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Proposals for Budget 2011 - Malta

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL POLICY

1. There should be shifts from tax on labour to tax on environmentally-harmful practices that generate large amounts of waste, pollution and use resources in an unsustainable manner. Such taxation shifts require prior proper analysis as to social, economic and environmental impacts and public consultation after all available information has been placed in the public domain. In particular there should be attention such that there is no social regressivity.
2. Fiscal measures on property speculation, from third vacant property onwards. Fiscal mechanisms should encourage the renting and selling of properties which are kept vacant for speculation purposes.
3. Financial transaction tax on financial transactions and on windfall profits of banks and financial institutions – thus curbing financial speculation .
4. Widening of the income limit for exemption from income tax for anyone earning less than an established amount established following scientific studies, coupled with reduction of income tax for lower and middle income earners.
5. Regulatory Authorities should take a more pro-consumer stance and should also ensure the elimination of discrimination to foreigners living in Malta
6. Increase in the national and hourly minimum wage, including that for part-timers and contractual workers on a pro-rata basis
7. The generation of green jobs should be given priority in areas such as production and distribution of alternative energy sources. This involves employment in various levels, such as professional, administrative, technical and agricultural.
8. FORUM should be represented in MCESD together with other trade unions.

SOCIAL POLICY AND HEALTH

9. Improved legislation and policies that encourage the work-life balance such as more affordable and accessible childcare centres, flexible and/or reduced working hours as per workers' choice and equality of rights among workers in public and private sectors.
10. Workers in precarious employment, including foreign workers, are granted equal rights as full-time workers on a pro rata basis in all areas including wages.
11. Discrimination on various social levels should be confronted not only at work but also in other social spheres. Fully paid maternity leave, which is currently the lowest in the EU, should be increased to twenty weeks, with additional paternity leave (also at full pay) of at least 2 weeks.
12. There should be a realistic assessment of social benefits, as some are very low (for example for single parents and disabled persons) or even inexistent for vulnerable groups (for example Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) and Fibromyalgia (FM) sufferers) respectively.
13. Social security benefits should be streamlined as much as possible, thus doing away with bureaucratic labyrinths. This is resulting in unnecessary stress and hardships on vulnerable groups. Similarly, persons who have been waiting to receive benefits or refunds (tax, national insurance, etc.) for a long time should receive such payments as soon as possible.
14. A national social mobility plan to be devised envisaging investment on poorer families and children to ensure that these received the best education and work opportunities amongst others.

15. Pension reform that matches fiscal sustainability with social justice, which, whilst introducing a second pillar, reduced the 40-year mandatory working period to be eligible for a full pension. Such a system would be rigid and inflexible, resulting in further inequalities for workers such as carers and part-time workers. Women, in particular, find it difficult to balance contributory requirements with the competing demands of family life, child-bearing and insecure work.
16. Provision of equal access to quality medical treatment for all patients without discrimination. Public Health Services should ensure the availability of all essential drugs at all times and to all patients including those who cannot afford to pay. Government should take more action to ensure a decrease in medicinal prices, including considering importing them itself alongside importers from the private sector.
17. Inclusion of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) and Fibromyalgia (FM) in the list of disabilities covered by the Maltese Social Security Legislation Act. For example, ME and FM patients should be given the same support and access in cross-border care as is given to sufferers of other conditions for which treatment is not available locally. Funds should also be allocated for appropriate education and training of doctors and other health care professionals that would enable them to diagnose ME and FM patients at an early stage and advise them on appropriate forms of health management.
18. Increased investment in the provision of facilities and services to disabled persons, including for residential homes, which currently cannot cope with demand.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND ANIMAL WELFARE

