



# Association For Consumer Rights (Malta)

Pope Pius XII, Flat 4, Mountbatten Street, Blata I-Bajda  
Hamrun HMR 1579, Malta  
Tel no 356 21246982

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## **Get consumers out of this impasse!**

The Association for Consumer Rights (ACR) is concerned that the Energy sector in Malta has been plagued with problems whether of lack of transparency or insecurity of resources in energy deals, mostly as a result of inadequate planning that may well lead government to be in a position which will not guarantee safeguarding Malta's competitiveness both in the medium and long term. The investments in the sector involve huge financial commitments. A competitive energy policy, should promote investment in the use of energy from renewable sources by fostering community development, engaging local production and SMEs – innovative opportunities for growth and employment

ACR is also concerned with the current issue of high fuel prices. Even after the 4c reduction, Malta still ranks as one of the highest when compared to other EU Member States – the fourth highest. This is exposing both consumers and industry to serious financial constraints, that will also impact on our economic stability and security, essential to the smooth functioning of the market. The issue has also raised concerns of unfair competition practices to the detriment of consumers. Whilst we call on the Competition Authority (MCCAA) to investigate, we reiterate that the protection of consumer rights should be foremost, and the reduction in fuel prices should realistically reflect the prices of the majority of the other EU Member States.

***Mary Mangion***

***President***

***Association for Consumer Rights (ACR)***