Minister Josè Herrera presents the priorities of the Environment Council of the Maltese Presidency to the Members of the European Parliament

At the European Parliament in Brussels, the Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change, José Herrera, presented the priorities that the Environment Council will be discussing during these six months, to the Committee Members responsible for the Environment, Climate Change, Public Safety and Food Safety (ENVI.) Minister Herrera stated that, in this area, climate change, the circular economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are the priorities of the Maltese Presidency. He added that said priorities will make a difference in the lives of European Union citizens.

Regarding Climate Change, Minister José Herrera said that the Maltese Presidency will further build on the work already carried out on the 2030 political framework for climate and energy. José Herrera said that the Maltese Presidency will aim for sustainable and concrete progress on the proposal of the revised emissions trading scheme (ETS), on the efforts sharing regulation (ESR) and on Land-use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) regulations. Minister Herrera explained that aviation emissions will also be addressed, particularly after the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Minister Herrera said that this focused programme, prepared by the Maltese Presidency for the Environment Council, aims at achieving tangible results in the gradual change of the EU towards more intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth. He stated that the Maltese Presidency will focus on initiatives that promote a more competitive economy, that makes use of resources efficiently and low-carbon emissions within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With regards to the Circular Economy Plan, Minister José Herrera said that the Maltese Presidency will further negotiations on the legislative proposals that amend the Six Waste Directives.

Issues also discussed by Minister José Herrera and worked on substantially by the Maltese Presidency include the Euro 5/6 proposal, the application for the amendment of the Directive on the Restriction of
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Dangerous Substances (RoHS), the reformulation of the Regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Directive on Habitats and the Revision on Environmental Implementation.

Minister Herrera declared that; “the Maltese Presidency is taking place during a very particular moment for the European Union. The sixtieth anniversary of the European Project is being commemorated at the same time Malta is at the helm of the the Council of the EU. Therefore, it is Malta’s as the Presidency to work on protecting all that has been achieved so far, whilst working to bring the European Union closer to its peoples”

With an ambitious national programme based on six priorities, Minister José Herrera claimed that Malta is ready and determined that following the six months of the Presidency, the European Union will emerge stronger.

At the ENVI committee, Minister Herrera answered all questions posed by MEPs of various parties. The MEPs praised the priorities programme prepared by the Maltese Presidency for this area.