

Suppliment tal-Gazzetta tal-Gvern ta' Malta, Nru. 19,719, 31 ta' Jannar, 2017

Taqsim A

MALTA

ATT Nru V tal-2017

ATT maħruġ b'liġi mill-Parlament ta' Malta.

ATT biex jemenda l-Att dwar il-Kunsill Malti għall-Iżvilupp Ekonomiku u Soċjali, Kap. 431.

ACT No. V of 2017

AN ACT enacted by the Parliament of Malta.

AN ACT to amend the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development Act, Cap. 431.

Nagħti l-kunsens tiegħi.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

31 ta' Jannar, 2017

ATT Nru V tal-2017

ATT biex jemenda l-Att dwar il-Kunsill Malti għall-Iżvilupp Ekonomiku u Soċjali, Kap. 431.

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità tal-istess, harġet b'ligi dan li ġej:-

1. It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att hu l-Att tal-2017 li jemenda l-Att dwar il-Kunsill Malti għall-Iżvilupp Ekonomiku u Soċjali, u dan l-Att għandu jinqara u jinftiehem haġa waħda mal-Att dwar il-Kunsill Malti għall-Iżvilupp Ekonomiku u Soċjali, hawn iżjed 'il quddiem imsejjaħ "l-Att prinċipali".

Titolu fil-qosor.

Kap. 431.

2. Minnufih wara t-tifsira "Malta" fl-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali għandha tizzied it-tifsira ġdida li ġejja:

Emenda tal-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali.

" "Ministru" tfisser il-Ministru responsabbli għad-Djalogu Soċjali;".

Emenda tal-
artikolu 4 tal-
Att prinċipali.

3. L-artikolu 4 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:
- (a) il-paragrafu (d) tas-subartikolu (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(d) żewġ rappreżentanti tal-Gvern, wieħed jirrappreżenta lill-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi, u l-ieħor jirrappreżenta lill-Ministru; u":

- (b) is-subartikolu (4) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(4) Bla hsara partikolarment għas-subartikolu (2), għad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, u għar-regolamenti magħmulin tahtu, il-Kunsill jista' jiddetermina li kull meta jiltaqa' biex iwettaq xi waħda mill-funzjonijiet tiegħu skont l-artikolu 5, membri sostituti mahtura skont is-subartikolu (2)(a) u (b) jistgħu jattendu flimkien mal-membri mahtura skont is-subartikolu (1)(c) (d) u (e)."; u

- (c) is-subartikolu (6) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(6) Il-Ministru jista', wara konsultazzjoni mal-Kunsill, jagħmel regolamenti dwar il-proċeduri li għandhom jiġu adottati mill-Kunsill, inkluż il-*quorum* għall-laqgħat, kif jimtlew vakanzi każwali, telf tal-mandat u sostituzzjoni tal-membri."

Emenda tal-
artikolu 5 tal-
Att prinċipali.

4. L-artikolu 5 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) fis-subartikolu (1) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "jagħti parir lill-Gvern, permezz tal-Prim Ministru" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "jagħti parir lill-Gvern, permezz tal-Ministru";

(b) fil-paragrafu (f) tas-subartikolu (1) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-għanijiet tal-Kunsill." għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-għanijiet tal-Kunsill;" u minnufih wara għandu jiżdied dan li ġej:

"(g) jissotometti fi żmien maqbul mal-Ministru u l-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi, pjan ta' hidma annwali ddettaljat ta' kif il-Kunsill ser iwettaq il-funzjonijiet tiegħu u l-inizjattivi illi ser jieħu fil-paramteri tal-eżekuzzjoni tal-funzjonijiet tiegħu kif imfissra fis-subartikolu (2) u fl-ispirtu sħiħ ta' dan l-Att u tar-regolamenti magħmulin tahtu:

Iżda il-Kunsill jista', bla ħsara għad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u tar-regolamenti magħmulin tahtu, jieħu inizjattivi li m'humix imnizzlin speċifikament fis-subartikolu (2), liema inċentivi jistgħu jittieħdu wara konsultazzjoni mal-Ministru u l-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi.";