19. Full Implementation of WEEE Directive (Waste from Electric and Electronic Equipment): producer representatives should commence taking back of used equipment thus implementing producer responsibility principle.
20. Reactivation of the National Commission for Sustainable Development, which has not met for around 3 years.
21. Implementation of the national strategy on sustainable development, ensuring that all Ministries have an action plan. These action plans should by now have been in place had not the National Sustainability Commission been effectively disbanded.
22. The formulation of a strategy on how economic instruments can be used for environmental improvements, as proposed by the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.
23. Serious investment in enforcement of littering and dumping laws and giving the tools to local councils for enforcement in this area, who are at present toothless to prevent dumping and littering in their communities. Lack of enforcement risks seriously ruining all the good work put into waste recovery scheme.
24. Hybrid cars should be encouraged. Incentives should be in place so that existing heavily-polluting vehicles not up to standard are taken off the road as soon as possible.
25. Need for more investment in renewable energy, to reduce dependence on oil.
26. Utility tariffs should penalise wasteful practices and not basic consumption.
27. In order to combat the issue of stray dogs, an obligatory registration system should be introduced where all dog owners have to get their pets micro chipped.

EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

28. Increased investment for the creativity of students, for example by encouraging contact with various artistic/cultural forms throughout their scholastic years (primary, secondary and post-secondary).
29. Bigger share of Royalties to be given to Musical performers and artists, authors and writers and less to the big companies
30. More investment in sports training and opportunities, for example through interschool leagues in various sports.

FOREIGN POLICY

31. Increased investment for more Maltese participation in UN and EU peace keeping, civil protection and natural disasters and humanitarian missions abroad.
32. Reassessing and increasing Malta's contribution to development fund. The building and upkeep of detention centres is not to be considered part of this aid.

Proposti ghall-Budget 2011 - Malta

POLITIKA EKONOMIKA U FISKALI

1. Ghandu jkun hemm caqliq minn taxxi fuq ix-xoghol ghall-taxxi fuq pratici li jaghmlu hsara lill-ambjent bhall-generazzjoni ta' ammonti kbar ta' skart, tniggiz u uzu tar-rizorsi b' mod insostenibbli. Dan ic-caqliq ta' taxxi jehtieg analizi serja ta' l-impatti socjali, ekonomici u ambjentali kif ukoll konsultazzjoni pubblika wara li kull infomazzjoni li tezisti tkun accessibbli ghall-pubbliku. B' mod partikolari ghandha tinghata attenzjoni li ma jkunx hemm rigressivita socjali.
2. Mizuri fiskali fuq spekulazzjoni tal-propjeta', mit-tielet propjeta' vojta 'l-quddiem. Mekkanizmi fiskali ghandhom jinkoragixxu il-kiri u l-bejgh ta' propjeta li tinzamm vojta ghall-spekluazzjoni.
3. Taxxa fuq tranzazzjonijiet fiskali u fuq profitti straordinarju tal-banek u istituzzjonijiet finanzjari sabiex tonqos l-ispekulazzjoni finanzjarja.
4. Ghandu jizdied il-limitu ta' dhul sabiex wiehed ikun ezenti mit-taxxa fuq id-dhul ghal kull min jaqla inqas minn ammont stabiliz wara studji xjentifici, kif ukoll tnaqqis ta' taxxa tad-dhul fuq min ghandu dhul baxx jew medju.
5. Awtoritajiet li jirregolaw ghandhom ikollhom pozizzjoni iktar favur il-konsumatur kif ukoll jizguraw li tispicca diskriminazzjoni kontra barranin li jghixu Malta.
6. Zieda fil-paga minima, anke fuq bazi ta' xoghol bis-siegħa, inkluz għall-haddiema part-time u kuntrattwali, fuq bazi pro-rata.
7. Ghandha tinghata priorita' għall-holqien ta' green jobs, bhall-produzzjoni u distribuzzjoni ta' energija alternattiva. Dan jinvolvi xogħol f'livelli varji, bhal dak professjonali, amministrattiv, tekniku u agrikolu.
8. Il-FORUM ghandha tkun rapprezentata fl-MCESD flimkien ma' unjins ohra.

