



THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

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Data: 29/10/2019

Stqarrija: L-Assembleja Ġenerali u l-Forum tal-INSULEUR f' Għawdex

Fil-24 u l-25 ta' Ottubru saret l-Assembleja Ġenerali u l-Forum tal-INSULEUR fil-Grand Hotel, l-Imġarr Għawdex. Delegati barranin mill-Greċja, Spanja, Franza, l-Italja u Jersey attendew dawn iż-żewġ avvenimenti.

L-INSULEUR huwa n-Netwerk tal-Kmamar tal-Kummerċ u l-Industrija tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Dan twaqqaf fis-sena 2000 bl-għan primarju li jtejjeb il-kundizzjonijiet ekonomiċi u soċjali fir-reġjuni insulari Ewropej. Huwa kontinwament jistinka biex jindirizza d-differenzi bejn reġjuni kontinentali u insulari permezz ta': kollaborazzjoni bejn il-membri; il-formulazzjoni ta' politika integrata għall-iżvilupp tal-gzejjer; kollaborazzjoni mal-istituzzjonijiet tal-Unjoni Ewropea u organizzazzjonijiet mhux governattivi li għandhom l-istess għanijiet; inkoraġġiment ta' inizjattivi u proġetti mmirati li jsaħħu l-iżvilupp ekonomiku fil-gzejjer; l-għoti ta' informazzjoni u t-twettieq ta' attivitajiet ta' riċerka li jsaħħu l-iżvilupp ekonomiku u soċjali fil-gzejjer. Bħalissa l-Kamra tan-Negożju għal Għawdex għandha l-presidenza tal-INSULEUR.

Matul l-Assembleja Ġenerali tal-24 ta' Ottubru li kienet riservata għall-membri tal-INSULEUR biss, ġew diskussi temi bħal *Blue Growth* fil-gzejjer, proposta għal revizjonijiet fil-qafas tal-għajnuna statali li tkun immirata iktar għall-htigijiet tal-gzejjer, ir-regolamenti tal-VAT u l-gzejjer, u l-problema tar-refuġjati.

It-tema għall-Forum tal-INSULEUR ta' din is-sena fil-25 ta' Ottubru kienet "It-Trasformazzjoni Diġitali tal-Gzejjer Ewropej". Daniel Borg (Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Kamra tan-Negożju ta' Għawdex) fetaħ il-Forum. Diskorsi ewlenin saru mill-Onor Justyne Caruana, Ministru għal Għawdex, Constantine Michalos, viċi-president eżekuttiv tal-Eurochambres, u Juan Gual de Torrella Guasp, President tal-Awtorità tal-Portijiet tal-gzejjer Baleariċi. Kelliema ewlenin kienu jinkludu: Linda Randall (Research Fellow / Nordregio), Tony Moretta (CEO / Digital Jersey), Jonathan Mizzi (Chief Information Officer / Ministeru għal Għawdex), Elias Michelioudakis (Management Consultant - Intramuros / Kummissjoni Ewropea - DĠ DIGIT), Onor Josianne Cutajar (Membru tal-Parlament Ewropew), il-Professur Theocharis Tsoutsos (Direttur u Fundatur / Laboratorju tal-Energija Rinnovabbli u Sostenibbli, Univerisità Teknika ta' Kreta), Onor Alex Agius Saliba (Membru tal-Parlament Ewropew), Christoph Riedmann (Konsulent tal-Aġenda Diġitali / Eurochambres), Michael Aim (Kap tat-Trasformazzjoni Diġitali / il-Kamra tal-Kummerċ u l-Industrija Franċiża), Giannis Roussos (President / Cyclades Chamber of Commerce), Vassilis Salapats (Kap tad-Dipartiment tal-ICT / Kamra tal-Kummerċ u l-Industrija ta' Atena), Dana Farrugia (Kap Uffiċjal Eżekuttiv / Tech.mt), Dr George Vital Zammit (Senior Lecturer / Univerisità ta' Malta), Onor Alfred Sant (Membru tal-Parlament Ewropew), Dr Samuel Azzopardi (Kordinatur tal-EPP

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tal-Kummissjoni NAT, Membru tal-Kummissjonijiet CIVEX u COTER / Kumitat Ewropew tar-Regjuni), u Antoni Vicens (Direttur Ġenerali tar-Relazzjonijiet Esterni / Gvern tal-Gżejjer Baleariċi).

