





Associate Member of



Given that the Maltese government wants to be among the first EU member states to enact anti-SLAPP legislation, it should be setting a gold standard free of ambiguity and providing a strong framework of protection. This is why we truly need an open consultation process.

Government has a clear electoral mandate to recognise the media as the Fourth Pillar of democracy and we believe that this mandate should be fulfilled in the best way possible by having robust legislation that is agreeable to the very sector it is intended to protect.

Following a discussion with our members, academics and others involved in the media, we demand that the bills are withdrawn, turned into a White Paper and formally opened up for the widest possible consultation with specified milestones. We are sure that consultation could lead to better laws, which will provide the necessary framework to protect journalists and create an enabling environment for freedom of expression to thrive.

If government fails to open meaningful consultation, we will have no option but to withdraw our participation from the Committee of Experts as we cannot continue backing legislation, which is weak and does not achieve the best possible result. Our actions should in no way be interpreted as reflecting badly on our colleagues on the Committee of Experts with whom we have worked well over the past months.

We will be calling another IGM council meeting on Thursday 13 October to decide on the way forward. We would appreciate a reply by then.

This letter will be communicated to the media.

Kind regards,

Sgd. Matthew Xuereb

Sgd. Kurt Sansone

ISTITUT TAL-ĠURNALISTI MALTIN, SUITE 120, 280, REPUBLIC STREET, VALLETTA

e: [president@igm.mt](mailto:president@igm.mt)  
f: [@instituteofmaltesejournalists](https://www.instagram.com/instituteofmaltesejournalists)

m: +356 7763 9946 (General Secretary)