



**No. Press Releases**

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**Statement by the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family in connection with the 'Youth in Action' and 'Life-long Learning' Programmes for 2010**

The European Commission has informed the unit (referred to as the National Authority) responsible to oversee the European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA), within the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family, that it is temporarily suspending the actions covered by the 2010 calls for proposals for the 'Youth in Action' and the 'Lifelong Learning' Programmes.

The Commission has taken this step as a precautionary action until it is satisfied that all the assurance measures have been adopted by the National Authority and National Agency (EUPA).

The Commission is requesting information from the National Authority on the concrete measures that have already been taken or are planned. Systems and financial audits are carried out on an annual basis by independent auditors; in such reports, a number of recommendations are made to ensure better operational and financial controls which need to be implemented.

EUPA has been working to update procedures to ensure a more timely and better quality reporting system as recommended by the auditors and the European Commission.

The Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family is fully committed to ensuring that the recommendations are in place. While expressing her disappointment at this development, Minister Cristina has given instructions to Ministry officials, led by the Permanent Secretary, to take all the steps that need to be taken without further delay.

The Commission is due to inform the Ministry in the coming weeks of the steps that have to be taken to allow an early resumption of the programmes.

The Commission has requested the EUPA to continue to fulfill all its contractual obligations for previous Calls for Proposals under the Youth in Action and Lifelong Learning Programmes.

The participation of Maltese organisations and individuals in the centralised actions of the LLP is not affected. **The mobility of other participating countries' nationals to Malta also remains fully eligible under the decentralised programme actions.**

Those persons who need further clarifications are kindly requested to phone on 2558 6130.

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