



**AGREED MINUTES
OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF
THE MALTESE-ALGERIAN JOINT COMMISSION
VALLETTA**

18-19 December 2018

Within the framework of the historic relations and ties between the Republic of Malta and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and their desire to promote and strengthen their relations of friendship and cooperation in the fields identified for the benefit of the two friendly peoples, the Maltese-Algerian Joint Commission convened its Fifth Session in Malta between 18 and 19 December 2018.

The Joint Commission was co-chaired by the Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of the Republic of Malta, and H.E. Mustapha Guitouni, Minister of Energy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The members of the Maltese delegation and of the Algerian delegation are listed in Annex I and Annex II respectively.

The discussions held during the Joint Commission were conducted in a climate of trust and constructive dialogue and confirmed the willingness of the Two Sides to strengthen exchanges between the two countries in the light of the Official visit to Algiers by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta, the Hon. Dr. Joseph Muscat, from 18 to 19 November 2015, and the State Visit to Algiers by H.E. the President of the Republic of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca from 19 to 21 January 2016.

The Two Sides highlighted the shared values of freedom, democracy and respect between Malta and Algeria which should lead to deeper friendship, neighbourly ties and cooperation and towards achieving a partnership both on a bilateral level and within a Euro-Mediterranean dimension.

The Two Heads of Delegation took the occasion to examine more deeply the existing opportunities for cooperation in sectors with high added value and invited their respective authorities to organize in the future, bilateral meetings with the aim of identifying and formalizing initiatives for future cooperation mainly in the fields of health, tourism, digital economy, maritime shipping, ICT and energy.

On the occasion of the Fifth Session of the Joint Commission, the delegations of the two countries discussed the following sectors for cooperation:- (I) Energy; (II) Education and Training; (III) Maritime related services and ports; (IV) Construction and Infrastructure; (V) Agriculture and Fisheries; (VI) Plant Health; (VII) Veterinary Services; (VIII) Water Management; (IX) Social Policy; (X) Health; (XI) Pharmaceutical Industry; (XII) Economy and Industry; (XIII) Environment; (XIV) Culture; (XV) Heritage Management, (XVI) Tourism; (XVII) Youth and Sport; (XVIII) Digital Economy and e-government; (XIX) Police; and (XX) Bilateral Agreements.

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I. Energy

Both sides expressed their satisfaction over results of the meetings held between the energy sector experts from both countries during the afore-mentioned high level visits to Algiers by H.E. The President and the Hon. Prime Minister of Malta.

The Two Sides expressed interest to explore possible areas of cooperation within the energy sector. In this regard, they agreed to identify new avenues of cooperation, including possible collaboration in the oil and gas sector, training, the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in the development of the present regulatory and policy framework for the promotion of renewable energy, the integration of renewable energy sources in the electrical grid, and energy efficiency.

In this regard, they expressed their willingness to explore possible areas of cooperation in the following fields:

1. Hydrocarbons:

- LNG supply possibilities of the Maltese market under medium/long term contracts;
- Possibility of supply of petroleum products, such as:
 - o Jet fuel to supply the Maltese airline, as part of an integrated project, to enable the involvement of the Algerian national company (Sonatrach) in the distribution and marketing of the products on the Maltese market; and
 - o LPG, including cooperation in storage capacities located in Malta.
- Explore collaboration opportunities in the field of onshore and offshore exploration and production;
- Exchange of expertise in the field of hydrocarbons, particularly in the LNG industry and petrochemicals; and
- Developing cooperation in the field of training.

In this context, both sides agreed to set up a joint working group to examine the possibilities of cooperation between Sonatrach and the relevant Maltese side.

2. Electricity, renewable energy and energy efficiency:

Both sides agreed to establish cooperation in the field of electricity, renewable energy and energy efficiency through an exchange of experience and expertise and to develop cooperation in the field of training.

II. Education and Training

The Two Sides reaffirmed their willingness to develop bilateral cooperation in the field of Education, mainly on Education Governance, Support for children with special needs, Early Support (preschool class) and ICTs in Education.

The Two Sides also agreed on the importance of the teaching of English to Algerian nationals. In this regard, the Maltese Side proposed to offer to Algeria quality English language teaching and training opportunities tailor-made to specific needs in:

- Training for English teachers;
- English language courses for civil servants and specific purposes (Business English, Medical English, Aviation English, Technical English);
- Other specific ESP's as required and identified by the Algerian Side.

The financial conditions of such courses shall be agreed upon at the time of request.

