### Lecture Title: The Maltese Legal System

Lecturer: Dr. Sarah V. Ciliberti Date: 17th October 2023



# The law is is a living instrument

- What is law?
- Why are laws needed?



# The law is a living instrument

- Amendments and promulgation aimed to reflect society & its evolution
- Interpretation of laws
- Judgments delivered by adjudicating bodies
- EU Legislation & Human Rights
- Precedent
- Customary law



# Legal History

- A brief study of Maltese history tells us about the impact different colonisers & rulers had on Maltese legislation;
- 21st September 1964 Malta gains independence
- Mixed legel system
- Roman Law Codified by Justinian basic principles
- Common Law British Rule legal institutions & principles (evidence, trial by jury etc)
- Two of the largest legal systems creating a hybrid legal system



# Customary law

- Usages of Trade Article 3 of the Commercial Code, Chapter 13 of the Laws of Malta – "In commercial matters, the commercial law shall apply: Provided that where no provision is made in such law, the usages of trade or, in the absence of such usages, the civil law shall apply"
- "Unwritten rules established by constant and uniform practice based on a collective conviction that those unwritten rules are applicable as law" – Navarini
- Uniform, continuous observance coupled with a collective conviction of persons involved in the trade

### Precedent

• Not adhered to in Malta however Maltese Courts, in particular the Constitutional Court & the Court of Appeal have the tendency of basing their decisions on previous decisions taken either by local courts or the European Court on Human Rights



# Civil Law v Common Law

### Civil Law

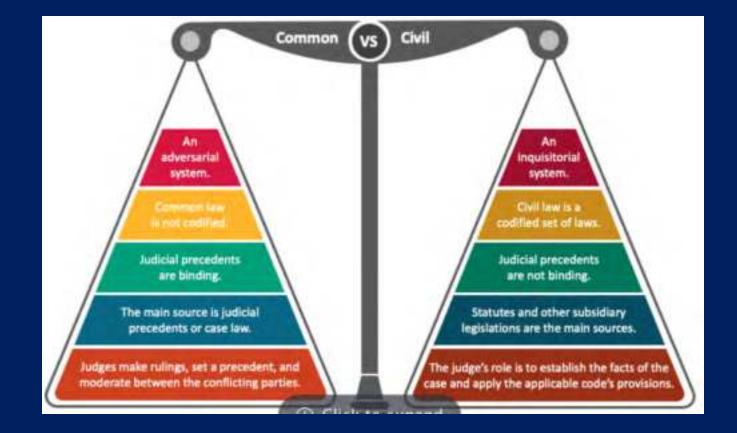
- Roman Law
- Regulates private law
- Custom
- Codification superceeds custom

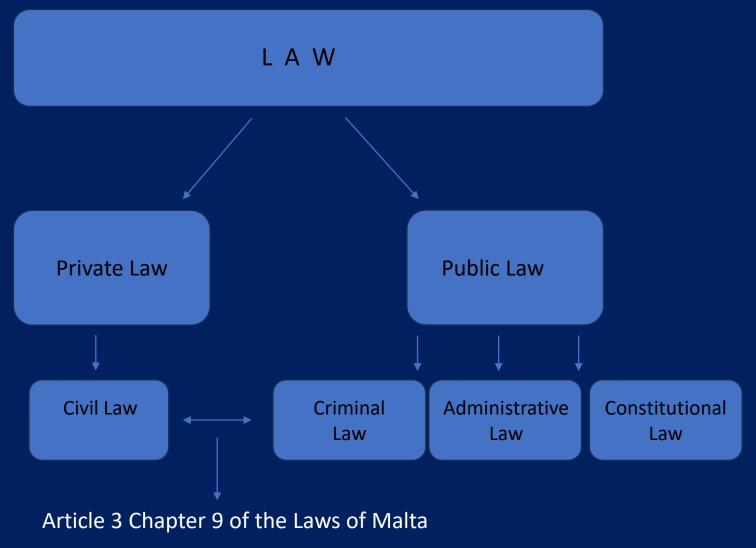
### Common law

- British
- Traditions of Royal Courts
- Precedent
- Statute to supplement custom



### Civil Law v Common Law







European

Union Law

Procedural Law



### **Separation of Powers**

- Democratic Society a system which aims to ensure checks and balances
- Each are independent on one another
- The Executive Cabinet Implementation of Laws
- The Legislature Parliament Enactment of Laws
- The Judiciary Courts Interpretation of Laws



## Rule of Law

- The separation of powers helps to ensure that the principles of the Rule of Law are present in a democratic society
- Every person is subject to the law
- All persons are equal in the eyes of the law
- The rights and liberties of persons are embodied in the law of the land

Independence and impartiality of the judiciary – systems of government and democracy



### The Constituton

- A Commentary on the Constitution of Malta by Tonio Borg
- 1964 Final Independence Constitution
- "Constitutions are not laws they are the law of laws. They legislate the legislator, they judge the judiciary, they execute the executive. The constituton is the ultimate protector of the defenceless, the last bastion against state injury. For it to survive it requres the untiring homage of all, of the dominant and of the underdog."



# The Constitution

- Language
- Flag
- Religion
- Territory
- Citizenship
- Human Rights
- Composition of Parliament
- Voting



### Attorney General

Attorney General. Amended by: LVIII.1924.43; XIV.2007.4; XI.V.2020.3; XLI.2020.3;

**91.** (1) There shall be an Attorney General whose office shall be a public office and who shall be appointed by the President acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister.

(2) A person shall not be qualified to hold office as Attorney General unless he is qualified for appointment as a judge of the Superior Courts.

(3) In the exercise of his powers to institute, undertake and discontinue criminal proceedings and of any other powers conferred on him by any law in terms which authorise him to exercise that power in his individual judgment the Attorney General shall have Constitutional independence and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority except insofar as a law may provide:

- (a) for the judicial review of a decision not to prosecute or of any other decision taken by the Attorney General, on the grounds of illegality or unreasonableness; or
- (b) for the judicial review on the basis of criteria established by law of a decision of the Attorney General that a prosecution should take place in a superior court of criminal jurisdiction where the punishment applicable would be higher than that which would apply had the same offence been tried before an inferior court of criminal jurisdiction.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of sub-article (5) of this article,

### State Advocate

State Advocate. Added by: XXV.2019.10; Amended by: XLV.2020.4. 91A. (1) There shall be a State Advocate whose office shall be a public office and who shall be appointed by the President acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister.