POLITIKA SOCJALI U SAHHA

9. Titjib fil-legizlazzjoni u politika li jinkoragixxu bilanc bejn ix-xogħol u l-hin hieles, per ezempju permezz ta' childcare centres iktar affordabbli u accessibbli, siegħat ta' xogħol flessibbli u/jew reduced working hours, skond l-ghazla tal-haddiem, u ugwaljanza fid-drittijiet bejn haddiema li jahdmu fis-settur pubbliku u fis-settur privat.
10. Haddiema f' xogħol prekarju, inkluz haddiema barranin, ghandhom ikollhom l-istess drittijiet bhall-haddiema full-time, fuq bazi pro-rata, inkluz fil-pagi.
11. Diskriminazzjoni fuq livelli socjali varji ghandha tigi kkonfrontata mhux biss fuq ix-xogħol izda anke f' sferi socjali ohra. Il-leave tal-maternita' bi hlas shih, li bhalissa hu l-iktar baxx fl-UE, ghandu jizdied għal 20 gimgha, b'zieda ta' leave tal-paternita' (imhallas b' mod shih, ukoll) għal ta' l-inqas gimghatejn.
12. Ghandu jkun hemm assessjar realistiku tal-beneficcji socjali, peress li bosta huma baxxi hafna (per ezempju għall-genituri wahedhom u nies b' dizabilita') jew inezistenti għal xi gruppi vunnerabbli (bhal dawk bl-Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) u Fibromyalgia (FM) rispettivament).
13. Il-beneficcji socjali ghandhom jigu organizzati u simplifikati minhabba li burokrazija zejda tohloq stress u diffikultajiet kbar lill-gruppi vunnerabbli. Dawk li ilhom għal zmien twil jistennew li jithallsu beneficcji jew rifuzzjonijiet dovuti lilhom (taxxa, bolla, ecc) ghandhom jithallsu mill-iktar fis.
14. Ghandu jithejja pjan nazzjonali ta' mobilita' socjali favur investiment f' familji u tfal foqra sabiex jigi zgurati li dawn jircievu l-ahjar edukazzjoni u opportunitajiet ta' xogħol fost ohrajn.

15. Riforma fil-pensjonijiet li tizgura sostenibilita' finanzjarja u gustizzja socjali. Filwaqt li ghandha tigi introdotta s-second pillar, ghandu jkun hemm tnaqqis fl-40 sena mandatorji sabiex wiehed ikun elegibbli ghal penzjoni shiha. Dan ghaliex din is-sistema hi rigida u m'hijex flessibbli, u b'hekk tohloq iktar inugwaljanzi ghal dawk b'xoghol bhal li jiehdu hsieb lil haddiehor u haddiema part-time. Nisa, b'mod partikolari, isibuha difficli li jibbilancjaw il-kontribuzzjonijiet mehtiega ma' affarijiet bhall-htigijiet tal-familja, trobbija tat-tfal u xoghol b'nuqqas ta' sigurta'.
16. Access ugwali ghal trattament mediku lill-kull pazjent minghajr diskriminazzjoni. Is-servizz tas-sahha pubblika ghandu jizgura li medicina essenzjali tkun accessibbli f'kull hin u ghall-kull pazjent, inkluz dawk li ma jistghux ihallsu. Il-Gvern ghandu jaghmel iktar azzjoni sabiex jizgura tnaqqis fil-prezz tal-medicina, inkluz li jikkunsidra li jimporta l-medicina flimkien ma' importaturi privati.
17. Inkluzzjoni tal- Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) u Fibromyalgia (FM) fil-lista' ta' dizabilitajiet koperti mill-ligi tas-sigurta' socjali. Per eżempju, dawk li jbatu bl-ME jew bl-FM ghandhom igawdu mill-istess support u access ghall-kura f'pajjiz iehor bhal ma jinghata lill-haddiehor, ghal trattament li ma jezistix f'Malta. Ghandu jkun hemm fondi ukoll ghall-edukazzjoni u tahrig lill-professionisti li jahdmu fil-qasam tas-sahha sabiex ikunu jistghu jaghtu dijanjozi f'waqtha lill-dawk li jbaghtu fl-ME u bl-FM, kif ukoll sabiex ikunu jistghu ituhom pariri siewja ghall-immanigjar ta' sahhithom.
18. Zieda fl-investment ghall-provista' ta' facilitajiet u servizzi lil dawk b'dizabilita, inkluz ghad-djar residentzjali, li bhalissa ma' jistghux ilahhqu mad-domanda.