The Maltese Side also made a presentation on the opportunities that exist in Malta to provide training in the following areas:

- Diplomatic training: the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) and Diplofoundation, provide training on international law, international relations, international history, international economics, diplomacy and humanitarian action to students coming from various countries;
- Maritime courses: The International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) organises internationally respected Courses in international maritime law; its students have included Algerians. Furthermore, the University of Malta also offers degree courses with specialisation in marine sciences with the aim to build marine professionals with scientific, technical and managerial skills and the International Ocean Institute provides dedicated courses on ocean governance and blue growth;
- Air Malta would be interested to provide aviation training to flight crew and cabin crew, maintenance repair and overhaul of fixed wing and rotary aircraft training.

III. Maritime related services and Ports

The Two Sides agreed to discuss further issues of common interest related to maritime transport with particular focus on training and certification of students and officers, standards applied in local ports, particularly the development of trans-shipment ports.

The Two Sides proposed to conclude a Maritime Memorandum of Understanding that would provide the basis for further dialogue and collaboration on maritime issues and the maritime industries in the respective countries, including a bilateral twinning agreement between the Maritime Training Schools of both countries to enhance exchange of expertise and experience, cooperation in the field of maritime security, safety and shipbuilding. The Two Sides also agreed to continue the discussions with the intention of finalising and signing the said Memorandum of Understanding in the near future.

The Two Sides also agreed to establish further dialogue in the field of maritime transport through cooperation in international and regional fora, particularly in the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the GTMO 5+5 and the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on port State control. Furthermore, they agreed to seek further cooperation in the field of port management and to explore further cooperation on protection of the environment and pollution response related to port operations.

IV. Construction and Infrastructure

The Two Sides identified construction with a particular emphasis on infrastructure, as a niche of future cooperation between Malta and Algeria.

They expressed their willingness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to increase collaboration and seek modes of active alliances and co-operation in fields related to construction and infrastructure.

The Algerian side expressed its wish to favour bilateral cooperation in the following areas;

- Exchange of technical and economic information to enable Maltese companies to be further familiar with the Algerian construction market particularly through setting up of joint companies and groups for the realization of integrated housing and public infrastructure programs;
- Exchange of experts between the Two Sides in the fields of engineering and technical assistance;
- Development of cooperation and collaboration ties between the Two Sides, notably by facilitating the exchange of experts in design, planning and development of energy efficient buildings and thermal rehabilitation of old urban buildings.

V. Agriculture and Fisheries

The Two Sides welcome the signing of the Agreement in the Veterinary Health Sector and the Memorandum of Understanding in the areas of Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine.

They agreed equally to organize meetings between experts from the two countries to examine the possibilities of setting up actions and / or projects of cooperation in the various fields of common interest such as:

- Vegetable seeds, food and forage legumes production;
- Exchange of vegetal and animal materials;
- Horticulture, protection and preservation of natural resources;
- Irrigation techniques;
- Development of organic agriculture;
- The management and development of sustainable management practices for forestry, water bodies and the fight against desertification;
- Rural development; and
- Fishing and aquaculture.

The Two Sides agreed to explore the possibility of scientific partnerships in order to research on matters related to agriculture fisheries and aquaculture.

VI. Plant Health

The Two Sides agreed to cooperate in the area of plant health through exchange of information and provision of training in this sector in Malta.

They also agreed to hold further meetings between technical experts in order to identify possible projects on phytosanitary matters.



VII. Veterinary Services

The Two Sides expressed their willingness to establish and develop their relations and co-operation in the field of veterinary services and to explore other areas of cooperation, including the following areas:

- Cooperation and technical assistance between the veterinary services laboratories of the two countries;
- Exchange of veterinary specialists in order to exchange mutual information on sanitary conditions of animals and products of animal origin as well as on scientific and technical productions in these sectors;
- Information sharing concerning sanitary aspects of elaboration, transformation and industrialisation methods of products of animal origin destined for export;
- Regular exchange of legislative and regulatory texts concerning animal's health; and
- Exchange of competent specialists participating in symposiums and seminars organised by the parties.

VIII. Water Management

The Two Sides expressed the desire to explore possible opportunities for collaboration in the development and application of integrated water resources management strategies based on the conjunctive implementation of water supply augmentation and water demand management measures.

In the context of established regional processes under the Union for the Mediterranean as well as the 5+5 water initiative, which process is co-led by Algeria, the Two Sides agreed to negotiate and conclude a Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in Water Resources.

The Two Sides agreed to undertake a joint meeting at technical level to further explore the possibility of collaborative initiatives.