(2) A person shall not be qualified to hold office as State Advocate unless he is qualified for appointment as a judge of the Superior Courts.

#### CONSTITUTION OF MALTA

(3) The State Advocate shall be the advisor to Government in matters of law and legal opinion. He shall act in the public interest and shall safeguard the legality of State action. The State Advocate shall also perform such other duties and functions as may be conferred upon him by this Constitution or by any law. In the exercise of his functions, the State Advocate shall act in his individual judgment and he shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority. 57



### Enactment of Laws

- Main Legislation Enacted by Parliament
- First Reading Title
- Bill Draft Law published on Government Gazette
- Parliamentary Discussion
- Second Reading Minister to introduce the Bill to the house
- Committee Stage provisions revised amendments etc
- Third Reading Formally read as revised and amended
- Bill transmitted to President of Republic whos signature makes the bill officially law



### Language

- Reflected in the Maltese Language
- 1934 Italian
- National Language v Official Languages
- Chapter 189 Judicial Proceedings (Use of English) Act
- Maltese prevails over English (sidebar)
- "every person shall be deemed to be Maltese-speaking unless the court shall be satisfied to the contrary"



### Jurisdiction & Competence

 Jurisdction relates to where a judicial entity can carry out its duties or enforce decisions – for instance Malta & Gozo in criminal matters – Article 372 of the Criminal Code, Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta

> 372. (1) The jurisdiction as between the Courts of Magistrates Howjurisdiction shall be determined - Between the

between the Courts of Magistrates is determined. Added by: X1.1900.61. Amended by: X11.1915.12; VIII.1990.3.

(a) by the place where the offence has been committed; or(b) if there is only one accused person or if, there being

two or more accused persons, they all reside in Malta,

or all reside in Gozo or Comino, by the place of his or

(2) If a person is charged with two or more offences committed in different Islands, such person shall be tried by the court within the territorial jurisdiction of which the graver offence or, if the offences are of equal gravity, the greater number of offences has been committed.

their residence.

(3) If the place where the offence was committed is unknown and the accused is one, or the accused are two or more, residing, however, within the limits of the jurisdiction of the same court, the jurisdiction shall be solely determined by the place of his or their residence; or if the persons accused reside in different Islands, the jurisdiction as between the courts shall be determined by the place of residence of the majority of the persons accused; or if the number of the accused residing in Malta and the number of the

### Jurisdiction & Competence

 Competence on the other hand refers to the limitations imposed on courts in so far as their authority to deal with a specific matter – 15,000 for the Court of Magistrates

deems himself aggrieved, to bring an action before the Civil Court, First Hall, for the necessary order.

Amended by 18:2004-11. Competence of the

**Civil Coart** 

Amended by:

XXI 2019.5 V.2011.64

Added by

(2018.2

36. (1)<sup>\*</sup> The Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) shall be competent to bear cases in Malta and Goro.

(2)<sup>7</sup> The Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) shall hold sittings both in Malta and in Gozo.

(3)<sup>2</sup> When the Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) hold sittings in Malta, they shall take cognizance of all claims against persons residing or having their ordinary abode in the Island of Malta, and of all other causes expressly assigned by law to such sections of the Civil Court.

(4)<sup>5</sup> When the Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) hold sittings in Gozo, they shall take cognizance of all claims against persons residing or having their ordinary abode in the Islands of Gozo and Comino, and of all other causes expressly assigned by law to such sections of the Civil Court.

(5)<sup>\*\*</sup> The rules set out in this Code concerning the privilegium fori and the exceptions thereto shall apply also between the Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family Section) when sitting in the island of Malta and when sitting in the island of Gozo.

(6)<sup>11</sup> Causes which are not included in the causes which may be heard by the Civil Court, First Hall and the Civil Court (Family

#### Title III

#### OF THE INFERIOR COURTS

47. (1) A magistrate shall sit in the Court of Magistrates (Malta), and such court shall, as a court of first instance, hear and determine all claims of an amount not exceeding fifteen thousand euro ( $(\epsilon 15,000)$ ), against persons residing or having their ordinary abode in any part of the Island of Malta.

(2) Such court shall also take cognizance of all other causes expressly assigned to it by law.

(3) Nevertheless, causes involving questions of ownership of immovable property, or relating to casements, burdens or other rights annexed to such property, including any claim for the ejectment or eviction from immovable property, whether urban or rural, tenanted or occupied by persons residing or having their ordinary abode within the limits of the jurisdiction of such court, shall not fall within the jurisdiction of the Court of Magistrates (Malta) independently of the value of the claim.

Civil Coast of Magairmates (Malta). Constitution and prindiction. Amended by DC1865.1; XY.1913.16. XXX7 1934.9 XX10.1977.3. X107.7408.8 XII.1985.2; FWE / 998.3 XXI:1995 71 1,2001.3; XXX7.2082.247 L.N. 407.of 2007. 11:20163

<sup>\*</sup>Nori yet in force. See Legal Notice 164 of 2018. \*Nori yet in force. 2Nori yet in force.

# Main Legislation

- Civil Code, Chapter 16 of the Laws of Malta
- Code of Oragnisation and Civil Procedure, Chapter 12 of the Laws of Malta
- Criminal Code, Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta Includes procedure unlike the Chapter 16 of the Laws of Malta



# Subsidiary Legislation

- Delegated powers from parliament to ministries
- Table of House of Representatives so long as nothing is tabled against – becomes law
- More specific to main legislation but is equal to the respective main act/ parent act
- Definitions in line with parent act



## Tribunals

### Small Claims Tribunal

 (1) There shall be a Tribunal to be styled the Small Claims Tribunal.
 Establishment of tribunal.

XII 1998.2:

VI. 2001.27:

XXXI: 2002.227.

L.N. 425 of 2007, IV 2016-26.

