



THE MALTA CHAMBER

PRESS RELEASE

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The Malta Chamber Hails Tourism Regulations as First Step Towards Quality Leap

New Quality Standards Will Help Elevate the Island's Brand

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry welcomes the Tourism Accommodation Regulations 2026 as a meaningful first step towards enhancing the quality of the visitor experience while also supporting a more harmonious integration of tourism that minimises disruption to local communities.

The Malta Chamber notes the positive consolidation of four separate legislative instruments into one coherent framework. The Malta Chamber also welcomes the new approach requiring the Malta Tourism Authority to assess not only technical compliance but also how proposals add value, enhance visitor experiences, and align with national climate and sustainability goals – this marks a positive structural shift in licensing decisions.

Distinct accommodation labels and categories are another win. Malta's tourism market is diverse, with typologies serving varied segments, expectations, and value propositions. This differentiated approach aligns regulation with market realities and elevates quality standards across the board. Mandatory eco-certification for collective accommodations makes sustainability a core requirement, not just a marketing tool.

The curbing of the two-extra-floors policy allowance for hotels is also acknowledged. Here, The Malta Chamber stresses the need for a renewed Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED) which is Malta's key framework for land use, development, and environmental management. An updated SPED should seek to align all planning policies and related legislation, and ensure that development embraces our history, culture and natural environment, thereby creating urban, suburban, brownfield, rural and coastal landscapes which reflect our uniqueness, ultimately translating into a true value model.

The regulations introduce stronger tools for short-term rentals: harsher penalties for unlicensed operations, clearer host responsibilities, and licensing-linked waste management. These tackle issues communities, operators, and stakeholders have flagged for years.

All this aligns with Rediscover to Align (<https://tinyurl.com/2ru5x55b>) document which The Malta Chamber published recently with 115 recommendations. It promotes value, sustainability, authenticity, and policy coordination over volume-driven growth.

That said, accommodation reform is just one link in tourism's long chain. Real value demands action also on spatial planning, transport, workforce conditions, tourism operator licencing, more regulatory coordination across authorities, and more effective business support.

The Malta Chamber urges Government to view these regulations not as the finish line, but as the start of broader reforms – seize this momentum, implement the remaining ideas of Rediscover to Align and Malta will offer higher value, resilience, superior visitor experiences, and better quality of life for residents.

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