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**STATEMENT BY THE MALTESE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE**

**The future of the Drydocks and its workers**

We know that the world of work and economy should develop in a balance between that which constitutes the common good, the good of society, and that which is the individual good, including the dignity and rights of every worker, of every person, of every family.

We know that in the world we live in, a globalised world, all this has become more complicated because it must also pass through the realities of the relations between countries and the alliances between various countries.

It is in this context that today in Malta discussions are going on between the Government and the General Workers' Union on the future of the Drydocks and its workers.

We appreciate the fact that both sides chose the way of dialogue to arrive at a just agreement.

We are grateful to the mediator who has offered his services to facilitate this dialogue.

We entreat both sides to use all their experience and creativity to reach an agreement that ensures the common good while respecting the dignity of every worker in the Drydocks, and their families.

At this time, we appeal to all to support with prayers the efforts being made.

- + Paul Cremona O.P., Archbishop of Malta
- + Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo
- + Annetto Depasquale, Vicar General of Malta