(ċ) fis-subartikolu (3) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "il-Kunsill għandu jaġixxi wara talbiet speċifiċi sottomessi lill mill-Gvern" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "il-Kunsill għandu jaġixxi wara talbiet speċifiċi sottomessi lill mill-Gvern permezz tal-Ministru"; u

(d) Minnufih wara s-subartikolu (3) tiegħu għandhom jiżdiedu s-subartikoli godda li ġejjin:

"(4) Il-Kunsill jista', fil-qadi tal-funzjonijiet tiegħu taht dan l-Att, b'kull mezz wara li jippreżenta pjan ta' ħidma għall-konsultazzjoni lill-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi u lill-Ministru, iniedi strategija ta' komunikazzjoni esterna għall-bini ta' xibka ta' interazzjoni u skambju ta' riżorsi u tagħrif ma' entitatijiet u individwi oħra li jistgħu jagħtu kontribut fil-qadi tal-funzjonijiet tal-istess Kunsill kif preskritti f'dan l-Att:

Iżda, bla ħsara għad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u r-regolamenti magħmulin tahtu, il-Kunsill għandu jadotta regoli ta' proċedura li jirregolaw kull stadju tal-ħidma tiegħu kif ukoll il-proċedura dwar l-aċċess tal-istampa għal-laqqgħat tiegħu fil-plenarja, u għal-laqqgħat tal-organi rispettivi kollha fi hdanu:

Iżda ukoll, bla ħsara għall-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u r-regolamenti magħmulin tahtu, il-Kunsill għandu jirregola ir-relazzjonijiet interni bejn id-diversi organi fi hdan il-Kunsill, u l-proċeduri kollha inklużi, iżda mhux biss, dawk li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-komunikazzjoni interna bejn l-organi fi hdan il-Kunsill imsemmija fl-artikolu 5A.

(5) Il-Kunsill għandu jiddetermina il-lok minn fejn iwettaq l-operat tiegħu u l-funzjonijiet kollha tiegħu, kif għalih hu konvenjenti u xieraq, mingħajr tfixkil u sakemm ma jinholoqx xi kunflitt ma' xi waħda mill-funzjonijiet elenkati taht is-subartikolu (1) b'mod partikulari fil-paragrafu (a) u fil-parametri tal-baġit

stabbilit għall-Kunsill."

Żjieda ta' artikolu ġdid mal-Att prinċipali.

5. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 5 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiżdied l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

"Korpi fi hdan il-Kunsill.

5A. Bla ħsara għad-dispożizzjonijiet tal-artikoli 3 u 4(1) u jew għal kull dispożizzjoni oħra ta' dan l-Att jew għal xi regolamenti magħmulin tahtu, il-Kunsill għandu jinkludi fih:

(a) il-Plenarja li tkun kostitwita mill-membri eliġibbli biex jattendu għal-laqgħat tal-Kunsill;

(b) il-*Bureau* li jkun kostitwit mir-rappreżentanti legali u, jew l-esperti mahtura mill-organizzazzjonijiet; u

(ċ) il-Gruppi ta' Hidma li jkunu kostitwiti mill-iMsieħba Soċjali kif xieraq u skont il-ħtieġa:

Iżda l-ebda komunikazzjoni lill-pubbliku ġenerali u, jew lill- midja mill-*Bureau* jew mil-Gruppi ta' Hidma ma tista' tinhareg f'isem il-Kunsill jekk ma jkunx hemm l-approvazzjoni b'vot unanimu mill-Plenarja:

Iżda wkoll il-Kunsill jista', bla ħsara għad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u ta' xi regolamenti magħmulin tahtu, jahtar sottokumitati u, b'mod ġenerali, għandu jirregola l-proċedura tiegħu stess..".

Emenda tal-artikolu 6 tal-Att prinċipali.

