



***Din I-Art Helwa***

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Mr Vincent Cassar  
Chairman  
Malta Environment and Planning Authority  
St Francis Ravelin  
Floriana

30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Dear Mr Cassar,

**1) Approval of ODZ Policy by MEPA Board**

**2) Request to put all new policies on hold until SPED is finalised**

Din I-Art Helwa calls into serious question the decision to include the approval of the draft ODZ policy on the agenda of the MEPA Board only a few days ago.

The approval of this document by the MEPA Board was pushed through in full knowledge that a discussion on procedures governing the launch of any new planning policies in the absence of a Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED) was about to commence on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 within the Parliamentary Committee for Environment and Development Planning.

This action by the MEPA Board has completely disregarded the scheduled parliamentary discussion about the need to first complete the SPED before such policies are concluded or approved.

It was announced at yesterday's meeting of the parliamentary committee that the draft of the new SPED will be finalised and issued for public consultation very soon, by the end of February or early March. It goes without saying that the new SPED, following consultation and environmental assessments, should guide any new planning policies.

All the planning policies currently being revised or introduced by MEPA should therefore be reissued for public consultation once the information contained with the SPED has been made available to the public.

Din I-Art Helwa considers it unacceptable that the MEPA Board should disregard and pre-empt this strategic document of national importance, by closing public consultation and approving revisions to important planning regulations just before the publication of the SPED.

At this stage, and with the parliamentary discussion underway, Din I-Art Helwa expects and is requesting MEPA to make a firm commitment that NO further new or revised planning policies will be approved until the SPED has been finalised.

We kindly request you to circulate a copy of this letter to all members of the MEPA Board.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simone Mizzi', with a horizontal line underneath. To the right of the signature are three short horizontal dashes.

Simone Mizzi  
Executive President

- cc. MEPA Board members  
The Hon Michael Farrugia, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning  
The Hon Marlene Farrugia, MP, Chair Parliamentary Committee for the Environment and Development Planning  
The Hon Anthony Bezzina, MP  
The Hon Charles Buhagiar, MP  
The Hon Luciano Busuttil, MP  
The Hon Ryan Callus, MP  
The Hon George Pullicino, MP