POLITIKA AMBJENTALI, ENERGIJA, TRASPORT U HARSJEN TA' L-ANNIMALI

19. Implimentazzjoni shiha tad-Direttiva (Waste from Electric and Electronic Equipment): dawk li jirraprezentaw lil min jipproduci ghandhom jiehdu apparat uzat u b'hekk jimplmentaw il-principju ta' responsabilita' tal-produtturi.
20. Re-attivazzjoni tal-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali ghall-Izvilupp Sostenibbli, li ilu ma jiltaqta' xi 3 snin.
21. Implementazzjoni ta' l-istrategija nazzjonali ghall-izvilupp sostenibbli, kif ukoll li jigi zgurati li kull Ministru ghandu pjan ta' azzjoni. Dawn il-pjanijiet suppost qeghdin fis-sehh, li kieku ma gietx effettivament zmantellata il-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali ghall-Izvilupp Sostenibbli.
22. It-tnedija ta' strategija dwar kif instrumenti ekonomici jistghu jintuzaw ghal titjib ambjentali, kif propost mill- Kummissjoni Nazzjonali ghall-Izvilupp Sostenibbli.
23. Investment serju ghall-enforzar kontra min ihammeg u jarmi barra, kif ukoll li jinghataw rizorsi adegwati lill-Kunsilli Lokali ghall-enforzar f'dan il-qasam. Jekk dan ma jsirx hemm ir-riskju li jintilef it-tajjeb li sar ghall-immanigjar ta' l-iskart.
24. Il-karozzi 'hybrid' ghandhom jigu inkuraggiti. Ghandu jkun hemm incentive sabiex karozzi ezistenti li jhammgu hafna jintehhew mit-toroq malajr kemm jista' jkun.
25. Iktar investment f'energiya rinnovabbli, sabiex tonqos id-dipendenza fuq iz-zejt.
26. Il-kontijiet tad-dawl u l-ilma ghandhom jippenalizzaw il-hela u mhux il-konsum baziku.
27. Ghandu jkun hemm sistema obbligatorja ta' registrazzjoni tal-klieb permezz ta' micro-chipping. Dan sabiex ma jkunx hemm min jabbanduna l-klieb.

EDUKAZZJONI, KULTURA, ZGHAZAGH U SPORT

28. Iktar investment favur il-kreattivita' ta' l-istudenti, per eżempju li jigi inkuraggiti il-kuntatt ma' forum varji artistici u kulturali tul il-hajja skolastika (primarju, sekondarju, post-sekondarju, terzjarju)
29. Iktar hemm tqassim iktar gust tad-dhul lill-muzicisti, artisti, awturi u kompizituri, u inqas ghall-kumpaniji kbar.
30. Iktar investment fit-tahrig u opportunitajiet sportivi, per eżempju permezz ta' kompetizzjonijiet bejn skejjel ta' sports varji.

POLITIKA BARRANIJA

31. Iktar investment ghal iktar partecipazzjoni Maltija fiz-zamma tal-paci, protezzjoni civili, dizastri naturali u missjonijiet umanitarji barra minn Malta (tal-Gnus Maqghuda u UE)
32. Revalwazzjoni u zieda fil-kontribuzzjoni ta' Malta ghall-fond ta' zvilupp. Il-bini u l-operat ta' centri tad-detenzjoni m'ghandhomx jitqiesu bhala parti minn dan il-fond.