



# Association For Consumer Rights (Malta)

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## Resolution for ACR AGM 2016

### *Title of Resolution*

### Addressing the lack of transparency in fuel prices

### *Organisation submitting resolution*

### ACR Executive Committee members

### *Justification and Recommendations*

The Association for Consumers Rights (ACR) insists on the need for genuine transparency on how the prices of petrol and diesel in Malta are fixed. It is common knowledge that they have not been reflecting International rates which have been drastically going down for the past year and over.

The price of petrol and diesel in Malta is above that of the EU28 weighted average and the price of petrol is cheaper in at least 16 of the EU member states. A strategy should be devised to ensure that the general public will benefit from price reduction according to International and EU market prices at different competitive rates in particular when the International and EU market prices are low.

Government must come out clean with the prices it has bought fuel at for the coming months, whether it has lost money on its hedging and whether it is trying to balance this by keeping energy prices high. Moreover, it would be important to find out what taxation rates are being levied by government on imports of fuel, gas and other energy products. Government should state what is its 'take' from fuel in total.

Consumers have no information on brand and grade of petrol and diesel they are purchasing. There is also lack of adequate information from Enemed Company Limited – the State-owned company-about which filling stations are providing unleaded petrol RON98 and how the price of this brand was fixed.

Consumers have the right to know the quality of petrol and diesel they are purchasing but at the moment there is no relevant information. Consumers don't know whether HVO (hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) is currently being blended with EN590 diesel and if so, from which filling stations it is available.

Another serious issue is about filling stations that sometimes do not function well; the receipt is issued but the owners refuse to admit that the fuel was not provided, even though modern filling stations are computerized. Often it is difficult for consumers to find out how the new filling stations function when they are obliged to make use of a self-service

Private agencies of foreign companies and not government should be allowed to compete for the importation, storage and sale of petrol and diesel to ensure there are the lowest competitive prices on the retail market, reflecting international fuel prices.

