

Press Release: Comments and proposals on Budget 2016 -Association for Consumer Rights

The Association for Consumer Rights fully supports the extension of initiatives to reduce electricity theft and the proposals to strengthen the distribution of electricity in various centres so that citizens can be assured of security of supply thus avoiding electricity cuts in periods of heavy consumption.

However the Association is very concerned that in Budget 2016, gas prices will be retained for reasons of 'stability' which in actual fact mean that for 9 months, which include the winter months, there would be no reduction in prices till the end of 2015. This 'stability' policy has also been applied to the price of fuels, which also means that again for nine months till the end of 2015 there would be no reduction in the price of fuels, when both at international and EU level the prices have been exceptionally low. We are very concerned with these decisions, especially when one takes into consideration other indirect taxes and the resulting negative impact on families, pensioners and individuals at risk of poverty

The Association for Consumer Rights also calls for a strong plan to address the situation of public transport both in the short and long term to ensure better management of routes, an improved system of parking spaces with the assistance of Local Councils, as well as addressing the delays in arriving late at the workplace which is resulting in loss of hours of work to the detriment of employers. MCESD CS believes that the issue of public transport should be given absolute priority, with the allocation of adequate funds even if this will mean that other major projects have to be postponed

Grace Attard, General Secretary