

The Prime Minister  
The Hon Dr Joseph Muscat  
Auberge de Castille  
Valletta

9th July 2016

Honourable Prime Minister

The environment NGOs Din l-Art Helwa, Flimkien għal Ambjent Aħjar and Friends of the Earth Malta, respectfully request the Prime Minister to publicly explain the steps that led to Mriehel being included in the high-rise policy, and why this decision was taken behind closed doors and never issued for public consultation.

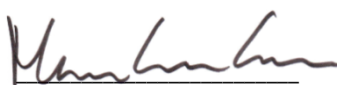
The Planning Authority is obliged by its own law, as well as by the Aarhus Convention, to consult the public “early in an environmental decision-making procedure, and in an adequate, timely and effective manner” on the substance of any new planning policy early in the process. It is also obliged to “ensure that in the decision due account is taken of the outcome of the public participation.”

These requirements were blatantly ignored in the case of Mriehel, where the Tumas and Gasan Groups are planning to build four massive towers.

Environment NGOs have been making this point to the Planning Authority for two years, yet still the Authority has processed this application for these immense towers at Mriehel, while the Masterplan for the area has not yet been finalized. The eNGOs also ask why the towers at St George’s have been suspended pending the conclusion of a Masterplan but not that of Mriehel.

We would stress that, as also stated by the Chamber of Architects and Chamber of Planners, no decision should be taken before the Masterplan and all other necessary independent studies are completed.

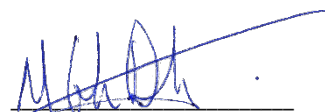
Yours faithfully



Maria Grazia Cassar  
Executive President  
Din l-Art Helwa



Astrid Vella  
Co-ordinator  
Flimkien Għal Ambjent Aħjar



Martin Galea De Giovanni  
Director  
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