(2) Subject to subarticle (5), the Small Claims Tribunal shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine only all money claims of an amount not exceeding five thousand euro (€5,000):

Provided that, in determining the sum referred to in this subarticle, no account shall be taken of fees and costs relative to the same claim.

- (3) (a) If the plaintiff claims payment of several sums due for the same cause, the value of the claim is to be determined by the total amount of the claims.
  - (b) If the plaintiff claims payment of several sums due for different causes, the value of the claim is determined by the highest sum, irrespective of the smaller sums.
  - (c) If the claim is for capital and interest, the value is determined by the aggregate of all the capital sums claimed, and the Tribunal shall have jurisdiction over the claim notwithstanding that the capital and interest claimed in their aggregate exceed five thousand euro (€5,000).

(4) The Tribunal shall hold its sittings in such place or places in Malta and Gozo as the Minister may by order in the Gazette determine and the Tribunal shall, as far as practicable, hold the sittings in the Island where the person against whom the claim is made has his ordinary residence. (4) The Tribunal shall hold its sittings in such place or places in Malta and Gozo as the Minister may by order in the Gazette determine and the Tribunal shall, as far as practicable, hold the sittings in the Island where the person against whom the claim is made has his ordinary residence".

\*See Legal Notice 142 of 1995.

#### CAP. 380.)

Adjudicators.

Amended by: ¥7. 2001.27.

#### SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL

(5) Causes involving questions of ownership of immovable property, or relating to casements, burdens or other rights annexed to such property, even though the claim does not exceed five thousand euro (€5,000), and causes of ejectment or eviction from immovable property shall not fall within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

 (1) The Tribunal shall be presided by an adjudicator sitting alone:

Provided that more than one adjudicator may be appointed to sit in any of the said Tribunals, but only one adjudicator shall sit in any one case.

(2) Adjudicators shall be appointed by the President acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister. A person shall

### Magistrates

Magistrates. Amended by: LVIII.1974.50; XIV.2007.5; XLIV.2016.6; XLIII.2020.5; XLV.2020.6; LV.2020.3. **100.** (1) Magistrates of the inferior courts shall be appointed by the President acting in accordance with the recommendation made by the Judicial Appointments Committee established by article 96A of the Constitution.

(2) A person shall not be qualified to be appointed to or to act in the office of magistrate of the inferior courts unless he has practised as an advocate in Malta for a period of, or periods amounting in the aggregate to, not less than seven years.

(3) Without prejudice to sub-article (4), a magistrate of the inferior courts shall vacate his office upon reaching the age of sixty-five (65) years:

Provided that a magistrate of the inferior courts shall inform the Chief Justice and the President of Malta of this decision before he reaches the age of sixty-five (65) years once he chooses to remain in office until he reaches the age of sixty-eight (68) years.

(4) The provisions of sub-article (2) of article 97 of the Constitution shall apply to a magistrate of the inferior courts.

# Judges

Appointment of judges. Amended by: LVIII.1974.47; XLIV.2016.3; XLIII.2020.2. **96.** (1) The judges of the superior courts shall be appointed by the President acting in accordance with the recommendation made by the Judicial Appointments Committee established by article 96A of the Constitution.

(2) A person shall not be qualified to be appointed a judge of the Superior Courts unless for a period of, or periods amounting in the aggregate to, not less than twelve years he has either practised as an advocate in Malta or served as a magistrate in Malta, or has partly so practised and partly so served.

(3) The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the President acting in accordance with a resolution of the House supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the members of the House:

Provided that notwithstanding the provisions of article 97(1), if the Resolution is not supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the members of the House, the person occupying the office of Chief Justice shall, in any circumstance, remain in office until the Resolution is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the members of the House.

# The Courts

### Superior Courts

- First Hall Civil Court
- Constitutional Court
- Family Section
- Volontary Section
- Commercal Section
- Criminal Court
- Court of Appeal

### Inferior Courts

Court of Magistrates (Malta) Court of Magistrates (Gozo) Court of Appeal (Inferior)



# The Courts

### Superior Courts

- First Hall Prim' Awla General claims over 15,000
   exceeding competence of the Court of Magistrates 1
   judge
- First Hall Constitutional Jurisdiction Human Rights 1 judge
- Constitutional Court Appeal from above Validity of laws – 3 judges
- Family Section Family matters separation, divorce, custody, maintenance 1 judge
- Volontary Section non contentious incapacitation, succession, interdiction, adoption 1 judge
- Commercal Section Companies Act reintroduced in 2018 1 judge
- Criminal Court Criminal matters 1 judge

### Inferior Courts

Court of Magistrates (Malta) – civil or criminal jurisdiction – under 15,000 Court of Magistrates (Gozo) – same Court of Appeal (Inferior) – from 1 magistrate to judge



### For Example

#### Title III

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Civil Court of Magistrates (Malta). Constitution and jurisdiction. Amended by: IV.1865.1; XV.1913.16; XXXI.1934.9: XXIII.1971.3: XIII.1983.5: XII. 1985.2: VIII.1990.3: XXIV.1995.21: V1.2001.3. XXXI.2002.21; L.N. 407 of 2007: IV.2016.3.

## Juridical Interest/ Locus Standi

- A term not mentioned explicitly in the law
- Both plaintiff attur (person instituting proceedings) and defendant – konvenut (person against whom proceedings have been instituted)
- Any person who has juridical interest may appeal decision
- Institute of joinder & Intervention Article 960 COCP

### Persons

- Includes a body or other association of persons legal personality as per Second Schedule of Civil Code
- Natural person v Legal person
- Assets & Liabilities = patrimony
- Creditors & Debtors ranking in terms of law



