purposes of this section a trade or business shall be deemed to have been transferred when:

(i) all the tangible assets of the first company are transferred to the second company, which company uses the said assets in carrying on the same kind of trade or business as that carried on by the first company; and

(ii) the customers of the second company are substantially the same as that of the first company.

(4) On being satisfied that the provisions of this section have been complied with, the Corporation may issue a certificate to that effect, which certificate shall constitute sufficient evidence for the purpose of the application of this section."

Amendment of  
section 4 of the  
principal Act.

5. For paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following:

"(a) is a company which:

(i) is constituted under Maltese Law on or after 1st June, 1987; or

(ii) is a company incorporated outside Malta and has been registered as an overseas company in terms of the Companies Act, 1995 registered on or after 1st June, 1987 but only in respect of its activities happening on or after 1st January, 1997; and".

6. Section 5 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of  
section 5 of the  
principal Act.

(a) in subsection (1) thereof, the words "up to and including the year of assessment 2001" shall be deleted;

(b) in subsection (2) thereof, immediately after the words "“Z” = total sales in year of assessment" there shall be added the following new paragraph:

“For the purposes of this section where a qualifying company has changed the date on which its accounting period ends for the purposes of section 11 of the Income Tax Act and the profits of such accounting period fall to be charged to tax:

(a) in any year of assessment comprised in a base period; or

(b) in any year of assessment in respect of which the company claims the benefit contemplated by this section or section 5A of this Act,

where the number of days comprised in the said accounting period is more or less than three hundred and sixty five days, the value of the total sales, export sales and profits of such accounting period shall be decreased or increased, as the case may be, by multiplying the actual value of the said total sales, export sales and profits by the proportion which three hundred and sixty five days bears to the actual number of days comprised in the said accounting period.”;

(c) in paragraph (d) of subsection (3) thereof, immediately after the words "was not in existence" there shall be added the words " , or in the case of a qualifying company incorporated outside Malta, such company was not registered as an oversea company in accordance with the Companies Act, 1995,";

(d) in subsection (4) thereof, immediately after the table showing the applicable base periods there shall be added the following new proviso:

“Provided that the base period for year of assessment 2002 and subsequent years of assessment shall be determined by increasing the years comprised in the base period for the preceding year of assessment by one year.”; and

(e) for the proviso to subsection (5) thereof, there shall be substituted the following new proviso:

“Provided that a qualifying company may benefit from the provisions of this section for not more than ten years of assessment, which years need not be consecutive.”.

Addition of  
new section 5A  
to the principal  
Act.

7. Immediately after section 5 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new section:

“Investment  
incentive  
scheme.

5A. (1) Where a qualifying company incurs expenditure in acquiring qualifying assets and the aggregate expenditure of the company on such assets during any relevant year and in the preceding six accounting periods:

(a) is equivalent to or exceeds a percentage (in this subsection referred to as “the qualifying percentage”) of the company’s total sales during the same period, the income derived by such company, from its trade or business, during the relevant year as is proportionately attributable to its increased export sales as determined in terms of subsection (2) of this section shall be taxed at a reduced rate of income tax as is determined by reference to the qualifying percentage as follows:

Qualifying percentage	Applicable rate of reduced income tax
%	%
8	17.50
9	8.75
10	0.00

Provided that the six accounting periods preceding the relevant year shall be accounting periods the profits of which fall to be charged to income tax in year of assessment 1998 or subsequent years of assessment and, where the number of such accounting periods preceding the relevant year are less than six, the qualifying percentage referred to in this paragraph shall be determined for the period of time commencing from the first day of the accounting period the profits of which fall to be charged to income tax in year of assessment 1998 and ending on the last day of the relevant year:

Provided further that where a company was not in existence during all of the six years preceding the relevant year, the qualifying percentage referred to in this subsection shall be determined for the period of time during which such company was in existence;

or

(b) is equal to or exceeds LM7,000,000, the income derived by such company from its trade or business during the relevant year as is proportionately attributable to its increased export sales as determined in terms of subsection (2) of this section shall be exempt from income tax:

