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Priorities COMPET Council – Press Note

Dr Chris Cardona, Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business, presented Malta's Presidency priorities at the Competitiveness Council which was held on Monday 28th November, in Brussels.

While addressing the Council of the European Union, Dr Cardona stated that among Malta's priorities for the Compet Council would be to spearhead the trialogue process with the European Parliament on Geo-blocking so that consumers seeking to buy products and services in another EU Member State are not discriminated against based on nationality or country of residence in terms of access to prices, sales or payment conditions. Malta, together with its counterparts, will also work on measures to ensure a sharper focus in EU legislation to address the challenges faced by SMEs, in particular by extending funding sources, and to extend the timeframe and financial capacity of the European Fund for Strategic Investment. The Audio-Visual Media Services Directive will also be prioritised as it gives consumers the ability to enjoy their 'home' subscriptions when visiting another Member State.

Minister Cardona said that the Maltese Presidency will continue to place further emphasis on keeping the administrative burden as low as possible, while promoting the innovation principle and SMEs will be at the forefront of this discussion.

Dr Cardona continued by announcing a conference that will be held in Malta, as part of the Presidency programme, on the current challenges the EU is facing in attracting Foreign Direct Investments.

Minister Chris Cardona thanked the Slovak Presidency for their work and collaboration with Malta as the incoming Presidency.

