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**EXCLUSIVE**

# AZZOPARDI FISHERIES CAUGHT UP IN NET OF EU INVESTIGATIONS



Manara II with name and flag removed at Bridge Wharf on 7 May



Manara II now changed to Gaia I berthed at Bridge Wharf on 16 May, after being reflagged as Maltese (Photos: ATRT, SL)

Azzopardi fishing boats switch flags from Turkish to Bolivian to Libyan to Maltese and back to Bolivian

Valletta Port Authority clears 'stateless' vessels for entry into Grand Harbour

Libyan-flagged fishing boats mysteriously reflagged as Maltese

Transport Ministry orders investigation under pressure from European Commission

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## Doctors call for IVF regulation

JAMES DEBONO

THE unregulated and completely privatised administration of infertility treatment has led to an increase in the birth of triplets and quadruplets, and in turn a greater health risk to newborns, a study published in the Malta Medical Journal shows.

The study is recommending the introduction of state-funded fertility treatment to put an end to the anarchy reigning in this sector.

It also says infertility treatment "must be tempered by good adequate advice" and that the stimulation of ova in women "must be regulated and restricted only to accredited specialists".

Doctors found that while the use

of fertility pills and in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment was used in just 0.7% of singleton births, reproductive technology was responsible for 28% of births involving triplets and 50% involving quadruplets.

The study population included a total of 20,215 deliveries between 2000-2004, which included

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## Bartolo attends Abela meeting, but he is still contesting

MATTHEW VELLA

EVARIST Bartolo has confirmed he is still in the Labour leadership race after his presence at a meeting organised by leadership contender George Abela last Saturday sparked rumours that he was edging closer to the Abela camp.

In a statement on Tuesday, Bartolo denied rumours that he was not really interested in becoming leader but wanted to be deputy leader.

With a MaltaToday survey of Labour delegates last Sunday placing Bartolo with a support of just 1.9% of delegates who had made their mind up, yesterday the Labour MP issued a statement stating he was "not interested" in the post of deputy leader for parliamentary affairs – while adding the leak of delegates to MaltaToday had "poisoned" the leadership election by trying to condition the delegates.

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## MLP to publish election defeat report

THE Labour national executive yesterday voted unanimously in favour of making its report into its electoral defeat public before the leadership contest. The commission's report, will be

published on the party website and distributed among Labour delegates at the end of a discussion by the party executive next Saturday and Monday.

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