



2nd July 2015

Ms Simone Mizzi
Executive President
Din L-Art Helwa

Dear Ms Mizzi,

I thank you for your letter dated 23rd June 2015 requesting the striking off of certain terms from the SPED on the basis that, in your view, they introduce uncertainty and create loopholes.

Whilst I appreciate your participation and interest in the debate leading to the approval of a new Strategic Plan for Malta after twenty three years since the adoption of the Structure Plan, allow me to make the following points in relation to your request.

The foundations of the SPED are based on taking forward the principles of sustainable development as evidenced by Paragraph 1.15

"The SPED is an enabling plan to increase the competitiveness of the Maltese Islands in a manner where socio-economic development assists the achievement of national environment objectives."

and Paragraph 3.2

"The NSF (National Spatial Framework) sets the framework on which all areas of the Maltese Islands will achieve their potential for sustainable development and takes forward the Vision of the SPED."

Furthermore, sustainable development has been clearly defined for a considerable period of time by international fora such as United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21. This is also entrenched in Maltese legislation through the Sustainable Development Act of 2012.

My Government is committed towards sustainable development and has in fact already embarked on a review of the Sustainable Development Act to reinforce it. This commitment is further evidenced in other policies, including the Strategic Plan, and will continue to be manifested and strengthened over the Plan period. To this effect I do not envisage amending the plan in this respect.

Joseph Muscat
Prime Minister