IX. Social Policy:

In the field of protection and promotion of the family, as well as social solidarity, the Two Sides welcomed the prospects for bilateral cooperation and agreed to encourage and promote exchange of experience between their respective specialized institutions, particularly in areas related to the protection and promotion of the family, as well as social solidarity.

X. Health

The Two Sides welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Health on 19 December in Valletta, Malta and they expressed their desire to seek cooperation in the following:

(a) Oncology

The Two Sides expressed an interest to establish cooperation, exchange expertise and offer training opportunities in the field of oncology.

(b) Medical Education and Training

The Maltese side informed of the proposal for post graduate medical training programmes for healthcare professionals. The Maltese side envisaged the development of a state of the art Regional Hub Simulation Centre, which would provide simulation training. The Maltese side agreed to provide more information to the Algerian side about this proposal.

(c) Research Medicine

The Two Sides expressed their desire to explore, through the relevant authorities, possible collaboration on research on bioinformatics, pharmaceuticals, research and development, biomedical sciences as well as diseases which are prevalent in both countries such as diabetes and cancer etc. possibly trying to tap funding under EU programmes.

XI. Pharmaceutical Industry

Malta expressed its willingness to support the pharmaceutical sector in Algeria to export medicines in the EU by providing training to obtain EU Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certification in line with the EU and the Republic of Malta legislation and guidelines and conditions agreed by both sides.

Furthermore, the Two Sides agreed to collaborate on capacity building with regards to pharmaceutical products registration, pharmaceutical quality control and pharmacovigilance. In order to achieve this objective, the Malta Medicines Authority is willing to offer three (3) annual fellowships to Algerian pharmacists to read for a Doctorate in Pharmacy at the University of Malta. Through this programme, the beneficiary will be exposed to regulatory processes and pharmaceutical projects whilst following an advance degree. The modalities of these fellowships will be specified and agreed upon by the Two Sides at the time of request.

The Two Sides agreed to encourage companies in the pharmaceutical field to develop industrial cooperation through the exchange of experience and know-how.

XII. Economy and Industry

The Two Sides expressed the interest to explore collaboration and cooperation in within the following areas:

- Establishment of collaboration between entities responsible for foreign trade and the Chambers of Commerce;
- Industry;
- SMEs

The Two Sides agreed to initiate the basis of a mutually beneficial industrial cooperation.

The Algerian Side expressed its availability for a productive partnership in various fields including the electronics industry, pharmaceutical industry and the agro-food industry, in accordance with the legislation and regulations in force in each of the two countries.

The Two Sides highlighted the importance to develop the cooperation in the field of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and agreed to foster the intensification of their relations and

exchange information and experiences between the institutions in charge of SME's development. In this respect, the Two Sides promised to continue facilitating entry visas for the business communities of both countries.

Considering the importance of investment in the economic development of both countries, the Two Sides agreed to encourage their investment promotion institutions to promote investment flows and business relationships between the two countries.

This cooperation could take the form of partnerships and/or investments in industrial activities.

The Two Sides discussed ways to increase the volume of trade and to develop economic relations between Malta and Algeria and envisaged cooperation aimed at fostering direct contacts between the relevant institutions, the enterprises and the economic operators of both countries. Within this context, economic and industrial cooperation can be further discussed.

The Two Sides also expressed their willingness to promote trade between the two countries through the following:

- Encouraging the participation in trade exhibitions and fairs organised in both countries;
- Encouraging the holding in both countries of seminars and Country Days and business fora for facilitating direct contacts between companies and business communities of both countries;
- Creation of a Maltese-Algerian Business Council;
- Support for international market observation and export promotion;
- Cooperation in the field of e-commerce.

The Two Sides encourage operators from both countries to establish mutual interest business relationships at events organised by the respective trade promotion entities of the two countries.

The Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry invited the Maltese side to participate in the 4th edition of the International Logistics Fair to be held in Algiers in November 2019.

XIII. Environment

In expression of their will to establish and develop their bilateral relations, the Two Sides agreed to exchange technical assistance as well as best national experience in the areas of environment and sustainable development by sharing good practices and information on waste management and air quality control among other environmental issues.

In this regard, they specifically favoured exchange of experience and training in the following areas:

- The fight against climate change;
- Protection of biological resources; and
- Coastal management.

The Two Sides proposed to initiate negotiations aimed at concluding a Declaration of Intent in the field of Environment and Sustainable Development. The Algerian Side invited the Maltese side to participate in the second edition of the International Fair of the Environment and Renewable Energy scheduled to be organised in Algiers on 7th to 10th March 2019.



