I assent.

(L.S.) GEORGE ABELA
President

8th May, 2012

ACT No. IV of 2012

AN ACT to amend the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development Act.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

Short title.

1. The short title of this Act is the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (Amendment) Act, 2012 and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development Act, hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act".

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Amendment of article 4 of the principal Act

2. Article 4 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(1) sub-article (1)(c) thereof shall substituted by the following:

"(c) twelve persons, nominated as follows:

(i) ten persons nominated by representative national employers' and workers' organisations

constituted bodies; and

(ii) the Chairperson of the Gozo Regional Committee, *ex officio*; and

(iii) the Chairperson of the Civil Society Committee, *ex officio.*

The organisations and constituted bodies referred to in sub-paragraph (i) shall be listed in a Notice published in the Gazette, which Notice shall also indicate the number of members representing each organisation and constituted body.";

(2) in sub-article (2)(a) thereof, the words "sectors or organizations" shall be substituted by the words "sectors, organisations or committees".

Substitution of article 6 of the principal Act.

3. Article 6 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

"Civil Society Committee.

6. (1) There shall be a standing Civil Society Committee which shall, as much as possible, be representative of Maltese civil society and which shall be consulted by the Council on all those issues which the Council may, in its discretion, refer to it.

(2) The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the advice of the Minister responsible for dialogue and the Chairperson of the Council and shall be listed in a Notice issued by the Prime Minister and published in the Gazette. Appointments shall be made for a period of two years which shall commence on the date of the appointment.

(3) The Chairperson of the Committee shall be elected by the members of the Committee from among themselves by simple majority, for a period of two years.

(4) The Chairperson of the Council shall convene the first meeting of the Committee no later than fifteen working days following its appointment with the election of a Chairperson of the Committee as its sole purpose. The Chairperson of the Council shall carry out all preliminary and necessary acts to ensure the orderly election of a Chairperson by the members of the Committee

(5) The Chairperson of the Committee shall be an *ex officio* member of the Council.

(6) The Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy amongst its members, provided there is a *quorum* present at the meeting.

(7) The Council shall adopt rules of procedure which shall regulate the proceedings of the Committee and establish the *quorum* at meetings thereof.

Gozo Regional Committee.

6A. (1) There shall be a standing Gozo Regional Committee which shall, as much as possible, be representative of the island of Gozo and its community, employers' and workers' organisations, civil society organisations and local councils whose purposes focus on Gozo affairs in their areas of interest. The Committee shall be consulted by the Council on all those issues which the Council may, in its discretion, refer to it.

(2) The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the advice of the Minister responsible for dialogue and the Chairperson of the Council and shall be listed in a Notice issued by the Prime Minister and published in the Gazette. Appointments shall be made for a period of two years which shall commence on the date of the appointment.

(3) The Chairperson of the Committee shall be elected by the members of the Committee from among themselves by simple majority, for a period of two years.

(4) The Chairperson of the Council shall convene the first meeting of the Committee no later than fifteen working days following its appointment with the election of a Chairperson of the Committee as its sole purpose. The Chairperson of the Council shall carry out all preliminary and necessary acts to ensure the orderly election of a Chairperson by the members of the Committee

(5) The Chairperson of the Committee shall be an *ex officio* member of the Council.

(6) The Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy amongst its members, provided there is a *quorum* present at the meeting.

(7) The Council shall adopt rules of procedure which shall regulate the proceedings of the Committee and establish the *quorum* at meetings thereof.".

Amends article 15 of the principal Act.

4. Article 15 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the

following new article:

"Power to make regulations.

15. The Prime Minister may make regulations generally so as to give effect to the provisions of this Act, and for the better carrying out of any of the provisions of this Act including regulations establishing the criteria to be used for the composition of the Civil Society Committee and the Gozo Regional Committee, the number of members and any other matter for the proper functioning of such Committees.".

Transitory provision.

5. (1) With immediate effect from the coming into force of these amendments, the appointment of all members on the Civil Society Committee and the Gozo Regional Committee shall terminate and the Prime Minister shall proceed to appoint new members to such Committees, whether being the previous members or otherwise, in accordance with articles 6(2) and 6A(2) of the principal Act as amended by this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of articles 6(2) and 6A(2) of the principal Act as amended by this Act, the first appointment of all members on the Civil Society Committee and the Gozo Regional Committee, and the respective Chairpersons, shall be made until the period ending 31st December, 2013, unless their appointment is terminated earlier in the light of any regulations which may be made under article 15 and thereafter, their appointment shall be governed by the said articles 6 and 6A of the principal Act as amended by this Act and any regulations which may be made under article 15 of the principal Act as amended by this Act.

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 467 of the 2nd May, 2012.

MICHAEL FRENDO

Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Clerk to the House of Representatives