It-Tliet panels waqt il-Forum iddiskutew:

- L-Ekonomiji Insulari u d-Diġitalizzazzjoni;
- Inizjattivi tal-Kmamar tal-Kummerċ fil-gżejjer biex jgħinu l-proċessi tad-diġitalizzazzjoni fil-gżejjer u l-intrapriži żagħar u medji; u
- Lejn Strategija tad-Diġitalizzazzjoni għall-Gżejjer li jinsabu fl-Unjoni Ewropeja.

Il-panels rispettivi ġew moderati minn Dr Jonathan Mintoff (Kamra tan-Negozju ta 'Għawdex), Henri Malosse (it-30 President tal-Kumitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali Ewropew, Konsulent tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Kmamar tal-Kummerċ Franċiżi), u Dr Gordon Cordina (E-Cubed Islands)

Fl-aħħar ta-Forum ġiet formulata dikjarazzjoni biex tiġi żviluppata Strategija Komuni ta' Diġitalizzazzjoni għall-gżejjer tal-Unjoni Ewropeja. Din id-dikjarazzjoni tagħraf l-importanza u l-potenzjal tad-diġitalizzazzjoni għall-ekonomiji tal-gżejjer fejn id-diġitalizzazzjoni tista' tagħti direzzjoni "biex jiġu indirizzati d-diffikultajiet li ġeneralment huma assoċjati mal-iżolament ġeografiku tagħhom billi jiġu żviluppati rabtiet aktar b'saħħithom maċ-ċentri ewlenin ta 'attività ekonomika, jiġu żviluppati prodotti u servizzi innovattivi u jiddiversifikaw l-attività tan-negozju".

Din id-dikjarazzjoni saħqet ukoll li l-gżejjer fil-qasam tad-diġitalizzazzjoni għandhom:

- J edukaw il-komunità;
- Jiġi żviluppata għarfien ċar tal-proċess ta' diġitalizzazzjoni sabiex l-elementi kritiċi jkunu f'posthom;
- Jintroduċu bidliet fil-kurrikula biex jiżiedu r-riżorsi umani tagħhom;
- Jiżguraw ugwajanza ta 'opportunitajiet;
- Isibu bilanċ delikat li jippermetti innovazzjoni sostenibbli filwaqt li tiddaħħal leġiżlazzjoni sabiex tippoteġi ekosistemi sensitivi u tiżgura s-sigurtà diġitali.
- Jittrasformaw il-Kmamar tal-Kummerċ fil-gżejjer u l-intrapriži medji u żagħar permezz ta' teknoloġiji ġodda u innovattivi;
- Jiżviluppaw strategiji bbażati fuq i-realta tal-gżejjer biex jieħdu azzjonijiet konkreti li jipromwovu l-potenzjal territorjali tagħhom ibbażat fuq metodu li jibda minn isfel għal fuq.

Il-Forum ġie konkluz minn Joseph Borg, President tal-INSULEUR u l-Kamra tan-Negozju għal-Għawdex. Huwa enfasizza l-importanza għall-gżejjer biex jingħaqdu bejniethom sabiex isemmgħu leħinhom fuq livell Ewropew.

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Date: 29/10/2019

Press Release: INSULEUR General Assembly and Forum

On the 24th and the 25th October the INSULEUR General Assembly and Forum were held at the Grand Hotel, Mġarr Gozo. Foreign Delegates from Greece, Spain, France, Italy and Jersey attended the events.

