



MALTA INSTITUTE OF TAXATION

THE MALTA INSTITUTE OF TAXATION AND MALTA'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 21st February 2003

The Malta Institute of Taxation was set up in 1995. The Principal Objects Clause of its Statute comprises the following:

"to provide opportunities for the acquisition and dissemination of useful information concerning taxation in Malta, member states of the European Union and other countries"

In 1996 the Institute applied for membership of the Confederation Fiscale Europeenne, and was admitted to provisional membership in March 1997. By December 2000 the Institute had proved its eligibility to join Europe's tax advisers on an equal footing, and was admitted to full membership at the General Assembly of the CFE held in Stockholm. Each country represented in the CFE has one vote. In the case of Malta, this right is exercised by the Malta Institute of Taxation as the sole organisation from Malta represented in the CFE. In the case of other countries, such as the U.K., France and Germany, the right to vote is vested collectively in the organisations from those countries which are represented in the CFE. These organisations must agree unanimously between them how their country's vote will be cast. When unanimity is not achieved, the country concerned is considered to have abstained.

Ever since its constitution, The Malta Institute of Taxation has embarked on a programme of education for its members in anticipation of Malta's joining the European Union. In addition to local specialists, we have invited speakers from abroad on the subject, funding the heavy costs partly from funds made available to organisations for this purpose by Government. Our seminars on the subject are open to the public. The response has always been overwhelming and attendance is often twice the total membership of the Institute. No member (or non-member, for that matter) has ever expressed any doubt, difficulty or problem regarding Malta's prospective membership of the European Union, or spoken against membership.

The only conclusion is that the tax profession in Malta is ready for the country's membership of the E.U., and that the Institute's members are looking forward to working alongside their colleagues in the other 24 member states of the Union.