6. Fis-subartikolu (2) tal-artikolu 6 tal-Att prinċipali, minflok il-kliem "jiġu mahtura mill-Prim Ministru bil-parir tal-Ministru responsabbli għal konsultazzjoni" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "jiġu mahtura mill-Prim Ministru bil-parir tal-Ministru u taç-*Chairperson* tal-Kunsill u għandhom jiġu elenkati f'Avviż maħruġ mil-Prim Ministru u ppubblikat fil-Gazzetta. Il-ħatriet għandhom isiru għal perjodu ta' sentejn li għandu jibda fid-data tal-ħatra."

Emenda tal-artikolu 6A tal-Att prinċipali.

7. Fis-subartikolu (2) tal-artikolu 6A tal-Att prinċipali, minflok il-kliem "jiġu mahtura mill-Prim Ministru bil-parir tal-Ministru responsabbli għal konsultazzjoni" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "jiġu mahtura mill-Prim Ministru bil-parir tal-Ministru u taç-*Chairperson* tal-Kunsill."

Emenda tal-artikolu 7 tal-Att prinċipali.

8. Fis-subartikolu (1) tal-artikolu 7 tal-Att prinċipali, minflok il-kliem "bil-kunsens tal-Prim Ministru jistabbilixxi" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "bil-kunsens tal-Ministru jistabbilixxi".

9. L-artikolu 9 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 9 tal-Att prinċipali.

(a) fis-subartikolu (4) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "lill-Prim Ministru u lill-Ministru tal-Finanzi" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "lill-Prim Ministru, lill-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi u lill-Ministru";

(b) fis-subartikolu (5) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "Prim Ministru" għandha tidhol il-kelma "Ministru"; u

(ċ) fis-subartikolu (6) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "Prim Ministru" għandha tidhol il-kelma "Ministru".

10. Is-subartikolu (2) tal-artikolu 10 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 10 tal-Att prinċipali.

"(2) Mingħajr ħsara għall-generalità tas-subartikolu (1) -

(a) sakemm jgħaddu sitt xhur mill-bidu ta' sena finanzjarja jew sal-approvazzjoni tal-estimi għal dik is-sena, tkun liema tkun l-ewwel data, il-Kunsill jista' jinfiq jew jidhol għal nefqa biex jaqdi l-funzjonijiet tiegħu skont dan l-Att li b'kollox ma tkunx aktar minnofs l-ammont approvat għas-sena finanzjarja ta' qabel;

(b) nefqa approvata dwar kap jew sotto-kap tal-estimi tista' bl-approvazzjoni tal-Ministru, mogħtija wara konsultazzjoni mal-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi, issir dwar kap jew sotto-kap ieħor tal-estimi;

(ċ) il-Kunsill jista' jagħmel jew jidhol għal dik in-nefqa li fit-total ma tkunx aktar minn dak l-ammont li l-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi, wara konsultazzjoni mal-Ministru, jippermetti."

11. L-artikolu 12 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 12 tal-Att prinċipali.

(a) fis-subartikolu (1) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "il-Prim Ministru jahtar dawk l-uffiċjali" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "il-Ministru jahtar dawk l-uffiċjali"; u minflok il-kliem "bl-approvazzjoni tal-Prim Ministru" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "bl-approvazzjoni tal-Ministru"; u

(b) is-subartikolu (2) għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(2) Il-Prim Ministru jista', fuq talba tal-Ministru, minn żmien għal żmien, jordna li xi uffiċjal pubbliku jiġi

assenjat biex jaqdi dmirijietu mal-Kunsill f'dik il-kariga u b'seħħ minn dik id-data li jiġu speċifikati fl-ordni tal-Prim Ministru:

Iżda il-perjodu li għalih ordni bħal dik hawn aktar qabel imsemmija għandha tapplika għal xi ufficjal li jkun speċifikat fiha għandu, kemm il-darba l-ufficjal ma jkunx irtira mis-servizz pubbliku, jew xort'oħra temm milli jibqa' fil-kariga f'data li tiġi qabel, jew kemm il-darba ma tiġix speċifikata data differenti f'dik l-ordni, jtemm milli jibqa' jseħħ wara sena mid-data effettiva ta' dik l-ordni, kemm il-darba l-ordni ma tiġix aktar kmieni revokata mill-Prim Ministru."