INSULEUR is the Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union. It was set up in the year 2000 with the primary objective of improving economic and social conditions in European insular regions. It continuously strives to even out the imbalances between continental and insular regions through: collaboration between members; formulating an integrated policy for the development of islands; and collaborating with European Union institutions and non-governmental organisations which share the same aims; encouraging initiatives and projects targeted towards fostering economic development in insular regions; making information available; and undertaking research activities to facilitate the aforementioned aims being carried out. Currently the GBC holds the presidency of INSULEUR.

During the General Assembly on the 24th October which was reserved for INSULEUR members only, themes such as “Blue Growth and Islands”, a proposal for revisions to the state aid framework to better target islands’ needs, VAT regulations and islands, and the issue of refugees, were discussed.

The theme for this year’s INSULEUR Forum on the 25th October was “the Digital Transformation of European Islands”. Daniel Borg (CEO of the Gozo Business Chamber) opened the Forum. Keynote speeches were made by Hon Justyne Caruana, Minister for Gozo, Constantine Michalos, Executive vice president of Eurochambres, and Juan Gual de Torrella Guasp, President of the Port Authority of the Balearic islands. Key note speakers included Linda Randall (Research Fellow / Nordregio), Tony Moretta (CEO / Digital Jersey), Jonathan Mizzi (Chief Information Officer / Ministry for Gozo), Elias Michelioudakis (Management Consultant – Intramuros / European Commission – DG DIGIT), Hon Josianne Cutajar (Member of the European Parliament), Professor Theocharis Tsoutsos (Director and Founder / Renewable & Sustainable Energy Lab, Technical University of Crete), Hon Alex Agius Saliba (Member of the European Parliament), Christoph Riedmann (Advisor Digital Agenda / Eurochambres), Michael Aim (Head of Digital Transformation / French Chamber of Commerce and Industry Network), Giannis Roussos (President / Cyclades Chamber of Commerce), Vassilis Salapats (Head of ICT Department / Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Dana Farruiga (Chief Executive Officer / Tech Malta), Dr George Vital Zammit (Senior Lecturer / University of Malta), Hon Alfred Sant (Member of the European Parliament), Dr Samuel Azzopardi (EPP Coordinator NAT

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Commission, Member CIVEX and COTER Commissions / European Committee of the Regions), and Antoni Vicens (Director General of External Relations / Balearic Islands Government). The 3 panels during the Forum discussed:

- Insular Economies and Digitalisation;
- Insular Chambers' Initiatives for the Digitalisation of Insular Economies and SMEs; and
- Towards a Digitalisation Strategy for EU Islands.

The respective panels were moderated by Dr Jonathan Mintoff (Gozo Business Chamber), Henri Malosse (30th President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Advisor of the Association of the French Chambers of Commerce), and Dr Gordon Cordina (E-Cubed Islands)

A statement of conclusions and Intent on Developing a Common Digitalisation Strategy for EU islands was formulated as a result of the outcome of the Forum. This statement recognised the importance and potential of digitalisation for insular economies where digitalisation can serve as a roadmap “to tackle the difficulties that are generally associated with their geographical isolation by developing stronger links with the main centres of economic activity, developing innovative products and services and diversify business activity”.

On the basis of its proceedings the Conference recommended that EU islands:

- Educate the community;
- Develop a clear understanding of the digitalisation process so that the critical elements are in place;
- Introduce changes in curricula to upskill their human resources;
- Ensure equality of opportunity;
- Find a delicate balance to allow for sustainable innovation and introduce legislation in order to protect sensitive ecosystems and ensure digital security.
- Transform insular Chambers and SMEs through the exploitation of new and innovative technologies;
- Develop place-based strategies to take concrete actions and promote their territorial potential based on a bottom-up approach.

The Forum was concluded by Joseph Borg, President of INSULEUR and the Gozo Business Chamber. He highlighted the importance for islands to unite in order to make their voices heard at a European level.

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