# Company Search Malta Business Registry

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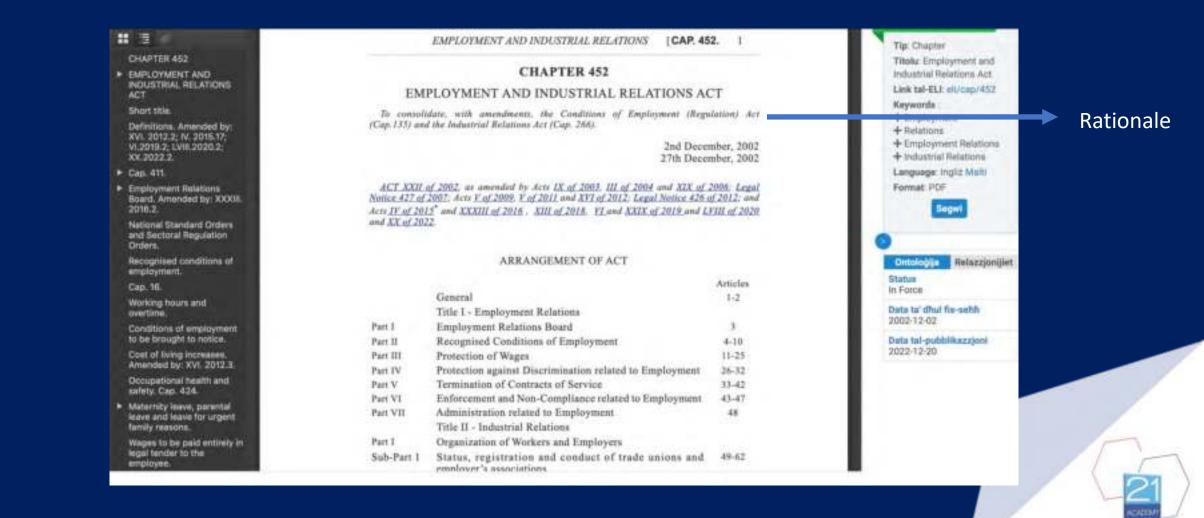
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# Primary & Subsidiary Legislation

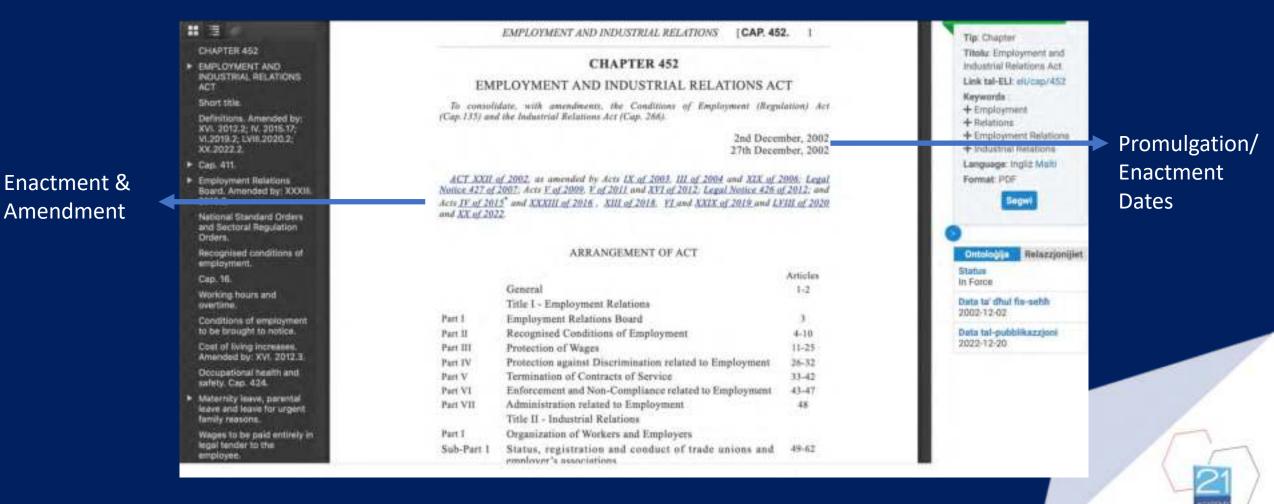
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## **Primary & Subsidiary Legislation**



# Primary & Subsidiary Legislation



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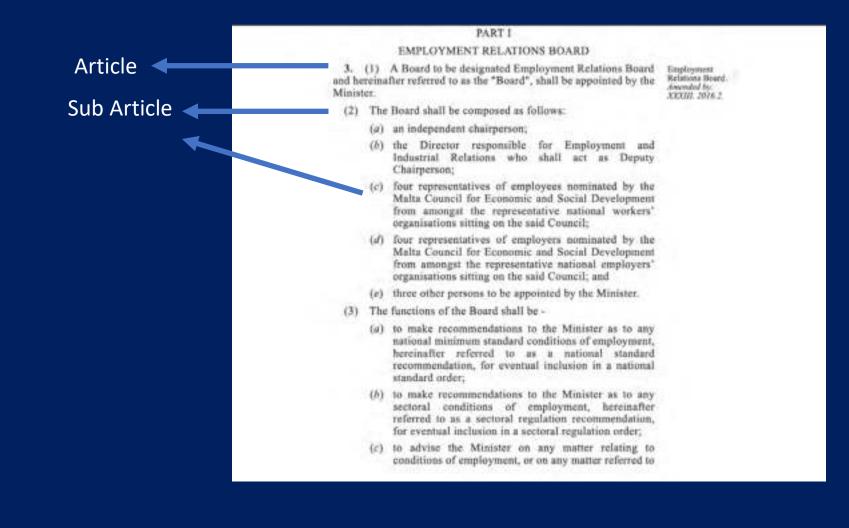
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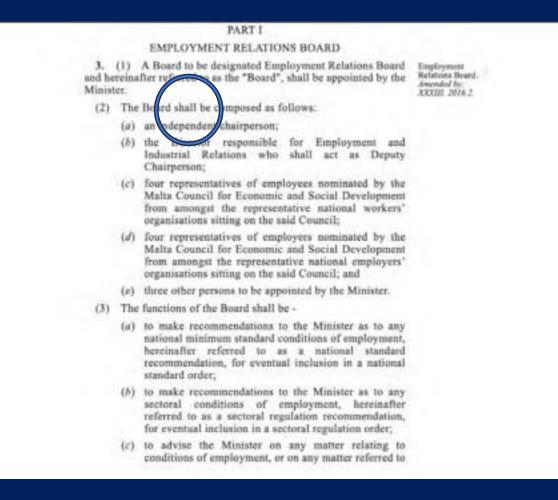
# Primary & Subsidiary Legislation

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# Primary & Subsidiary Legislation



# Primary & Subsidiary Legislation



## Primary & Subsidiary Legislati

#### PART II

#### RECOGNISED CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

National Standard Orders and Sectoral Regulation Orders. 4. (1) Where the Minister receives any national standard recommendation or any sectoral regulation recommendation he may, subject as hereinafter provided, make a national standard order or a sectoral regulation order, as the case may be, to be published in the Gazette, giving effect to the national standard recommendation or the sectoral regulation recommendation as from such date as may be specified in the order.