Provided that:

(i) if the number of days comprised in the period of time commencing from the first day of the accounting period the profits of which fall to be charged to income tax in year of assessment 1998 and ending on the last day of the relevant year, is less than two thousand five hundred and fifty five; or

(ii) the number of days comprised in the relevant year and in the preceding six accounting periods is less or more than two thousand five hundred and fifty five,

the amount of LM7,000,000 shall be increased or reduced to an amount arrived at by multiplying LM7,000,000 by the proportion which the number of the days comprised in the aforementioned periods bears to two thousand five hundred and fifty five days.

(2) The income derived by a qualifying company from its trade or business during the relevant year and which shall be exempt from income tax or taxed at the reduced rates of tax in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, shall be calculated in accordance with the formula set out in subsection (2) of section 5 of this Act:

Provided that a qualifying company may not claim a benefit under this section for any year of assessment in which it has also claimed a benefit under section 5 of this Act.

(3) A qualifying company may benefit from the incentive provided for by this section for not more than ten years of assessment which years need not be consecutive.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) there shall be excluded any income which is not derived by the company from its trade or business;

(b) the amount of total sales and export sales shall be calculated free on board and where the sale is made pursuant to a contract of works, it shall include the uninvoiced value of any materials and components provided by the customer.

(5) In this section:-

“expenditure in acquiring qualifying assets” means expenditure incurred in acquiring assets in respect of which an investment allowance can be claimed in terms of section 7 of this Act, excluding any expenditure incurred on non-commercial motor vehicles;

Cap. 123. “non-commercial motor vehicles” means those vehicles to which subsection (3) of section 14 of the Income Tax Act applies;

“relevant year” means any accounting period of a qualifying company which ends in the year preceding year of assessment 1998 or any subsequent year of assessment as the case may be;

Cap. 123. “accounting period” means the accounting period as determined by reference to section 11 of the Income Tax Act;

“profits” and “income” shall in all cases be taken as comprised in the company’s chargeable income for income tax purposes after account has been taken of any incentive or benefit obtained by the company under the provisions of this Act.”.



8. For paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 6 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following: Amendment of section 6 of the principal Act.

“(a) in respect of any application for the purpose of this section filed with the Corporation later than twenty four months after the end of the year immediately preceding the year of assessment in which the income in respect of which approval may be given falls to be charged to tax; or”.

9. For subsection (5) of section 7 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following: Amendment of section 7 of the principal Act.

“(5) In this section and in section 8 of this Act:

(a) immovable property held by title of emphyteusis; and

(b) any other asset to which this section and section 8 of this Act applies acquired under a finance lease contract or a contract of hire which stipulates that ownership of the asset shall or may pass to the lessee when a specified sum of money has been paid, which contract is in each case approved by the Corporation,

shall be deemed to be held in full ownership.”.

10. Immediately after paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 9 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following paragraph: Amendment of section 9 of the principal Act.

“(d) under the provisions of section 5A of this Act, being gains or profits of a company relieved from income tax for any year under the investment incentive scheme.”.

11. Immediately after the proviso to section 15 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new proviso: Amendment of section 15 of the principal Act.

“Provided further that where a member of a qualifying company is also a company incorporated under Maltese Law, the provisions of this section shall apply to the same extent as if the members of the latter company had owned the shares directly in the qualifying company.”.

Amendment of  
section 16  
of the  
principal Act.

