



Concept for the Maltese Public Consultation pursuant to Article 9 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 347/2013

Construction of the Malta-Sicily Gas Pipeline European Union Project of Common Interest Delimara Malta – Gela Sicily, Italy

In line with Article 9 (3) of the Trans-European Energy Infrastructure Regulation 347/2013, known in short as the TEN-E Regulation and section 6.2 in the Manual for the Permit Granting Process for Projects of Common Interest by the Planning Authority, and following the submission of the notification letter on the 27th July 2017, this concept for a public consultation is being prepared by the Project Promoter as part of the permitting procedure for the Malta-Italy gas pipeline interconnection - Phase 1 of Project of Common Interest 5.19 pursuant to Art. 9 (4) of the TEN-E Regulation and submitted to the Planning Authority as the Maltese Competent Authority for approval. The purpose for the public consultation is to take into consideration the public participation during the pre-application procedure and before the submission of the the final and complete application file to the Competent Authority pursuant to Article 10(1)(a).

In line with the conclusions of the European Council of the 4 February 2011, where the Council noted that “No EU Member State should remain isolated from the European gas and electricity networks after 2015 or see its energy security jeopardized by lack of the appropriate connections”; the October 2014 European Council Conclusions where Malta is specifically mentioned as requiring special attention in the context of PCI implementation; the March 2015 European Council conclusions where the Council called for the acceleration of infrastructure projects, ‘including interconnections in particular to peripheral regions’ and the Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Policy’ which calls for the end of energy islands from the main electricity and gas networks, the Government of Malta intends to implement a connection to the trans-European Natural Gas Network to end Malta’s isolation. The latter will be achieved by connecting Malta via an approximately 159 kilometre pipeline from Delimara (Malta) to Gela (Sicily) Italy, intended for the importation of gas from the Italian gas network to meet Malta’s future gas demand initially for power generation. Potentially, following the completion of this first phase of the project, a second future phase can be planned allowing for bi-directional flow of gas through the pipeline by installing a Floating LNG Storage and Re-Gasification Unit (FSRU) located approximately 12 kilometre offshore from Delimara intended to supply both Malta’s future gas demands and LNG bunkering demand; and allow for the possibility of export of natural gas to Italy and thus provide an alternative source of natural gas to the European Gas Network. Phase 2 is still under consideration and subject to further feasibility studies, in-depth analysis and market development. The public consultation being referred to in this concept relates only to Phase 1 of the project.

The public consultation measures envisaged include the following:

- I. A project website will be created to disseminate information to the public in a transparent and non-technical manner, with regular updates reflecting the status of the project and clearly indicating updates from previous versions. The website will provide the contact



details of the Project Promoter and will accept requests for obtaining the full set of application documents via electronic mail. Furthermore, the project website will also serve as a portal where comments and objections during the public consultation period may be conveyed.

- II. An information leaflet including a brief description of the project, predicted timelines, alternative routes considered throughout the basic design process, envisaged project impact and planned mitigation measures will be prepared pursuant to ANNEX VI (5) of the TEN-E Regulation.
- III. A Public consultation meeting will be organised by the Ministry for Energy and Water Management ('MEW') as the Project Promoter, together with the Energy & Water Agency ('Agency') within the same Ministry and the Planning Authority as Malta's one-stop shop.

The public consultation will cover the following dates:

Published on	Friday 30 th March 2018
Running till	Sunday 20 th May 2018
Public Consultation meeting	Tuesday 10 th April 2018

The public consultation meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 16:00 at the St. Thomas More, Primary School, Marsaxlokk. Agenda is outlined in Annex I below.

In line with Article 9 (5) of the TEN-E regulation, a public consultation is also planned to be held in Italy, as the other concerned Member State for this PCI, within a period of no more than two months from the start date indicated above.

Allocated resources

The Project Promoter shall allocate resources from within the MEW and the Agency to administer the consultation process. The public officers assigned for this task have been managing the development and implementation of the project for the last three years and are currently responsible to lead the permitting procedure and ensure that all the required permitting/ESIA studies are conducted as part of the process.

Environmental consultants, possessing the necessary experience in the Maltese permit granting procedures, shall be sub-contracted by MEW specifically to oversee and assist throughout the permit process. The appointed consultant will support the Project Promoter during the open consultation period including participation in the public hearing.

The public hearing will be chaired by the Planning Authority and a draft agenda is being annexed with this concept of public consultation. All documentation, leaflets, adverts and any other publications will be issued from within the Ministry, with the help of the Agency and the appointed consultant.

National Authorities and Interested Stakeholders

The chairperson/ director/ representatives and all relevant personnel of the interested National Authorities and Stakeholders will be involved in the public consultation process. They will be also informed about the public consultation period and the date and time of the public hearing through a



personal invite sent via electronic mail. A brief description of the project, including a general overview, predicted timelines, alternative routes considered throughout the basic design process, envisaged project impact and planned mitigation measures, will be sent in the form of a digital information leaflet pursuant to ANNEX VI (5) of the TEN-E Regulation together with an official e-mail invite for the public meeting. Entities, authorities, agencies and other relevant stakeholders, will be invited to provide feedback on the project proposed by electronic mail or by post by a specific date, marking the termination of the public consultation phase. Apart from feedback obtained in written form, these national authorities and stakeholders will also be invited to participate in the public hearing, where verbal feedback and request for clarifications can be received by the Project Promoter. During the latter, when possible, verbal replies will be provided, if not written information will be submitted at a later date provided by the Competent Authorities.