Emenda tal-
artikolu 13 tal-
Att prinċipali.

12. L-artikolu 13 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) fis-subartikolu (2) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "Prim Ministru" għandha tidhol il-kelma "Ministru"; u fil-proviso għall-imsemmi sub artikolu minflok il-kliem "Izda l-Ministru tal-Finanzi jista' wara konsultazzjoni mal-Prim Ministru" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "Izda l-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi jista' wara konsultazzjoni mal-Ministru";

(b) fis-subartikolu (3) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "il-Kunsill għandu jara li kopja tal-prospett ta' kontijiet verifikati kif jixraq jiġu mogħtija lill-Prim Ministru u lill-Ministru tal-Finanzi" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "il-Kunsill għandu jara li kopja tal-prospett ta' kontijiet verifikati kif jixraq jiġu mogħtija lill-Prim Ministru, lill-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi u lill-Ministru";

(ċ) fis-subartikolu (4) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "Il-Prim Ministru għandu mal-ewwel opportunità" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "Il-Ministru għandu mal-ewwel opportunità"; u

(d) is-subartikolu (5) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(5) Is-sena finanzjarja tal-Kunsill tkun ta' tmax-il xhar li tispicċa fit-30 ta' Settembru."

Emenda tal-
artikolu 14 tal-
Att prinċipali.

13. L-artikolu 14 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) is-subartikolu (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(1) Il-Kunsill għandu, mhux aktar tard minn sitt gimgħat wara t-tmiem ta' kull sena finanzjarja, jagħmel u jibgħat lill-Prim Ministru, lill-Ministru, u lill-Ministru responsabbli għall-Finanzi, rapport annwali tal-ħidma tiegħu matul dik is-sena."; u

(b) fis-subartikolu (3) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "Il-Prim Ministru għandu, mal-ewwel opportunità" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "Il-Ministru għandu, mal-ewwel opportunità".

14. L-artikolu 15 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

Sostituzzjoni
tal-artikolu 15
tal-Att
prinċipali.

"15. Il-Ministru jista' jagħmel regolamenti b'mod ġenerali biex jagħti effett lid-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u għat-twettiq aħjar ta' kull waħda mid-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att inklużi regolamenti li jstabilixxu l-kriterji li għandhom jintużaw għal kif ikun kompost il-Kumitat tas-Socjetà Ċivili u l-Kumitat Reġjonali Għawdex, in-numru ta' membri u kull materja oħra għall-funzjonament xieraq ta' dawn il-kumitati".

Mgħoddi mill-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Nru 474 tal-25 ta' Jannar, 2017.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Skrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

I assent.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

31st January, 2017

ACT No. V of 2017

AN ACT to amend the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development Act, Cap. 431.

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:-

Short title.

Cap. 431.

Amendment of article 2 of the principal Act.

Amendment of article 4 of the principal Act.

1. The short title of this Act is the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (Amendment) Act, 2017, and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development Act, hereinafter referred to as the "the principal Act".

2. Immediately after the definition "Malta" in article 2 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new definition:

" "Minister" means the Minister responsible for Social Dialogue;"

3. Article 4 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) paragraph (d) of sub-article (1) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(d) two representatives of the Government, one representing the Minister responsible for Finance, the other representing the Minister; and";

(b) sub-article (4) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(4) Without prejudice particularly to sub-article (2), to the provisions of this Act, and to any regulations made thereunder, the Council may direct that every time it convenes to carry out any of its functions in accordance with article 5, substitute members appointed by virtue of sub-article (2)(a) and (b) may attend together with members appointed in accordance with sub-article (1)(c) (d) and (e)."; and

(c) sub-article (6) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(6) The Minister may, after consultation with the Council, make regulations regarding the procedures to be adopted by the Council, including the quorum for meetings, the filling of casual vacancies, loss of mandate and substitution of members."