12. Section 16 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) for subsection (2) thereof there shall be substituted the following:

“(2) The Corporation may grant loans as provided under subsection (1) of this section when -

(a) the plant, machinery or fixed assets are acquired as part of an investment programme of not more than three years duration as may be approved by the Corporation, and

(b) such investment programme is of not less than twenty one thousand Malta liri.”;

(b) for paragraph (a) of subsection (3) thereof, there shall be substituted the following:

“(a) LM1,000,000 in case of companies satisfying the condition laid down in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Act, and”; and

(c) for subsection (4) thereof there shall be substituted the following:

“(4) The rate of interest charged by the Corporation on loans granted under this section shall be either:

(a) the minimum discount rate in terms of directives issued from time to time by the Central Bank of Malta under the Central Bank of Malta Act, less:

Cap. 204.

(i) two and a half percentage points in respect of loans made under paragraph (a) of subsection (3) hereof, and

(ii) half a percentage point in respect of other loans:

Provided that the provisions of item (i) of paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be applied by the Corporation when the said minimum discount rate is at an equivalent or higher level than two and half percentage points, and the provisions of item (ii) of paragraph (a) of this subsection shall only be applied by the Corporation when the said minimum discount rate is at an equivalent or higher level than half a percentage point;

or

(b) such other rate as may be prescribed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.”.

13. Section 18 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment of section 18 of the principal Act.

(a) in subsection (4) thereof, after the words “vary the rates”, there shall be inserted the words, “and the method of revision of such rates”; and

(b) immediately after subsection (5) thereof, there shall be inserted the following new subsection:

“(6) The Corporation may also procure for a qualifying company industrial buildings and structures by title of temporary emphyteusis or undeveloped land by title of lease at such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Minister from time to time.”.

14. Immediately after section 18 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new section: Addition of new section 18A to the principal Act.

“Child  
day care  
centres.

18A. (1) The Corporation may, consistently with the aims and objectives of the industrial policy of the Government, grant on lease to a qualifying company, on its own or jointly with other qualifying companies, a structure or building to be used as a child day care centre for the benefit of parent-employees of such a qualifying company, other qualifying companies or service providers in government industrial estates as may be approved by the Corporation in accordance with the terms and conditions herein specified:

(a) no rent shall be charged for the first three years of the lease;

(b) thereafter an annual rent shall be charged at a rate per square metre which shall not exceed 25 *per centum* of the rent per square metre per annum charged for the factory allocated in accordance with section 18 of this Act;

(c) the Corporation may also provide free of charge a design package which shall include detailed lay-out plans, lists of furniture and equipment required for the centre and specifications for air conditioning, ventilation and sanitary facilities;

(d) the Corporation may also finance the cost of the setting up of such a centre up to a maximum of 50 *per centum* of the total cost, excluding the costs for the air conditioning and ventilation, which may be financed by the Corporation up to a maximum rate of 25 *per centum* of the total cost.

(2) The Corporation may, consistently with the aims and objectives of the industrial policy of the Government, allow a qualifying company to use a portion of an industrial structure or building procured for such company in accordance with section 18 of this Act, as a child day care centre for the benefit of parent-employees of such a qualifying company or other qualifying companies, or parent-employees of service providers in government industrial estates subject to the same terms and conditions contemplated under paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) A qualifying company which sets up a child day care centre in a structure or building which is held by such company in full ownership, on emphyteusis or lease from third parties, may be granted by the Corporation the same benefits and assistance, as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The Corporation may also provide the following assistance to qualifying companies setting up child day care centres in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1), subsection (2) or subsection (3) of this section:

(a) the financing of up to a maximum of 50 *per centum* of the approved recurrent costs for child care at such a centre, provided that the parent-employees may not be charged more than a maximum sum per year as may be determined by the Corporation;

(b) the financing of approved initial and refresher training costs of suitably qualified staff.

(5) A qualifying company which sets up a child day care centre in accordance with subsection (1), subsection (2) or subsection (3) of this section, may be allowed by the Corporation to enter into agreements with other qualifying companies or with service providers in government industrial estates regarding vacancies in such a centre.

(6) The Corporation may, in its discretion grant to a qualifying company operating a child day care centre in accordance with the provisions of subsections (1), (2) or (3)

of this section relief from customs duty as provided in section 17 of this Act regarding furniture or equipment to be used in such a centre.