Provided that the Minister may, if he thinks fit, before making an order as aforesaid, refer the national standard recommendation or the sectoral regulation recommendation received by him back to the Board and the Board shall thereupon reconsider it having regard to any observations made by the Minister and may, if it thinks fit, re-submit the national standard recommendation or the sectoral regulation recommendation to the Minister either without amendment or with such amendments as it thinks fit having regard to those observations.

(2) Any national standard recommendation and any sectoral regulation recommendation as well as any national standard order or sectoral regulation order for giving effect thereto, may make different provisions for different cases and may contain provisions for the amendment or revocation of previous national standard orders or sectoral regulation orders and may contain any incidental, supplemental or consequential provisions which may appear necessary for carrying out the provisions of any national standard order and any sectoral regulation order.

(3) No national standard order or sectoral regulation order shall have effect so as to prejudice any rights as to conditions of employment conferred on any employee by or under any law other

Proviso





### Exhaustive & Non Exhaustive lists

Ritrattazajoni ta' kawka decizin Essendat AL1859.33: LUL1886.101; AXII 2005.62; FIL2007.23 811. Kawża deciża b'sentenza moghtija fi grad ta' appell jew mill-Qorti Ĉivili, Prim Awla, fil-gurisdizzjoni kostituzzjonali taghba, tista', fuq talba ta' wahda mill-partijiet li jkollha interess, tiĝi ritrattata, wara li qabel sejn tiĝi mhassra dik is-sentenza, ghal wahda minn dawn ir-ragunijiet li ĝejjin:

- Ragunijict ghurritraflazzjoni
- (a) jekk is-sentenza tkun ittiebdet bil-qerq ta' wahda millpartijiet bi hsara tal-ohra;
- (b) jekk ir-rikors guramentat ma jkunx gie notifikat lillparti telliefa, basta li din il-parti, ghad li ma tkunx giet innotifikata, ma tkunx debret fis-smigh tal-kawża;
- (c) jekk wahda mill-partijiet fil-kawża ma tkunx persuna leģittima, kemm-il darba ma tkunx ĝiet moghtija u deĉiża l-eĉcezzjoni ta' illeĝittimită;
- (d) jekk is-sentenza tkun ĝiet moghtija minn qorti nkompetenti minhabba n-nuqqas ta' ĝurisdizzjoni kif imsemmi fl-artikolu 741(a), basta li qabel ma tkunx ĝiet moghtija u deĉiža l-eĉĉezzjoni tal-inkompetenza;
- (e) jekk is-sentenza tkun applikat il-liĝi hażin;

ghall-finijiet ta' dan il-paragrafu, jitqies li kien hennn applikazzjoni hažina tal-liĝi, fil-kaž biss li ddeĉižjoni, meta l-fatt kien tassew kif stabbilit fissentenza attakkata, ma tkunx skont il-liĝi, basta li lkwistjoni ma tkunx dwar interpretazzjoni ta' liĝi, li fuqha l-qorti tkun espressament tat deĉižjoni;

- (f) jekk is-sentenza tkun ģiet moghtija faq haģa mhix imdahhla fit-talba;
- (g) jekk bis-sentenza jkun gie moghti ižjed minn dak li ntalab;
- (h) jekk is-sentonza tkun kuntrarja ghal sentenza ohra ta' qabel, dečiža bejn l-istess partijiet, fuq l-istess oggett, u li ghaddiet f'gudikat, basta li l-eččezzjoni ta' res judicata ma tkunx giet moghtija u dečiža;

- jekk fis-sentenza jkun hemm dispoźizzjonijiet kontra xulxin;
- (/) jekk is-sentenza tkun ģiet deċiża fuq provi li, b'sentenza moghtija wara, jiĝu ddikjarati foloz, jew, li

#### KODIĆI TA' ORGANIZZAZZJONI U PROČEDURA ČIVILI [KAP. 12. 219

jkunu ģew hekk iddikjarati b'sentenza moghtija qabel, izda l-parti telliefa ma kinitx taf b'dan il-fatt;

- (k) jekk, wara s-sentenza, ikun instab dokument dečiživ, u li 1-parti li ĝĝibu ma kinitx taf bih, inkella, illi, bilmezzi li taghti 1-liĝi, ma setghatx iĝĝibu, qabel dik issentenza;
- jekk is-sentenza kienet l-effett ta' žball li jidher millatti jew mid-dokumenti tal-kawża.

Ghall-finijiet ta' dan il-paragrafu, jitqies li hemm dak 1-iżball, fil-każ biss li d-deciżjoni tkun ibbażata fuq is-suppożizzjoni ta' xi fatt li 1-verità tieghu tkun bla ebda dubju eskluża, jew fuq is-suppożizzjoni li ma jeżistix xi fatt, li 1-verità tieghu tkun stabbilita pożittivament, basta li, fil-każ il-wiehed u 1-iehor, ilfatt ma jkunx punt ikkontestat illi jkun gie deciż bissentenza.