4. Article 5 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of article 5 of the principal Act.

(a) in sub-article (1) thereof, for the words "advise Government, through the Prime Minister" there shall be substituted the words "advise Government, through the Minister";

(b) in paragraph (f) of sub-article (1) thereof, for the words "related to the objectives of the Council." there shall be substituted the words "related to the objectives of the Council;" and immediately thereafter there shall be added the following:

"(g) submit within a time-frame agreed upon by the Minister and the Minister responsible for Finance, an annual detailed plan of activities, wherein the Council explains how it will implement its functions and the initiatives which it will take within the parameters of the execution of its functions as defined in sub-article (2), the spirit of this Act and regulations made thereunder:

Provided that the Council may, without prejudice to the provisions of this Act and to any regulations made thereunder, take initiatives which are not specifically

mentioned in sub-article (2), which initiatives may be taken after consultation with the Minister and the Minister responsible for Finance.";

(c) in sub-article (3) thereof, for the words "the Council shall act on specific requests submitted to it by the Government" there shall be substituted the words "the Council shall act on specific requests submitted to it by the Government through the Minister"; and

(d) immediately after sub-article (3) thereof there shall be added the following new sub-articles:

"(4) The Council may, in the implementation of its functions under this Act, with all means after presenting a plan of activities for consultation to the Minister responsible for Finance and to the Minister, embark on a strategy for external communications for the building of interactive networks and exchange of resources and knowledge with other entities and individuals who can contribute in the implementation of the functions of the said Council as prescribed in this Act:

Provided that, without prejudice to the provisions of this Act and to any regulations made thereunder, the Council shall adopt rules of procedure which shall regulate every stage of its operations, as well as the procedure of access of the press to its meetings in the plenary, and for all the meetings held by its respective organs:

Provided further that, without prejudice to the provisions of this Act and to any regulations made thereunder, the Council shall regulate the internal relations between the different organs within the Council, and its procedures including, but not only, those concerning internal communications between the organs within the Council referred to in article 5A.

(5) The Council shall determine the place from which it shall carry out its operations and all of its functions, as it deems fit and convenient, without hindrance and as long as no conflict ensues with any functions listed under sub-article (1) particularly in paragraph (a) and unless falling within the parameters of the budget established for the Council."

5. Immediately after article 5 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new article: Addition of new article to the principal Act.

"Bodies within the Council.

5A. Without prejudice to the provisions of articles 3 and 4(1) and any other provision of this Act or to any other regulations made thereunder, the Council shall include within it:

(a) the Plenary which shall be constituted from members eligible to attend for the meetings of the Council;

(b) the Bureau which shall be constituted from the legal representatives and, or experts engaged by the organisations; and

(c) the Working Groups which shall be constituted by the social partners subject to what is just and necessary:

Provided that no communication to the general public and, or the media, shall be issued by the Bureau or Working Groups, in the name of the Council without approval subject to a unanimous vote of the Plenary:

Provided further that, without prejudice to the provisions of this Act and to any regulations made thereunder, the Council may appoint sub-committees, and generally, shall regulate its own proceedings."

6. In sub-article (2) of article 6 of the principal Act, for the words "shall be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the advice of the Minister responsible for dialogue" there shall be substituted the words "shall be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the advice of the Minister and the Chairperson of the Council and shall be listed in a Notice issued by the Prime Minister and published in the Gazette. Appointments shall be made for a period of two years which shall commence on the date of appointment." Amendment of article 6 of the principal Act.

7. In sub-article (2) of article 6A of the principal Act, for the words "shall be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the advice of the Minister responsible for dialogue" there shall be substituted the words "shall be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the advice of the Minister and the Chairperson of the Council". Amendment of article 6A of the principal Act.

