



KUMMISSJONI POLITIKA SOĊJALI 2020/2021

Meeting #2

26th August 2020

Zoom

Registration: 17:00

Meeting started: 17:05

Julia Zammit | Social Policy Commissioner: Brief introduction, agenda approved nem con. Slight amendment to the previous meeting's minutes.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Update on work done Constitutional Reform Task Force, plan for Constitutional Reform.

Neutrality & non-alignment:

Rafel Grima | Moviment Graffiti: No final position on constitutional reform, neutrality clause should remain. Peace and solidarity are key, even if part of the European Union. Common European Army should not be entertained.

Chantelle Sammut | JEF: Agreeing with KSU, clarification of reference to Common European Army in working document sent to KPS.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Further clarification on Common European Army, non-alignment was the issue rather than neutrality.

Andrew Sciberras | GhSL: Task Force suggested rewording of neutrality clause to reflect today's reality, with peace and solidarity.

Jacob Callus | MIRSA/UM Rowing: World has changed tremendously since drafting of these articles, further clarification of Common European Army.



Rafel Grima | Moviment Graffiti: Addition to previous comments.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Main issue with non-alignment not neutrality, example of non-alignment redundancy in advice given by Attorney General in the 90s.

Rafel Grima | Moviment Graffiti: Moviment Graffiti had opposed docking of such ships.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Resolved *nem con* on proposing amendments to non-alignment, not neutrality.

The Religion of Malta:

Zane Camilleri | ASCS: Religion should not be taught in schools, multi-faith syllabi should be adopted.

Andrew Sciberras | GhSL: Presence of article does not restrict freedom of worship, rewording of article to reflect cultural reality. Compulsory teaching of religion is no longer the case due to teaching of ethics.

Rafel Grima | Moviment Graffiti: Article 2 removed in its entirety, national anthem should be devoid of any reference to religion.

Daniel White | S-Cubed: Agreed with removal of religious teaching, not with the complete removal of Article 2.

Claire Bajada | DESA: Also disagreed that it shouldn't be removed completely, importance of inclusion while respecting majority and church schools.

Jacob Callus | MIRSA/UM Rowing: Also disagreed that it shouldn't be removed.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Resolved as proposed in working paper, with Moviment Graffiti voting against.



Supremacy clause:

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Resolved *nem con*.

Citizenship:

Rafel Grima | Moviment Graffiti: Citizenship should not be a commodity or for sale, EU citizenship should not be mentioned.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Importance of EU citizenship as a by-product of Maltese citizenship.

Michaela Fenech | ESO: Agreeing with KSU.

Chantelle Sammut | JEF: This would acknowledge the rights gained through EU citizenship.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Shifting of discussion towards banning sale of citizenship.

Rebecca Spiteri | MUHS: Citizenship should not be for sale.

Zane Camilleri | ASCS: Citizenship should only be acquired through naturalisation.

Andrew Sciberras | GhSL: Personally agreeing with banning of such sale.

Emma Galea | Insite: Hypocrisy of selling citizenship without having anything to do with Malta.

George Grima | Third Eye: Affordability of citizenship is an issue.

Jacob Callus | MIRSA/UM Rowing: Agreed with banning sale of citizenship.



Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Clarification on revoking of citizenship sold. Resolved as proposed in working paper *nem con*.

Death penalty references:

Agreed *nem con*.

The President:

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Criticism of way in which most recent amendments were pushed through Parliament, even though they are good and necessary in substance.

Paul Scicluna | DESA: Doubts on workability of sending back bills to Parliament.

Zane Camilleri | ASCS: Possible exclusion of party leaders along with Prime Ministers from becoming Presidents.

Andrew Sciberras | GhSL: Sending bill back only if unconstitutional.

Jacob Callus | MIRSA/UM Rowing: Support of position outlined in working paper, President's unifying role.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Unconstitutionality of bills to be vetted by Council of State, criteria for sending bills back to Parliament necessary. Resolve *nem con*.

Parliament:

Agreed *nem con*.

The Executive:

Andrew Sciberras | GhSL: Disagreement with technocratic government.



Zane Camilleri | ASCS: Disagreement with technocratic ministers, Prime Minister can engage experts/advisers in the field.

Rafel Grima | Moviment Graffiti: Suggestion of having citizens' assembly similar to jury duty.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Further clarification on technocratic government. Vote on technocratic government: 17 in favour, 8 against, 3 abstentions; approved.

Andrew Sciberras | GhSL: Removal of 2/3rds requirement for ambassadors.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Agreed and approved *nem con*. The sections titled *Public Service* and *Miscellaneous* approved *nem con*.

Council of State:

Vote requested by GhSL: 20 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions; approved.

Additional matters:

Rafel Grima | Moviment Graffiti: Party financing and political donations, campaign expense accountability, party media, lobby group interference, economic rights, poverty, profit-sharing, maximum of 60 hours in a working week.

Sumaya Ben Saad | ICE: Environmental and architectural heritage.

Neil Zahra | Social Policy Coordinator: Welcoming of areas suggested, will be included in follow-up discussion on constitutional reform. Vote on banning sale of citizenship: 16 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention; approved. Brief description of next KPS meeting on Budget 2021 proposals, new KSU UM Facebook group, thanking of each member of the Task Force.

Meeting adjourned: 19:35