(7) The Corporation may in granting any assistance in accordance with the provisions of this section, impose any conditions it may deem fit regarding the fees which may be charged for such child day care service on the parent-employees.”.

15. Section 24 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

Substitution of  
section 24  
of the  
principal Act.

“Small  
enterprises.

24. (1) The Corporation may, at its discretion, grant to a small enterprise:

(a) relief from customs duty as provided in section 17 of this Act ;

(b) industrial buildings, structures and land on such conditions as the Corporation may from time to time determine;

(c) soft loans as provided in section 16 of this Act;  
or

(d) any other incentive or benefit as would be consistent with the aims and objectives of the industrial policy of the Government, as may be prescribed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

(2) In subsection (1) of this section “small enterprise” means a person or a company constituted under Maltese Law which:

(a) carries on or carries out a trade or business contemplated under paragraphs (a) to (h) of subsection (1) of section 3 of this Act or such other trade or business as the Minister may prescribe by notice in the Gazette; and

(b) has at least two of the following criteria not exceeding the threshold as the Minister may prescribe from time to time by notice in the Gazette:

(i) the turnover;

- (ii) the number of employees;
- (iii) the balance sheet total;
- (iv) the total investment:

Provided that the Minister may vary the threshold levels in relation to the type of trade or business carried out which the Minister may specify in the said notice.”.

Addition of  
new sections  
24A and 24B  
to the  
principal Act.

16. Immediately after section 24 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new sections:

“Soft loans  
in connection  
with energy  
and water  
conservation.

24A. (1) Where the Corporation is satisfied that in the case of a qualifying company or of a company which carries on or carries out, in Malta, a trade or business consisting mainly of the operation or management of a hotel or group of hotels, it would be consistent with the aims and objectives of the policy of the Government regarding energy and water conservation, the Corporation may grant loans to the said company for the acquisition of related plant, equipment, machinery and other fixed assets, but excluding land, and for the financing of the necessary civil engineering and infrastructural works, in accordance with the terms and conditions herein specified.

(2) The Corporation may grant loans as provided under subsection (1) of this section when the plant, equipment, machinery or fixed assets are acquired as part of an investment programme for the conservation of energy or water as may be approved by the Corporation.

(3) Loans under the provisions of this section shall in no case exceed thirty-three per cent of the projected investment programme for the conservation of energy or water as approved by the Corporation, but no loan shall exceed Lm200,000.

Cap. 204.

(4) The rate of interest charged by the Corporation on loans granted under this section shall be the minimum discount rate in terms of directives issued from time to time by the Central Bank of Malta under the Central Bank of Malta Act, less two and a half percentage points:

Provided that the provisions of this subsection may only be applied by the Corporation when the said minimum discount rate is at an equivalent or higher level than two and half percentage points.

(5) The provisions of subsections (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9) and (10) of section 16 of this Act shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to loans granted by the Corporation under the provisions of this section.

Reduced rates  
of tax for  
upgrading,  
refurbishing  
or renovation  
of a hotel.

24B. (1) Where it appears to the Corporation in the case of a company which carries on or carries out, in Malta, a trade or business consisting mainly of the operation or management of a hotel or group of hotels, that the gains or profits or part thereof derived by that company from its trade or business or part thereof in the year of assessment commencing on 1st January, 1997, or in subsequent years of assessment, have been set aside for the exclusive purpose of financing a project for the upgrading, refurbishing or renovation of a hotel or hotels owned, operated or managed by such a company and as shall have been approved by the Corporation, and that the gains or profits or part thereof have in fact been used for the purposes for which they were set aside, the Corporation shall issue to such company a certificate showing compliance and thereupon the rate of income tax chargeable on the gains or profits or part thereof so used shall be reduced by seventeen and a half percentage points, and in any such case the tax chargeable shall be assessed, or reassessed and where necessary refunded, as the case may require.

