



# Association For Consumer Rights (Malta)

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## Press Release

**Annual General Meeting 2014 – Association for Consumer Rights (ACR) Malta**  
The Association for Consumer Rights Malta (ACR) highlights the need for stronger legislation and law enforcement in emerging online services and product safety

The ACR Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 29 March 2014 at Europa House Valletta,

Vice-President Judith Debono welcomed the participants, giving a brief overview of the objectives of the Association. The opening address by Hon Helena Dalli, *Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties*, highlighted the importance of Consumer Rights more particularly with the developments in technology, and the need for empowering consumers while strengthening enforcement measures. She also referred to the government's initiatives to reform legislation on Consumer Affairs, to be more in line with current developments. Structural reform in the relevant Authorities is also necessary. She congratulated ACR for its initiatives to improve consumer protection and empowerment

In the first part of the AGM, Keynote Speaker Geoffrey Bezzina, Director, Consumer Affairs Unit, Malta, Financial Services Authority gave an informative talk on *Money Matters - Know how to manage your finances better*. This was followed by a discussion and questions and comments from the floor with particular reference to insurance matters and banking transactions

During the second part of the Meeting, the Assembly approved a number of resolutions, which are currently being addressed at European level and which Commissioner Mimica is considering as priorities for the next term, A number of resolutions addressing local situations were also submitted. These include :

Product lifetimes and consumer protection  
Measures regarding a single market for electronic communications  
Package Travel and Consumer Rights  
Consumer Product Safety  
Labelling  
Consumer Studies in the School Curriculum  
Financial Education and Responsible Consumption  
The Social Dimension of European Economic and Monetary Union  
The future of Public Transport in Malta

The 2014 Executive Committee is made up of

**Mary Mangion –President**  
**Judith Debono – Vice-President**  
**Grace Attard – Hon General Secretary**  
**Pauline Azzopardi – Hon Treasurer**  
**Members**  
**Francesca Chetcuti**  
**Lina Caruana**  
**Doris Bingley**  
**Robert Cilia**  
**Marie Demicoli (Assistant Secretary)**  
**Anna Dalli**  
**Martin Vella**

**The concluding address by Hon Dr Paula Mifsud Bonnici, *Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs* once again highlighted the need for consumer protection and law enforcement. She spoke about the increasing importance of the role of non-governmental organisations to be the voice of citizens as consumers. Building trust between consumers and businesses is important for economic growth. Consumption is the motor of the economy. She referred to the Greek Presidency who has given priority to financial education and the need for a reasonable time for public consultation both on legislation and enforcement procedures, especially with the increase in cross-border transactions through internet**

**The Meeting was brought to an end by Vice-President Judith Debono, who thanked all the members who worked hard during the year, as well as the participants and wished success to the incoming Executive Members. She also referred to the need for funds for the Association to be more effective in its work for the benefit of society; During this meeting the website of the Association was also launched:**

**Website: <http://acrmalta.weebly.com>**

**Grace Attard**  
**General Secretary**  
**Association for Consumer Rights. Malta**