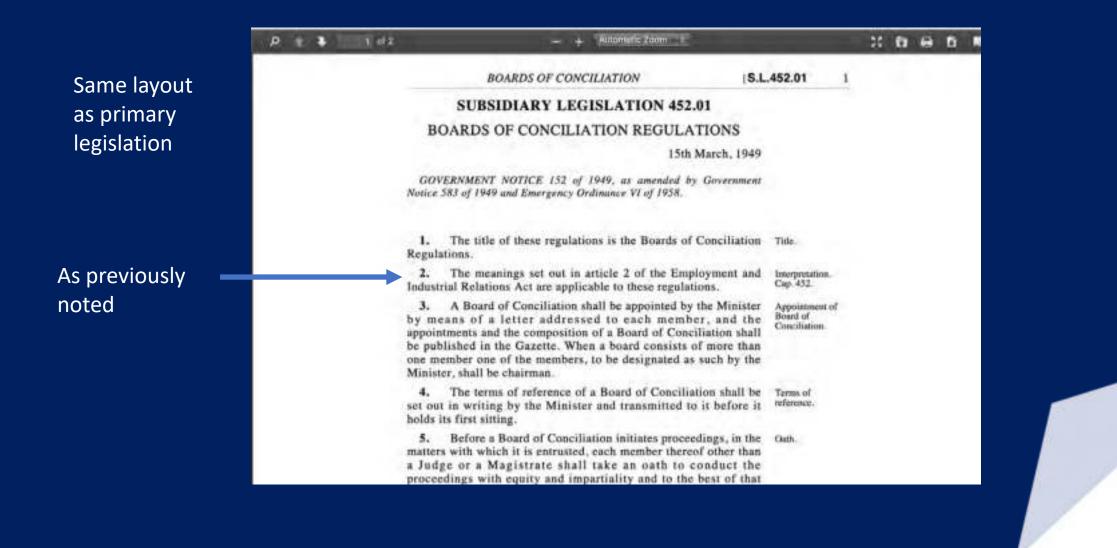
### Exhaustive & Non Exhaustive lists

Rights of persons crassing to be partners.	34. (1) A partner who is expelled or who by virtue of the immediately preceding article is not entitled to continue as partner shall have the right to have his interest in the partnership liquidated.							
	(2) There shall be included in the liquidation of the interest of a partner who is expelled, or who by virtue of the immediately preceding article is not entitled to continue as a partner, a <i>pro rata</i> share of the profits or losses on all work in progress up to the date of the expulsion.							
Dissolution of	35. A partnership en nom collectif is dissolved -							
partnerships en nom collect)f.	(a) where the period, if any, fixed for its duration expires;							
Amonded by: D: 2001.32	<li>(b) if, subject to the provisions of article 21, all the partners so agree;</li>							
	<ul><li>(c) if the partnership is adjudged bankrupt;</li></ul>							
	<ul> <li>(d) if in the opinion of the Court there exist grounds of sufficient gravity to warrant dissolution;</li> </ul>							
	<ul> <li>(e) if the number of partners is reduced below two and remains so reduced for more than six months;</li> </ul>							
	(/) subject to the provisions of article 21, in such other cases for which provision is made in the deed of partnership.							
Notice of dissolution, Amended by: XXIV: 1995.362	36. (1) On the dissolution of a partnership, and in no case later than fourteen days after such dissolution, the partners having the administration or the representation thereof shall deliver to the Registrar for registration a notice of the dissolution:							
	Provided that, where a partnership is adjudged bankrupt or							

# Subsidiary Legislation

Chapter -	▲ Kap 452	Att dwar I-Impiegi u r-Relazzjonijiet Industrijali	
Number	L.S. 452.01	Regolamenti dwar Bordijiet ta' Končiljazzjoni	-
	LS. 452.02	Ordni dwar Drittijiet il jithallau ili Membri ta' Bord ta' Končiljazzjoni	
	L.S. 452.03	Regolamenti dwar il-Qrati ta' inkjesta	-
	L.S. 452.04	Drittijiet li jithalisu III Membri ta' Qorti ta' Inkjesta	
	L.S. 452.05	Ordni ghal Kunsili tal-Pagi ghač-Cinematografi u t-Teatri	-
	L.S. 452.06	Ordni ghal Kunsili tal-Pagi tat-Trasport Pubbliku	-
	L.S. 452.07	Ordni-ghal Kunsill tal-Pagi ghax-Xoghol ta' Histampa u Pubblikazzjoni	-
Relative	L.S. 452.08	Ordni ghal Kunsill tal-Pagi ghall-Kostruzzioni	-
S.L	L.S. 452.09	Regolamenti dwar il-Pročedura tal-Kunolli tal-Pagi	-
	L.S. 452.10	Regolamenti dwar II-Pročedura tal-Kunsilli tal-Pagi	-
	L.S. 452.11	Ordni ghal Kunsill tal-Pagi ghall-Industrji ta' I-Armar tat-Trasport, tal-Metall u Industrji li jaghmiu maghhom	-
	L.S. 452.12	Ordni ghal Kunsili tal-Pagi ghali-Iskejjel Privati	-
	LS: 452.13	Ordni ghal Kunsili tal-Pagi ghan-Negozji bl-Ingrosaa u bl-Imnut	-
	L.S. 452.14	Ordni ghal Kunsill tal-Pagi ghax-Xoghol ta' Hnjam	-
	LS:452.15	Ordni ghal Kunsill tal-Pagi ghall-Lukandi u Kažini	14
	LS. 452.16	Regolamenti dwar il-Trade Uniona	-
	L.S. 452,17	Ordni ghal Kunsili tal-Pagi dwar I-Industriji tax-Xorb	

# **Subsidiary Legislation**



# Judgments - eCourts

Courts	KAWZI CIVILI	SENTENZO	INSOLVENZI	SUBSASTI	UZU TALAWU	SERVIZZI ()	GHAJMUNA (C	CHATC	Mall	1 Ergin	1909294	
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PRIM AWLA TAL-QORTI CIVILI

ONOR. IMHALLEF IAN SPITERI BAILEY LL.M. LL.D.