(2) The provisions of subsection (2) of section 6 of this Act shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to companies qualifying for assistance under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section."

17. Section 25 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment of  
section 25 of the  
principal Act.

(a) immediately after subsection (3) thereof there shall be added the following new subsections:

"(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in releasing a certificate in accordance with the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, the Corporation may impose any conditions it may deem fit including a reduction in the term of the tax holiday contemplated by section 4 of this Act.

(5) The Corporation may at its discretion issue a certificate exempting a qualifying company from the requirements of paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 4 of this Act under such terms and conditions it may deem fit to impose where:

(a) the company is a joint venture between an existing qualifying Maltese company or companies (in this subsection referred to as "the first partner company") and a company which carries on its trade or business outside Malta (in this subsection referred to as "the second partner company") and which, if it were not for the said joint venture, would satisfy the conditions established in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 4 of this Act; and

(b) the second partner company holds at least 20% of the ordinary and voting share capital of the joint venture company; and

(c) the Corporation is satisfied that the second partner company would bring into the joint venture company innovative technology, new production processes or access to new foreign markets."; and

(b) subsections (4) and (5) thereof shall respectively be renumbered as subsections (6) and (7).

Amendment of  
section 34 of the  
principal Act.

18. Section 34 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in subsection (2) thereof, for the words "on account of which it has been made." there shall be substituted the words "on account of which it has been made."; and

(b) immediately at the end of subsection (2), there shall be inserted the following proviso:

"Provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in subsection (1) of section 45 of this Act, a qualifying company which so elects not to be granted or to take any incentive or benefit otherwise due to it under the provisions of this Act, shall not be precluded from being granted any incentive or benefit of a similar nature granted under the provisions of the Aids to Industries Ordinance.".

Cap. 159.



19. Subsection (2) of section 35 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following new subsection:

Amendment of  
section 35  
of the  
principal Act.

Cap. 168. “(2) A qualifying company shall not be entitled to any incentive or benefit contemplated under the provisions of this Act unless its annual financial statements, and in the case of a company not incorporated under Maltese Law the annual financial statements of its operations in Malta, are audited by a certified public accountant and auditor in accordance with the provisions of the Commercial Partnerships Ordinance, 1962 or the Companies Act, 1995, as applicable, whether or not such audit is required under the said Ordinance or Act and unless all other statements, accounts or documents submitted for the purpose of acquiring any such incentive or benefit are also certified by a certified public accountant and auditor to the same effect that the company’s financial statements are to be certified under the provisions of the said Ordinance or Act as aforesaid.”.

20. Section 36 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of  
section 36  
of the  
principal Act.

(a) in the proviso to subsection (2) thereof, whenever the words “section 6” occur, there shall be added thereto the words “and section 24B”;

(b) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), immediately after the words “of section 6” there shall be added the words “and section 24B”; and

(c) immediately after subsection (5) thereof, there shall be added the following two new subsections:

“(6) Where a qualifying company is a company incorporated outside Malta, such company shall show the Incentive and Benefits Reserve on its balance sheet in respect of its business activities in Malta until the company’s place of business in Malta, in respect of which the reserve is required, ceases to exist.

(7) The provisions of subsections (2), (3) and (5) of this section shall only apply to companies constituted under Maltese Law.”.

Addition of  
new section 44A to  
the principal Act.

**21.** Immediately after section 44 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new section:

"Exercise  
of the  
Corporation's  
functions  
under  
this Act.

**44A.** The Corporation may, with the approval of the Minister, exercise its functions and powers under this Act through the agency of other persons:

Provided that any delegation of powers or functions made in accordance with the provisions of this section will not be effective unless definitely approved by the Corporation."

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Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 72 of  
Tuesday, 27th May, 1997.

Myriam Spiteri Debono  
*Speaker*

RICHARD J. CAUCHI  
*Clerk to the House of Representatives.*

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