B 3180

L.N. 445 of 2020

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ACT (CAP. 595)

Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee - MEUSAC (Establishment as an Agency) (Amendment) Order, 2020

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by article 26(1) of the Public Administration Act, the Prime Minister has made the following order:-

Citation.

1. The title of this order is the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee - MEUSAC (Establishment as an Agency) (Amendment) Order, 2020 and this order shall be read and construed as one with the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee - MEUSAC (Establishment as an Agency) Order, hereinafter referred to as "the principal order".

S.L. 595. 23.

Substitutes article 1 of the principal order.

2. Article 1 of the principal order shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Citation.

1. The title of this order is the Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM) Order.".

Substitutes article 2 of the principal order.

3. Article 2 of the principal order shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Establishment of Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM).

2. (1) There shall be an Agency, to be known as Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM), hereinafter referred to as "the Agency", which shall carry out functions related to the provision of information on EU-related matters and assistance on EU funding programmes. This Agency shall continue to perform the functions and responsibilities in accordance with the decision taken by the government in 2008 to re-establish MEUSAC.

(2) The agency shall be a body corporate having a separate and distinct juridical and legal personality, and be capable of entering into contracts, employing personnel, acquiring, holding and disposing under any title whatsoever, of any kind of property for the purposes of its operations, and of suing and being sued, and to which any function or operation of Government may be assigned under this or any other law.".

Substitutes article 3 of the principal order.

4. Article 3 of the principal order shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Functions and duties of the Agency.

3. (1) The Agency shall be of service to citizens by keeping them updated on the EU's strategies, policies, initiatives and obligations and engaging them to benefit from the rights and opportunities deriving from EU membership, including EU funding.

(2) The Agency shall assume the following duties:

(a) to inform and keep updated public and private organisations and citizens through various fora on the EU's long-term strategies, policies, initiatives, obligations, rights and opportunities;

(b) to provide information and assistance on EU funding programmes, in particular by advising and assisting private non-profit organisations and local government to draw up and submit competitive project applications;

(c) to provide guidance to private non-profit organisations and local government on the implementation of EU-funded projects;

(d) to participate in MCESD meetings and provide in-depth updates on the long-term strategies and legislative proposals of the EU to social partners;

(e) to issue regular policy briefs and updates on EU legislative proposals and how EU legislation applies to citizens and organisations; and

(f) to create a network to facilitate communication with EU national contact points and information providers.".

Substitutes article 5 of the principal order.

5. Article 5 of the principal order shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Minister responsible for the Agency.

5. (1) The Minister responsible for Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta shall be the Minister responsible for Social Dialogue or such other Minister as may be designated for such purpose by the Prime Minister.

(2) The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM) shall supervise the Agency in terms of article 29 of the Public Administration Act:

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Provided that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM) may be assisted in such supervision by another Permanent Secretary in accordance with the proviso to article 14(6) of the Public Administration Act:".

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Substitutes article 6 of the principal order.

6. Article 6 of the principal order shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Agency Performance Agreement.

6. The operations of the Agency shall follow an Agency Performance Agreement which is to be entered into between the Permanent Secretary and Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM).".

Amends the Public Administration Act. Cap. 595.

7. The Fourth Schedule to the Public Administration Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) the words "MEUSAC - To engage stakeholders in the EU processes through consultation, the dissemination of information and assistance on EU funding programmes" shall be deleted; and

(b) immediately after the words "Resource, Recovery and Recycling Agency" there shall be added the following words:

"Agency	Agency function
Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM)	To inform and engage citizens in the EU processes through the dissemination of information and assistance on EU funding programmes.".

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