Illum, I-Erbgha, 30 ta' Awissu 2023

Rik. Nru. 965/2023 ISB

Go P.Lc (C-22334) vs Jean-Paul Borg 0373298M

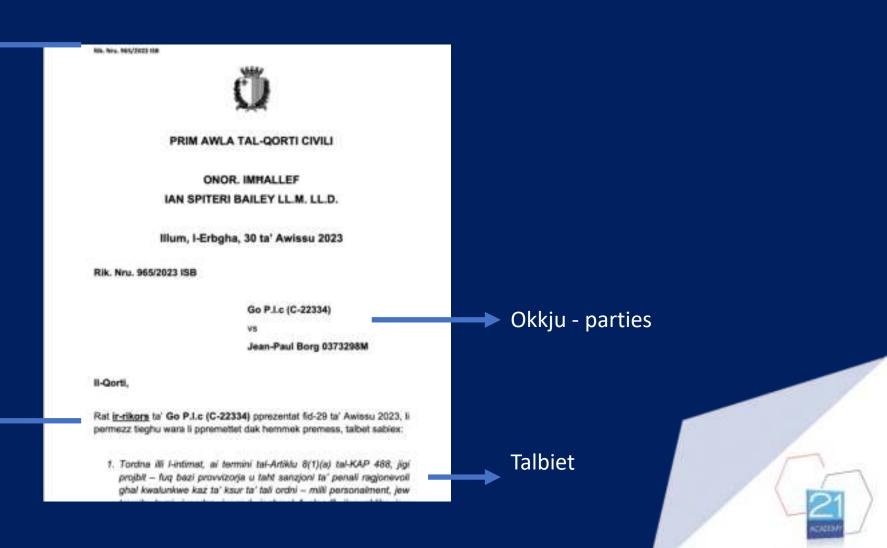
II-Qorti,

Rat ir-rikors ta' Go P.I.c (C-22334) pprezentat fid-29 ta' Awissu 2023, Ii permezz tieghu wara ii ppremettet dak hemmek premess, taibet sabiex:

 Tordna illi I-intimat, ai termini tal-Artiklu 8(1)(a) tal-KAP 488, jigi projbit – fuq bazi provvizorja u taht sanzjoni ta' penali ragjonevoli ghal kwalunkwe kaz ta' ksur ta' tali ordni – milli personalment, jew

Used in Search

Rikors/ Application - by which court proceedings are initiated



Basis on which the Court made its decision Rat id-dokumenti i kienu prezentati mar-rikors.

#### lkkunsidrat:

III din hija azzjoni mressga mis-socjeta' rikorrent ai termini tal-Artiklu 8(1) tal-KAP 488 tal-Ligijet ta' Malta.

#### Art. 8(1) tal-KAP 488 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta

Kull persuna msemmija 8-artikolu 3 tista' permezz ta'rikors titlob ill-Qorti :

(a) tohroğ kontra min ikun gieghed allegatament jökkommetti iksur ta' dritt ta' proprjetä intellettiwali, digriet li jikun intiž biex jipprevjeni kuli ksur imminenti ta' dritt ta' proprjetä intellettiwali bhal dak, jew il jipprojbixxi, fuq baži provvižorja u, fejn ikun adatt, ble hsara ghai htas ta' penali li jista' jsir ghal diversi drabi fejn ikun hemm provdut dwar dan skont il-liği, milli jitkompla jsehh kuli tali ksur allegat ta' dak id-dritt, jew li taghmel dik it-tkomplija soğletla ghal garazgii li jikunu intizi biex jižguraw li jinghata kumpens liddetentur tad-dritt. Tista' wkoli finihareğ projbizzjoni interlokulorja, taht i-istess kondizzjonijlet, kontra kuli intermedjarju li jikollu s-

Pagna 2 mins 5

#8. Nrv. 965/2023 ISB

servizzi liegtiu qeghdin jigu užati minn terzi hekk li dawn ikunu jikaru dnitt ta' proprjetä intellettwali; (b) jordna I-qbid jew il-kunsinna tal-oggetti li jikunu suspettati li

# Judgments

**Decision** 

(1)TILQA' I-ewwel talba u ordna illi I-intimat, ai termini tal-Artiklu 8(1)(a) tal-KAP 488, jigi projbit – fuq bazi provvizorja u taht sanzjoni ta' penali ragjonevoli ghal kwalunkwe kaz ta' ksur ta' tali ordni – milli personalment, jew tramite terzi, ixandar, ixerred, jaghmel "upload", jippunblika jew b'mod iehor jaghmel ujew izomm disponibbli ghal terzi, fuq il-youtube channel "Drammi Maltin" ujew fuq il-midja socjali ujew fuq I-internet ujew bi kwalunkwe mod iehor, b'mod shih ujew in parte, xi episodju jew episodji mid-drammi "L-Ispettur Leonard" ujew "Ic-Caqqufa" (Raba' Stagun) ujew kwalunkwe dramm iehor li fuqu GO Plc ghandha drittijiet ta' proprjeta' intelletwali.

(2)TILQA' t-tieni talba fis-sens illi qed tghaddi ghall-ghoti ta' dan iddigriet in camera minghajr dewmien.

(3)TIPPROVDI dwar it-tielet talba billi tordna lis-socjeta' rikorrenti sablex tinnotifika lill-intimat minnufieh b'dan id-digriet.

<sup>1</sup> Rational 2 <sup>1</sup> Rational 4

Pages 4 minut 2

RR. NYL. 165/2023 ISB

BI-ispejjes ta' dawn il-procedurl II jkunu a karigu tal-intimati.

Digriet Kamerali moghti Ilum I-Erbgha, 30 ta' Awiasu 2023.

# **Corporate Personality**

- Article 4 (4) of the Companies Act
- When does a company acquire legal personality?
- When does the legal personality of the company end?
- Is a company deemed to have a legal personality through the process of dissolution?



# Separate Juridical Personality

- How is a company's nationality and domicile determined?
- For what purpose does a company need the above?



# Lifting of the Corporate Veil

- Statutory or judicial inroads whereby the legal personality of a commercial partnership is put aside or ignored
- Where the number of members in a company falls under 2
- In cases of fraudulent or wrongful trading



## Memorandum & Articles of Association

- Article 68 Companies Act
- The Memorandum of Association is the backbone of a company
- Gives the overall aspect of a company
- Article 69 lists 9 minimum clauses which are deemed to be "the fundemantal provisions of the company's consitution"



## MoA

- 1. Name & Nature of the Company Clause
- 2. Registered Office Clause
- 3. Objects Clause
- 4. Share Capital Clause
- 5. Subscribers' Clause
- 6. Management Clause
- 7. Representation Clause
- 8. Company Secretary Clause
- 9. Duration Clause
- 10.(Limited Liability Clause)



### Name

- Cannot be used if Registrar deems it offensive or undesired
- Quite felixble
- Cannot be a name which is similar to others will cause confusion
- Reserved names cannot be used
- The words trustee, fiduciary or nominee ar not to be used unless duly authorised
- Private / Public Company must be included in the name