XIV. Culture

The Two Sides welcomed the finalisation of the bilateral cultural cooperation agreement and expressed their wish to sign it at the first available opportunity. They called for the strengthening of cultural exchanges between the two countries. In this regard, they encourage cooperation in the field of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, including exchanges between museum experts. They also encourage cooperation in the field of artistic training and participation in international cultural festivals organized in both countries, especially encouraging exchange of artists.

XV. Heritage Management

The Two Sides agreed to discuss and explore issues of common interest related to Heritage management, the regeneration and rehabilitation of historic areas and in the restoration of the built fabric, with particular focus on technical cooperation, training of staff and exchange of expertise.

XVI. Tourism

The Two Sides expressed interest to collaborate on avenues to strengthen bilateral relations and to boost the tourism sector.

Both Sides agreed to explore the possibility of facilitating contacts between stakeholders in the hospitality industry.

The areas of collaboration identified are training of students to invest in human capital and increase standards and quality in Human Resources.

XVII. Youth and Sport

The Two Sides expressed their satisfaction and interest in developing and strengthening youth and sport cooperation, and welcomed the continued negotiations of the draft Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Youth and Sport.

They emphasised the importance of pursuing their mutual interest in this area to promote bilateral relations, and endeavouring to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of youth and sport. In view of this, the following points are being proposed;

- Exchange of professional experience in the management and operation of youth institutions, preparation of youth-oriented policies and exchange of procedures for the socio professional integration of youth;
- Training and strengthening of youth workers capacities, share good practices for the development of youth NGOs and training in new approaches to work for young and current youth and current policy trends for youth, including HIV/AIDS, smoking and violence;
- Exchange of good practices between the Two Sides during organised meetings, such as seminars and conferences;
- Mobility of athletes to gain experience through training and participation in sport;

- Co-hosting events; and
- Coaching and officiating courses held by the Two Sides.

The Two Sides could work together to increase sport tourism, especially open water sport, which cannot be practised during winter season in Northern European countries.

XVIII. Digital Economy and e-government

Acknowledging that the Information and Communication Technology sector is presently, more than ever, characterised by a rapid growth at technological and regulatory level, the Two Sides agree to explore the possibility of establishing a mechanism that facilitates cooperation between Malta and Algeria.

The Two Sides proposed initiatives on possible cooperation in the following areas:

- (a) eGovernment;
- (b) Public Service information systems;
- (c) ICT research and innovation;
- (d) Digital Skills sharing of best practices and IT professionals human capital; and
- (e) The allocation and management of spectrum and frequencies.

The Two Sides are committed to use ICT and digital technologies in the various sectors of the public administration, in economy and in society and to adopt international best practices relevant to the area of ICT.

The Two Sides agreed to explore the possibility to exchange information and experiences between the competent authorities and agencies operating in the digital field.

The Two Sides also underscored that the cooperation and implementation in this sector are subject to the availability of necessary funds and resources. The financial conditions and resources of possible agreement shall be agreed upon by the Two Sides at the time of request.

XIX. Police

The Two Sides agreed to initiate cooperation between the police services of both countries, including through the exchange of fact-finding visits of police experts, exchange of experiences and technical and specialized training.

XX. Bilateral Agreements

The Two Sides recalled the signing of the Air Services Agreement on 18th November 2015 and look forward to its ratification so that the said Agreement can enter into force.

Furthermore, the Two Sides agreed to pursue negotiations on the pending bilateral agreements being negotiated between the Republic of Malta and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.



The Two Sides agreed to the convening of the VI Session of the Malta-Algeria Joint Commission in Algiers, within the next two years, at a date to be mutually decided upon through diplomatic channels.

Signed in Valletta, 19th December 2018, in two original copies in English.