8. In sub-article (1) of article 7 of the principal Act, for the words "with the concurrence of the Prime Minister, may establish" there shall be substituted the words "with the consent of the Minister, may establish". Amendment of article 7 of the principal Act.

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Amendment of article 9 of the principal Act.

9. Article 9 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in sub-article (4) thereof, for the words "to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Finance", there shall be substituted the words "to the Prime Minister, to the Minister responsible for Finance and to the Minister";

(b) in sub-article (5) thereof, for the words "Prime Minister" there shall be substituted the word "Minister"; and

(c) in sub-article (6) thereof thereof, for the words "Prime Minister" there shall be substituted the word "Minister".

Amendment of article 10 of the principal Act.

10. Sub-article (2) of article 10 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

"(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-article (1) -

(a) until the expiration of six months from the beginning of a financial year, or until the approval of the estimates for that year, whichever is the earlier date, the Council may make or incur expenditure for the carrying on of its functions under this Act not exceeding in the aggregate one-half of the amount approved for the preceding financial year;

(b) expenditure approved in respect of a head or sub-head of the estimates may, with the approval of the Minister, given after consultation with the Minister responsible for Finance, be made or incurred in respect of another head or sub-head of the estimates;

(c) the Council may make or incur expenditure not exceeding in the aggregate such amounts as the Minister responsible for Finance may, after consultation with the Minister, allow."

Amendment of article 12 of the principal Act.

11. Article 12 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in sub-article (1) thereof, for the words "of the Prime Minister, appoint such officers" there shall be substituted the words "of the Minister, appoint such officers"; and for the words "with the approval of the Prime Minister" there shall be substituted the words "with the approval of the Minister"; and

(b) sub-article (2) thereof shall be substituted by the

following:

"(2) The Prime Minister may, at the request of the Minister, from time to time, direct that any public officer shall be transferred for duty with the Council in such capacity and with effect from such date as may be specified in the Prime Minister's direction:

Provided that the period during which a direction as aforesaid shall apply to any officer specified therein shall, unless the officer retires from the public service, or otherwise ceases to hold office at an earlier date, or unless a different date is specified in such direction, cease to have effect after one year from the effective date of such direction unless the direction is revoked earlier by the Prime Minister."

12. Article 13 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of article 13 of the principal Act.

(a) in sub-article (2) thereof, for the words "Prime Minister" there shall be substituted the word "Minister"; and in the proviso thereto, for the words "Provided that the Minister of Finance may, after consultation with the Prime Minister" there shall be substituted the words "Provided that the Minister responsible for Finance may, after consultation with the Minister";

(b) in sub-article (3) thereof, for the words "the Council shall cause a copy of the of accounts duly audited to be transmitted to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Finance" there shall be substituted the words "The Council shall cause a copy of the accounts duly audited to be transmitted to the Prime Minister, to the Minister responsible for Finance and to the Minister";

(c) in sub-article (4) thereof, for the words "The Prime Minister shall at the earliest opportunity" there shall be substituted the words "The Minister shall at the earliest opportunity"; and

(d) sub-article (5) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(5) The financial year of the Council shall be of twelve months ending on the 30th September."

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Amendment of
article 14 of the
principal Act.

13. Article 14 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-article (1) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(1) The Council shall, not later than six weeks after the end of each financial year, make and transmit to the Prime Minister, to the Minister, and to the Minister responsible for Finance, an annual report on its activities during that year."; and

(b) in sub-article (3) thereof, for the words "The Prime Minister shall, at the earliest opportunity" there shall be substituted the words "The Minister shall, at the earliest opportunity".

Substitution of
article 15 of the
principal Act.

14. Article 15 of the Act shall be substituted by the following:

"15. The Minister may make regulations generally so as to give effect to the provisions of this Act, and for the better carrying out of any of the provisions of this Act including regulations establishing the criteria to be used for the composition of the Civil Society Committee and the Gozo Regional Committee, the number of members and any other matter for the proper functioning of such Committees."

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 474 of the 25th January, 2017.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Clerk of the House of Representatives

