



PRESS RELEASE

The Social Capital Foundation

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TSCF rings alarm bell concerning corruption and government abuse in Malta

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- Having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 10.11.2017 on fundamental rights in Malta, stating that the independence of law enforcement and the judiciary in Malta is dubious,
- Having regard to the Panama Papers and Malta Files revelations made by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the European Investigative Collaborations network, which revealed that 714 companies linked to Malta are listed in the Panama Papers database and that a government minister, a Prime Minister chief of staff and high-ranking officials were involved, while confidential reports of the FIAU (Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit) concluded that there is reasonable suspicion of money laundering concerning a government official,
- Whereas various reports point to a lack of media independence toward government in Malta,
- Whereas various reports note that a large number of jobs in Maltese public companies were created a few weeks before the June 2017 elections, raising concerns as to whether this was done for electoral motives,
- Whereas the Maltese anti-corruption investigative journalist and blogger Daphne Caruana Galizia was assassinated in a car bomb attack on 16 October 2017, and this led to street demonstrations and civil society protests claiming for justice, government accountability and respect for civil freedom and the rule of law,
- Whereas Ms Caruana Galizia had her bank accounts frozen the same year by a court order issuing precautionary warrants to a libel case brought by a government minister, before the outcome of the case had been reached,
- Whereas the Malta Government created an individual Investor programme in 2014 which literally “sells” EU citizenship to third-party nationals at a price of 650,000 Euros; a leaked FIAU report raised concerns about possible corruption in the administration of this programme.

TSCF: - Calls for a better protection of investigative journalists and whistleblowers - Condemns the politicization of the judiciary and law enforcement - Condemns any blows to the freedom of the media - Reminds that Citizenship is not a product that governments can sell against a charge; being a citizen means belonging to the community, which supposes popular control - Urges the purging of Maltese law from anti-democratic elements such as precautionary warrants or other potentially arbitrary procedures - Calls for the empowerment of civil society to keep government under control.