**For the Government of the
Republic of Malta**



**For the Government of People's
Democratic Republic of Algeria**





List of the Maltese delegation

	NAME AND NOMENCLATURE	LINE MINISTRY/ENTITY
1	The Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotions	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion
2	Ms. Maria Camilleri Calleja, Director General Political, Head of the Maltese Technical Delegation	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion
3	H.E. Philo Meli, Non-Resident Ambassador of Malta to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion
4	Mr. Claude Bonello, Director External Relations and Mediterranean Affairs	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion
5	Mr. Simon Pullicino, Assistant Director External Relations and Mediterranean Affairs	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion
6	Mr. Jerome Spiteri, Trade Malta Representative in Algiers	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion
7	Ms. Nicole Apap Bologna, Desk Officer	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion
8	Dr. Albert Caruana, Director General within the Continental Shelf Department	Office of the Prime Minister
9	Dr. Charles Galea, Chief Scientific Officer within the Continental Shelf Department	Office of the Prime Minister
10	Mr. Emanuel Darmanin, Head within the Strategy and Business Department, Malta Information Technology Agency	Office of the Prime Minister
11	Dr. Antoinette Calleja, Director at the Department for Policy in Health	Ministry for Health
12	Dr Victor Calvagna, Consultant	Ministry for Health
13	Dr. Danica Camilleri Agius Decelis, Malta Medicines Authority	Ministry for Health
14	Mr. Jeffrey Bugeja, Director of Policy Development and Programme Implementation	Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses
15	Mr. Jurgen Zammit, Head of Executive Relations, Malta Enterprise	Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses
16	Ms. Lara Fiott, Investment Promotion Officer, Malta Enterprise	Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses
17	Prof. Aldo Drago, University of Malta Marine Sciences section	Ministry for Education and Employment
18	Ms. Annabel Cutajar, English Language Teaching Council	Ministry for Education and Employment
19	Ms. Rosemarie Mercieca, Personal Assistant to Chief Executive Officer, SportMalta	Ministry for Education and Employment
20	Ms. Miriam Teuma, Chief Executive Officer, Agenzija Zghazagh	Ministry for Education and Employment
21	Mr. Manuel Sapiano, Chief Executive Officer, Energy and Water Agency	Ministry for Energy and Water Management

22	Captain Emyc Debono, Chief Officer Flight Operations, Air Malta	Ministry for Tourism
23	Captain Clifford Chetcuti, Air Malta	Ministry for Tourism
24	Mr. Norbert Gatt, Director for Restoration	Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government
25	Mr. Ray Bondin, Manager, Heritage Malta	Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government
26	Mr. Mario Agius, Festival Malta	Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government
27	Ms. Margaret Cassar, Director General for Sustainable Development, Energy and Climate Change	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change
28	Ms. Ruth Debrincat, Director at Department for the Environment and Climate Change	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change
29	Dr. Roberto Andrea Balbo, Director at the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change
30	Mr. Sharlo Camilleri, Director at the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Division	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change
31	Mr. Noel Azzopardi, Director for Rural Development Department	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change
32	Mr. Stephen Bonello, Designate Director General at the Works and Infrastructure Department	Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects
33	Mr. Vincent Caruana, Assistant Director	Ministry for Family, Children and Social Solidarity
34	Mr Andrew Seychell, Consultant	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
35	Dr Gordon Cutajar, Assistant Registrar	Transport Malta

List of the Algerian delegation

	Noms et prénoms	Qualités
1	S.E.M. Mustapha GUITOUNI	Ministre de l'Energie
2	S.E.M. Toufik MILAT	Directeur des Pays d'Europe au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et chef de la délégation des experts
3	M. Said HERBANE	Secrétaire Général du Ministère de la Santé
4	M. Imed SELATNIA	Chargé d'affaires a.i. de l'Ambassade d'Algérie à Rome
5	Melle Manel AIT MEKIDECH	Conseiller au Ministère de l'Energie
6	M. Smail MOUSSI	Directeur de la Coopération au Ministère de l'Energie
7	M. Ali DROUICHE	Sous-directeur des pays d'Europe du Sud au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
8	M. Yassine BELARBI	Attaché des Affaires Etrangères à l'Ambassade d'Algérie à Rome
9	Mme Mounira BOULHENDI	Chef de service de la coopération à SONELGAZ
10	Mme Nabila CHERAFT	Sous-directrice de la Coopération au Ministère de l'Energie
11	Mme Safia OMARI	Sous-directrice de la Coopération au Ministère de la Poste, des Technologies de l'Information et du Numérique
12	Mme Maïssa MOUFFOK	Directrice de la Coopération au Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports
13	Mme Asma MOULAY	Directrice de la Coopération au Ministère du Tourisme
14	Mme Sihem MADANI	Directrice de la Coopération au Ministère de l'Environnement et des Energies renouvelables
15	M. Sid Ali HADJI	Sous-directeur de la Coopération au Ministère de l'Industrie et des Mines
16	Mme Houria BENYAHIA-ZEGHLI	Sous-directrice de la Coopération au Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche
17	Mme Soumeïya BENHADJ	Sous-directrice de la Coopération au Ministère de la Culture