The following is a list of national authorities and interested stakeholders that will be specifically invited to participate throughout the public consultation phase:

- Planning Authority (PA)
- Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)
- Regulator for Energy and Water Services (REWS)
- Transport Malta (TM)
- Continental Shelf Department (CSD)
- Environmental Health Department
- Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA)
- Civil Protection Department (CPD)
- Superintendent of Cultural Heritage (SCH)
- Enemalta plc
- ElectroGas Malta
- Shanghai Electric Power Malta Holding Ltd.
- International Energy Service Centre Ltd (IESC)
- Department of Fisheries and Agriculture
- Malta Professional Diving Schools Association

Local Authorities and NGOs

The mayors, directors, representatives and all relevant personnel of the interested Local Authorities will be involved in the public consultation process. They will be also informed about the public consultation period and the date and time of the public hearing through a personal invite sent via electronic mail. A brief description of the project, including a general overview, predicted timelines, alternative routes considered throughout the basic design process, envisaged project impact and planned mitigation measures will be sent in the form of a digital information leaflet pursuant to ANNEX VI (5) of the TEN-E Regulation together with the e-mail invite for the public meeting. Authorities, local councils, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders, will be invited to provide feedback on the project proposed by electronic mail or by post by a specific date, marking the termination of the public consultation phase. Apart from feedback obtained in written form, these local authorities and NGOs will also be invited to participate in the public hearing, where verbal feedback and request for clarifications can be received by the Project Promoter. During the latter, when possible, verbal replies will be provided, if not written information will be submitted at a later date provided by the Competent Authorities.



The following is a list of local authorities that will be specifically invited to participate throughout the public consultation phase:

- Local Councils' Association
- Marsaxlokk Local Council
- Birżebbuġa Local Council
- Għaqda Koperattiva tas-Sajd Limitata
- Koperattiva Nazzjonali tas-Sajd
- Nature Trust Malta
- Friends of the Earth Malta
- Flimkien Għal Ambjent Aħjar
- Interdiocesan Commission for the Environment
- Birżebbuġa Environmental Action Group

Landowners and Citizens Living in the Vicinity

The citizens of the Marsaxlokk area, including those residing or owning agricultural land in Delimara, will be involved in the public consultation process. They will be informed about the public consultation period through a notice informing the general community fixed on the notice board of the Marsaxlokk and Birżebbuġa Local Councils and through notices published on local newspapers. These will include the dates of the period of consultation and official information with regards to the meeting, including locality, date and time. Any person, who wishes to provide feedback, will be invited to do so via electronic mail or by post by a specific date, marking the termination of the public consultation phase. Apart from feedback obtained in written form, the landowners and citizens residing in the vicinity will also be invited to participate in the public hearing, where verbal feedback and request for clarifications can be received by the Project Promoter. During the latter, when possible, verbal replies will be provided, if not written information will be submitted at a later date provided by the Competent Authorities.

The General Public

The general public will be informed of the public consultation period and official meeting at Marsaxlokk through various communication lines:

- A notice with all relevant information; including extent of consultation period, locality, date and time for the consultation meeting, and all relevant contact details, will be posted on the Ministry for Energy and Water Management website – <https://energywateragency.gov.mt/>
- A special web page solely dedicated to the public consultation will be created on the Project Website with all relevant information; including extent of consultation period, locality, date and time for the consultation meeting, and all relevant contact details in view of conveying comments and objections throughout the whole consultation period – <http://www.energywateragency.gov.mt/pci-5-19-gas-interconnectivity/>
- A notice with all relevant information; including extent of consultation period, locality, date and time for the consultation meeting, and all relevant contact details, will be posted on the Planning Authority website – <http://www.pa.org.mt/en/consultation>
- The public consultation will be published on the official Government Public Consultation Website – http://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/Pages/Home.aspx
- Two adverts will be published on local newspapers, clearly indicating the launch of the public consultation period and the exact location where the public consultation meeting will be held, including the date and time.

Ministeru Għall-Energija u L-
Immaniġġjar tal-ilma

Uffiċċju tas-Segretarju Permanenti



Ministry for Energy and Water
Management

Office of the Permanent Secretary

Any feedback is to be sent to the Energy & Water Agency:

By electronic mail to gas-energywateragency@gov.mt

Or by post to

**Malta Gela Gas Pipeline Project,
Energy & Water Agency,
WSC, Qormi Road,
Luqa**

Submissions as part of the public consultation meeting are to be sent to the Agency by **Sunday 20th May 2018**.



ANNEX I: PUBLIC CONSULTATION AGENDA

Target Audience: National and local authorities, relevant stakeholders, NGOs, landowners and the general public. An open discussion on the implementation of the Malta-Italy gas pipeline project prior the commencement of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Marine Studies.

Date: Tuesday 10th April 2018

Time: From 16:00hrs till 19:00hrs

Location: St Thomas More College, Marsaxlokk Primary, Triq L-Arznell, Marsaxlokk

Agenda:

16:00 Registration

16:30 Welcome and Project Presentation

17:15 Open discussion chaired by the Planning Authority

18:45 Closing Address

Proceedings will be in Maltese and English.