

ELECTORAL MANIFESTO
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
ELECTIONS
2024

PARTIT LABURISTA







In recent years, we've managed to overcome various challenges together, and transformed them into opportunities.

This was possible because we were united, and worked as one team: **TEAM MALTA**, whilst in parallel, we safeguarded the interests of all Gozitans and Maltese.



We managed to achieve this both domestically and internationally. The Government and Labour Party's Euro-parliamentarians worked together within the European Union's institutions without fail, to ensure our country's interests come first. We stand by what we believe in: policies that focus on the wellbeing of our people. A clear example of our commitment, is our bold decision to keep our energy prices fixed – because we believe that this is a socially just measure, which also comes with economic benefits.



We are deeply committed to our values. We believe that promoting peace through dialogue and diplomacy is key to ensure prosperity, security, and the stability of our people.



In the coming years, we will continue building on our achievements. We will strive to have stronger connectivity which links us to the European mainland and opens new opportunities, both commercially and for our people. Furthermore, we will strive to ensure that Malta remains competitive, and that the European market is fair for all.

We also envision a future-proof European Union, potentially welcoming new members, that responds effectively to the needs of its citizens. An outward-looking Union which safeguards everyone's interests, and is prepared to tackle current and emerging challenges. One which carries out the necessary investment to combat climate change without placing an unfair burden on its people.

Our aim, shared by the candidates contesting these elections on behalf of the Labour Party, is to ensure Malta continues to strive forward and build on the continued success achieved since joining the European Union.

**We will work to Empower the Gozitans,
and to Empower the Maltese.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ROBERT" in all caps, with a stylized flourish underneath.

Robert Abela

Prim Ministru u
Mexxej tal-Partit Laburista



01

MALTA FIRST FIRM IN OUR BELIEFS

As convinced Europeans, we will work towards a more social Europe with our country's interests at the forefront – Gozo and Malta first.

The need for Malta to have representatives who prioritise the interests of their people, has never been greater.

We stood firm when faced with international pressures to change our social-economic model, which ensures stability, prosperity and sustains families and businesses. Our policy to have fixed energy prices is a clear example of this: a bold decision with both social and economic benefits.

Our guiding principle is to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of Maltese and Gozitan families, our youths, the elderly, and businesses. This ensures our economy's continued growth, which in turn sustains and strengthens our country's social framework. Ultimately, our goal remains to create wealth that can be distributed fairly.

Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party will be guided by this principle. We will stand firm in the face of pressures that oppose our national interests – Maltese and Gozitan families and businesses will always come first.



02

MALTA: THE VOICE OF PEACE

Malta was, is, and will remain a committed promoter of peace in Europe and across the world. We promote this persistently in all the respective fora, including the European Parliament and all other European institutions.

In the light of recent global conflicts, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing tensions in Gaza and the Middle East, it's crucial to exercise caution and engage in diplomatic efforts rather than premature reactions, which could possibly lead to tragic consequences.

We are proud of our country's neutrality. While we remain firm in defending and promoting this principle, it doesn't mean we're indifferent, or that we won't take a clear position against any wrong doing.

Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party, will ensure that the Europe we are part of serves as a promoter of peace amongst people worldwide, rather than a source of conflict or division.



03

A COMPETITIVE MALTA IN A FAIR SINGLE MARKET

The European Union's competitiveness is essential for its economic and employment growth. Regulations must be designed to achieve their objectives without burdening our businesses.



For Maltese and Gozitan businesses, particularly the vital small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that are the backbone of our economy, regulations must be designed to accommodate their needs and ensure their continued competitiveness.

We must also ensure that the realities faced by Malta as an island member state on the periphery of the European Union are recognised. This will allow our businesses to compete fairly and benefit from the single market.

Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party, will advocate for European legislation that addresses these realities effectively. A systematic evaluation of the impact on small member states and island state members like us, must be carried out before the enacting of any legislation.

Furthermore, we will ensure that the proposed substantial reduction of bureaucracy is indeed implemented, thus making European Union assistance more easily accessible.





04

CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate change is a global challenge, but also an opportunity for the European Union. We need a well-planned and comprehensive EU-wide policy that is both realistic and adaptable to the specific circumstances of each member state.



Throughout the years, our country invested in drastically reducing emissions. From the energy sector, where we've witnessed a move from heavy fuel oil to gas and renewables whilst keeping tariffs fixed, to waste and transportation, where unprecedented investments are paving the way for a cleaner future.

This progress is also driven by impactful schemes that incentivise electric vehicle purchases together with investment in alternative transport options. Additionally, free public land and sea transport for all citizens has been introduced without placing any additional burden on taxpayers.



The Labour Government is working tirelessly to address the ever-growing issues in this sector for the benefit of future generations, considering also the collective commitment reached at the European level to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.



Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party, will encourage environmental reforms that complement wealth creation, and will also push for ambitious legislation that considers our specific circumstances as a Mediterranean island member state.

05

IMMIGRATION



The Labour Party upholds the fundamental rights of individuals and advocates for humanitarian protection of those in need.

Our government's policy stance is clear: human traffickers should not dictate who enters the European Union. However, despite the ongoing challenges being faced, we have successfully reduced the number of illegal arrivals.



Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party will persist in its efforts to strive for a fair asylum system within the European Union. We reject approaches fuelled by populism and hatred, which only lead to racism and far-right ideologies.



Prevention is key to addressing this challenge. We advocate for a robust policy to prevent deaths at sea and combat human trafficking. This effort requires collaboration with



origin countries. We remain committed to implementing this daily, recognising the need to shoulder this responsibility without relying solely on the solidarity of other Member States.

