

Media Release

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Malta Takes Centre Stage as European Leader in Worker Health and Safety at Joint Conference

Malta hosted a pivotal conference bringing together the European Network of Safety and Health Practitioner Organisations (ENSHPO), the Malta Occupational Safety and Health Practitioners Association (MOSHPA), and the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA). The high-level gathering saw representation from all 17 European countries comprising ENSHPO, underscoring the collective commitment to advancing occupational health and safety across the continent.

ENSHPO, an organisation dedicated to elevating local health and safety achievements to a global standard, found fertile ground in Malta for this discussion. Malta's proactive strides in worker protection, particularly its robust construction regulations and Administrative Instrument (AI) 1 of 2025 concerning competent persons, were lauded as benchmarks for ENSHPO countries. These achievements, often challenging for larger nations to implement swiftly, have been successfully integrated within Malta's framework, establishing Malta as a frontrunner in this critical domain.

Further solidifying Malta's pioneering role, MOSHPA used the conference as a platform to announce the impending issuance of comprehensive Guidelines for Project Supervisors for Health and Safety on Construction Sites. These forthcoming guidelines are designed to complement the existing legislative reforms and the impactful Administrative Instrument, creating a cohesive and highly effective safety ecosystem. This initiative is set to further elevate Malta's standards, truly raising the bar and setting a precedent for other European countries to emulate.

The conference also placed significant emphasis on the indispensable roles of standardisation and continuous training in fostering safer workplaces. Echoing this commitment, OHSA highlighted its recent initiatives, including the launch of a new, state-of-the-art training centre and a dedicated trainee scheme. These investments demonstrate a profound belief in nurturing expertise and competence within the health and safety profession, ensuring a sustainable and skilled workforce.

The successful collaboration and discussions at this conference unequivocally reinforced Malta's position as a dynamic leader in worker protection. By proactively implementing stringent regulations, providing practical guidelines, and investing heavily in training, Malta is not only safeguarding its own workforce but also serving as an inspiring role model for other nations striving for excellence in occupational health and safety. The guidelines from MOSHPA are anticipated to play a crucial role in this ongoing commitment to excellence.

Dr Jonathan Attard, Minister for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector, delivered an opening address, underscoring Malta's advancing occupational health and safety (OHS) framework, particularly following the introduction of the Health and Safety at Work Act. Minister Attard remarked, "This is where Malta truly begins raising the bar and, dare I say, leading the way forward in the European landscape. The OHSA's proactive stance in formally outlining such detailed criteria and establishing a mechanism for professional recognition in this critical area is, to my knowledge, unparalleled at the European level. It demonstrates a foresight and a dedication to OHS excellence that I am incredibly proud of."

He further stressed that improving the competence of OHS professionals will lead to fewer workplace accidents, a reduction in occupational diseases, and a stronger, healthier workforce.

Dr Jonathan Attard, described the initiative as “a blueprint for the future, a legacy of progress, and a commitment to safer workplaces for generations to come.” His statement reflects Malta’s determination to elevate safety standards and reinforce the professional stature of OHS practitioners.

Dr Josianne Cutajar, CEO of OHSA, echoed this sentiment, stating, “Because real reform—sustainable reform—must be feasible. It must be based on evidence. And most of all, it must be owned by all. That is how Malta was able to reach consensus and implement new, ambitious regulations in record time. It happened because we believed in the power of social dialogue. And we saw that when everyone has a voice, everyone has a stake in success. This conference is more than a milestone. It is Malta’s invitation to the international stage. A statement that we are not only ready to learn, but also ready to lead.”

Mr Francesco Santi, President of ENSHPO, explained how ENSHPO works to enhance occupational safety and health standards across Europe through collaboration and knowledge sharing among professionals. “ENSHPO brings together professionals to share knowledge and best practices, fostering a culture of safety and continuous improvement. ENSHPO’s initiatives aim to improve workplace safety locally, creating a ripple effect that promotes global standards and practices. We extend our gratitude to MOSHPA and OHSA for this important initiative and for the actions they have taken,” Mr Santi said.

The President of MOSHPA, **Mr George Steve Darmanin**, announced the upcoming launch of Malta’s first Guidelines for Project Supervisors for Health and Safety on Construction Sites. “These Guidelines are a national first,” Mr Darmanin stated, “but they should not be the last. We are starting with construction because that is where the need is most urgent — but the time has come for professionals from manufacturing, hospitality, health care, and all other sectors to join us in shaping the future of safety through competence, ethics, and practical guidance.”

The conference also heard from Dr Luke Fiorini from the University of Malta and Mr Roberto Sammarchi of ENSHPO. This was followed by a dynamic panel discussion which brought together leading experts to delve into critical aspects of OHS professionalisation.

The conference concluded with a networking session, reinforcing the collaborative spirit and shared dedication to advancing occupational health and safety in Malta and beyond.

Notes for Editors:

About ENSHPO: The European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organisations (ENSHPO) is an umbrella organisation connecting national professional health and safety associations across Europe, fostering cooperation and promoting best practices.

About MOSHPA: The Malta Occupational Safety and Health Professionals Association (MOSHPA) is dedicated to advancing the OHS profession in Malta through education, research, and advocacy.

About OHSA: The Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) is the national body responsible for ensuring safe and healthy workplaces in Malta, committed to enforcing regulations and driving continuous improvement in OHS.

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