



27 September 2022

Hon. Dr Robert Abela MP
Prime Minister

Prime Minister,

**OECD report on the codes of ethics for ministers,
parliamentary secretaries and MPs**

As you will recall, on 11 July I wrote to you enclosing three reports issued by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which dealt with the functioning of my office, the Standards in Public Life Act, and the regulation of lobbying in Malta. These reviews were carried out by the OECD at my request under an EU-funded project entitled “Improving the Integrity and Transparency Framework in Malta”.

I am now forwarding a fourth report which deals with the code of ethics for ministers and parliamentary secretaries and the code of ethics for members of Parliament. This report proposes changes to these codes in order to address shortcomings that have been noted by GRECO among others.

By way of background, on 29 July 2020 I issued a report proposing revised codes of ethics for ministers, parliamentary secretaries and MPs. I presented this report to Parliament’s Standing Committee for Standards in Public Life with a recommendation for the adoption of the revised codes in terms of article 13(1)(g) of the Standards in Public Life Act, which empowers me to “make recommendations for the improvement of any Code of Ethics applicable to persons who are subject to this Act”.

I addressed this recommendation to the Committee since, according to article 3(4) of the same Act, amendments to the codes should be made by the Minister for Justice on a recommendation of the Committee that is supported by a resolution of the House of Representatives. However, the Committee concluded its discussion of the revised codes on 1 March 2021 with a decision to wait for the presentation in the House of a bill to amend the codes.



Commissioner for Standards in Public Life



The enclosed OECD report takes into account my report of July 2020. In the light of the above developments, the recommendations in the OECD report concerning the development of revised codes of ethics are addressed to the Government of Malta. Further recommendations in the report for measures to support the introduction of the new codes are addressed to my office.

By means of this letter I am making a formal recommendation to you under article 13(1)(g) of the Standards in Public Life Act for the revision of the code of ethics for ministers and parliamentary secretaries and the code of ethics for members of Parliament in accordance with the recommendations to this end that are set out in the enclosed OECD report and addressed to the Government of Malta.

I am copying this letter to the Hon. Dr Jonathan Attard in his capacity as the minister responsible for the Standards in Public Life Act.

Yours sincerely,

Dr George Marius Hyzler
Commissioner for Standards in Public Life

cc: Hon. Dr Jonathan Attard MP
Minister for Justice