# **Registered Office**

- Must be in Malta PO box is not valid
- Where documents of registered members, minutes of meetings, accounts are kept etc
- Notification of judicial acts
- May be changed by a resoluti



# Objects

- The purpose for which the company is formed
- Cannot be a general such as 'trade'
- Although included does not mean the company is restricted from carrying out another business
- Must amend the MoA in order to carry out another business



# Share Capital

- Article 69(1)(f)
- Share capital may be in a foreign currency however the said currency must be convertible and the rates of exchange are established upon registration



## Subscribers Clause

- Original members of the company & details even if a body corporate
- The amount of shares each member has taken up
- All members must sign the MoA



## Management Clause

- Company acting through its directors
- Number, name, residence of directors must be stated
- Minimum number of directors for a public company is two whilst the minimum number of directors for a private company



## **Representation Clause**

- Details of person entrusted with the representation of the company
- Judicial representation
- Contractual representation



# **Company Secretary Clause**

- Must be physical persons
- One or more may be appointed, if more than one is appointed they shall be jointly and severally liable for their actions
- Name and residence of the first company secretary must be stated



# **Duration of Company Clause**

- In perpetuity or for a limited time?
- Duration must be clearly stated which duration may be extended by an extraordinary resolution



# Limited Liability Clause

• Liability of members indicating the amount, whether unpaid or not of the shares held by each member



## **Articles of Association**

- Shareholders can opt to;
- 1. Draw up the AoA catering for everything that is set out in the First Schedule of the Companies Act
- 2. Alter some aspects that are set out in the First Schedule of the Companies Act preliminary clause needed
- 3. Allow for the First Schedule of the Companies Act to apply in its entirety, hence not drawing up the AoA

## **Articles of Association**

- In those cases where the MoA and the AoA are delivered together, they are to be signed by the shareholders
- Issue of shares and share capital
- Transfer and forfeiture of shares
- Rules & Procedures of General Meetings
- Rules of procedures of the Board of Directors
- Amendements to the MoA & AoA



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## Companies Act – Chapter 386

#### PART II - GENERAL PROVISIONS

4. (1) A commercial partnership may be of the following kinds:

- (a) a partnership en nom collectif; or
- (b) a partnership en commandite or limited partnership; or
- (c) a company.

Formation of commercial partnerships and different kinds of commercial partnerships. Amended by: IV. 2003.28.

(2) A commercial partnership other than a company may be formed for the exercise of one or more acts of trade.

(3) A company may be formed for any lawful purpose and shall have the status of -

- (a) a public company; or
- (b) a private company.

(4) A commercial partnership has a legal personality distinct from that of its member or members, and such legal personality shall continue until the name of the commercial partnership is struck off the register, whereupon the commercial partnership shall cease to exist.

## Limited & General Partners

- General partners are liable for losses of the partnership in an unlimited way
- Limited partners are not liable for losses of the partnership beyond the amount of their share in the partnership



# **Commercial Partnerships**

- Partnership En nom collectif creditors can demand payment from any partner
- Partnership En commandite or limited partnership partners have no limited liability (same as above) but this partnership includes partners whos liability is limited. (minimum one partner – limited liability partners of shareholders are liable only to the amount of their share)
- Limited Liability exposure and liability capped
- Certificate of registration = formally a trader
- Legal obligations are more strenuous in limited liability for creditors to be in a position to verify credit



# Trader & Acts of Trade

- Commercial partnership Trader
- Trader means any person who, by profession excersises acts of trade in his own name, and includes any commercial partnership
- Person by profession primary and constant occupation
- Partnership ?
- Trader actual exercise of this trade, need not be same line of trade.
- Trader continuity
- Trader purpose of trade is that of making profit
- Trader "in his own name" assumes full responsibility of transaction minors, persons incapacitated etc may still be deemed traders when dul represented



# Chapter 386

- Duties of Directors Article 136A of the Companies Act, Chapter 386 of the Laws of Malta
- Company Secretary Article 138 of the Companies Act, Chapter 386 of the Laws of Malta
- Joint & several liability of directors for breach of duty Article 147 of the Companies Act, Chapter 386 of the Laws of Malta
- - Public Company Private Company Single Member Company

## Chapter 386

#### PART V - LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY TITLE I - FORMATION AND FUNCTIONING OF COMPANIES

#### Chapter I - Formation of a company and matters incidental thereto

67. A company is formed by means of a capital divided into Definition shares held by its members. The members' liability is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares respectively held by each of them.

**68.** A company shall not be validly constituted under this Act unless a memorandum of association is entered into and subscribed by at least two persons, or in the case of a single member company constituted in terms of article 212, by the single member, and a certificate of registration is issued in respect thereof. Companies formed and registered under the Ordinance shall comply with this Act in accordance with the provisions of article 428.

- 69. (1) The memorandum of every company shall state:
  - (a) whether the company is a public company or a private company;

Contents of memorandum, Amendeal by: IV 2003.41; XXXII 2003.41; XXXII 2003.41; XXXII 2003.41;

- (b) the name and residence of each of the subscribers LX 2 thereto;
- (c) the name of the company;
- (d) the registered office in Malta and the electronic mail address of the company;
- (e) the objects of the company;
- (f) the amount of share capital with which the company proposes to be registered (hereinafter referred to as "the authorised capital"), the division thereof into shares of a fixed amount, the number of shares taken

### Award in Introduction to Business Law Chapter 452 – Employment & Industrial Relations Act

- Wages
- Termination of Employment
- Industrial Tribunal
- Administration of Employment
- Conditions of Employment



# **EU** Legislation

- European Convention on Human Rights European Convention Act – Chapter 319 of the Laws of Malta
- European Court of Human Rights
- 5 Chambers President, Vice President, Registrar and Deputy Registrar
- Grand Chamber 17 Judges
- After all remedies have been exhausted



# **Regulations v Directives**

- Regulations unlike directives have binding legal force vis a vis all Member States
- Directives are results which must be achieved by Member States however each and every Member State is at liberty to decide how to transpose the relative directive into national law