Through strengthening legal and diplomatic mechanisms, we aim to repatriate immigrants without the right to stay in the European Union. Additionally, we will encourage more incentives to attract skilled workers to the EU, whilst respecting existing national schemes.



06

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

Stronger connectivity is a key driver of wealth creation and economic growth.

By investing in connectivity infrastructure, not only can we improve the movement of people and products, but also create new opportunities across borders, both within the European Union and beyond. Recent years have shown how legislation related to transport and climate can have a direct impact on connectivity.

As an island member state, we have a far greater dependency on the aviation and maritime sectors when compared to other countries. These sectors are crucial for all our imports and exports, and for the tourism industry – which is one of our main economic pillars.

Malta boasts of a highly recognised maritime flag and registry and is very well connected with other countries. This is the foundation of our import-driven economy that sustains the imports of raw materials and services for manufacturing and consumer goods in Malta. To ensure the continued success and strategic contribution to the European Union's economic growth, we need to protect and promote the Maltese maritime sector, while offering incentives for decarbonisation efforts and supporting shipping routes that connect us to other continents.

Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party will prioritize legislation that promotes decarbonisation while safeguarding the interests of small islands like Malta.



07

GOZO AN ISLAND OF VILLAGES

Gozo has emerged as a powerful economic driver in recent years, with private sector employment doubling in number – a record surge in Gozo

A Labour Government ensured the first-ever allocation of dedicated European funds for Gozo. These funds have significantly improved the quality of life for Gozitans through investments in schools, infrastructure, and healthcare.



Energy will be foundation of our country's environmental transition. Our efforts will prioritise investing in renewable energy projects for environmental projects in smaller islands like Gozo.

Additionally, digitalisation is a key priority for Gozo. It is essential not just for connectivity purposes, but also for creating sustainable opportunities for Gozitan youths and businesses. Despite the challenges of being an island within an island, Gozo has harnessed its potential to become a key driver of economic change for Malta. The island's unique character makes it ideal for the introduction of innovative initiatives as part of our economic transition as a nation.

Looking ahead, Gozo – An Island of Villages – lies at the heart of the strategy that will guide us forward. By striving to become the first carbon-neutral zone in the country, Gozo will be at the forefront of major projects. This strategy will ensure new opportunities for Gozitan families and businesses, ensuring a sustainable future for the island.

Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party will strive to leverage the unique advantages that islands like Gozo possess.







EUROPEAN FUNDS

Prime Minister Robert Abela secured a record allocation of EU funds for 2021–2027, which will lead to investments that complement those from previous budgets and national funds.

In the drafting of European regulations on the expenditure of European Union funds, our country must ensure that funds are well distributed and are accessible to all member states, including smaller ones like Malta.

Recently, our country has made courageous decisions and set ambitious goals that will be crucial for achieving greater sustainability and reducing emissions. All this was achieved whilst others were busy doing their best to hinder fund allocation for our country.

Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party will actively participate in all discussions concerning European funds, aimed at maximising our country's potential in accessing, allocating, and utilizing these funds effectively.

09

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Despite international challenges, the Labour Government supported farmers, animal breeders and fishermen, building success stories that became models for the other operators.

We remain committed to helping our farmers, livestock farmers and fishermen modernise their operations and boost their competitiveness. Additionally, we will incentivise farmers to invest in more sustainable and organic practices.

Being fully aware of the concerns of Maltese and European farmers about competition from third countries, we will ensure new European Union agreements consider and analyse thoroughly the agriculture and fishing sector's socio-economic impact to avoid harming European production.

Food security is paramount for a small island state like ours, and we are committed in making agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing, and aquaculture more sustainable.

Together with the Maltese Government, members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party will work closely with Maltese farmers, animal breeders and fishermen to strengthen their competitiveness. We commit to reduce further the administrative burdens and to safeguard fair and adequate conditions for Europeans.



10

THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

In the next legislature, we are expecting to see continued discussions on sensitive topics and important decisions that will shape the future of the European Union.

Being the European Union's smallest member, our nation faces a unique situation. To achieve the best outcomes, working hand in hand with the Government is crucial, as this ensures that our country achieves the best results.

As the European Union deepens its integration, we believe a clear division of competences remains key to the upholding of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. A one-size-fits-all approach does not work.

In the wake of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the debate on the European Union enlargement is being intensely addressed. We believe the European Union should continue its discussions with potential member states, focusing on each country's merits and the quality of their reforms.

Members of the European Parliament elected on behalf of the Labour Party will be at the forefront of discussions with other strategic partners outside the European Union. This, we believe, will be of direct benefit to European Union citizens in addressing issues such as trade, immigration, and climate change.

**THE LABOUR PARTY
CANDIDATES**
FOR THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
ELECTIONS
2024

**CLAUDETTE
ABELA
BALDACCHINO**



**THOMAS
BAJADA**



**JESMOND
BONELLO**



**STEVE
ELLUL**



ALEX
AGIUS
SALIBA



DANIEL
ATTARD



CLINT
AZZOPARDI
FLORES



JESMOND
MARSHALL



MARIJA SARA
VELLA CAFÀ



IS-SAHHA
ILL-MATIN

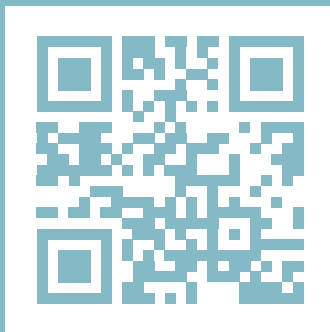




Nizzel
il-manifest



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