mid week

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EDITORIAL PG 15

'ABSOLUTE RESILIENCE'

- Cabinet approves 'plan of action'
- Tonio Borg flies to Libya
- Only Malta, Luxembourg and Germany participate in Frontex

KARL STAGNO-NAVARRA

CABINET is reported to have approved a 'Plan of Action' intended to demonstrate "absolute resilience" with Italy, which is persistently refusing to accept migrants rescued off the island of Lampedusa.

Speaking exclusively to MaltaToday, Home Affairs Minister Carm Mifsud Bonnici yesterday slammed the Italian government's decision to suddenly declare Lampedusa an unsafe port as "hypocritical, obscene and unacceptable."

According to sources, government's plan of action includes being clear with the Italian government that "come what may" Maltese patrol boats will head towards Lampedusa and disembark migrants rescued off their coast.

Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi – who is also responsible for the Armed Forces – is understood to have given clear instructions to AFM commanders to keep him informed on all developments at sea, and to be resilient at all times.

"At this time, the Prime Minister is the Commander-in-Chief and we are ready to follow orders as they come," one senior military source said.

Questioned about the details of the government's strategy, Carm Mifsud Bonnici opted not to reveal the contents of the Plan of Action.

However he admitted that a plan is in place and is intended to "demonstrate to any state that this is not a game, and we intend to do our duty, and expect others to do the same."

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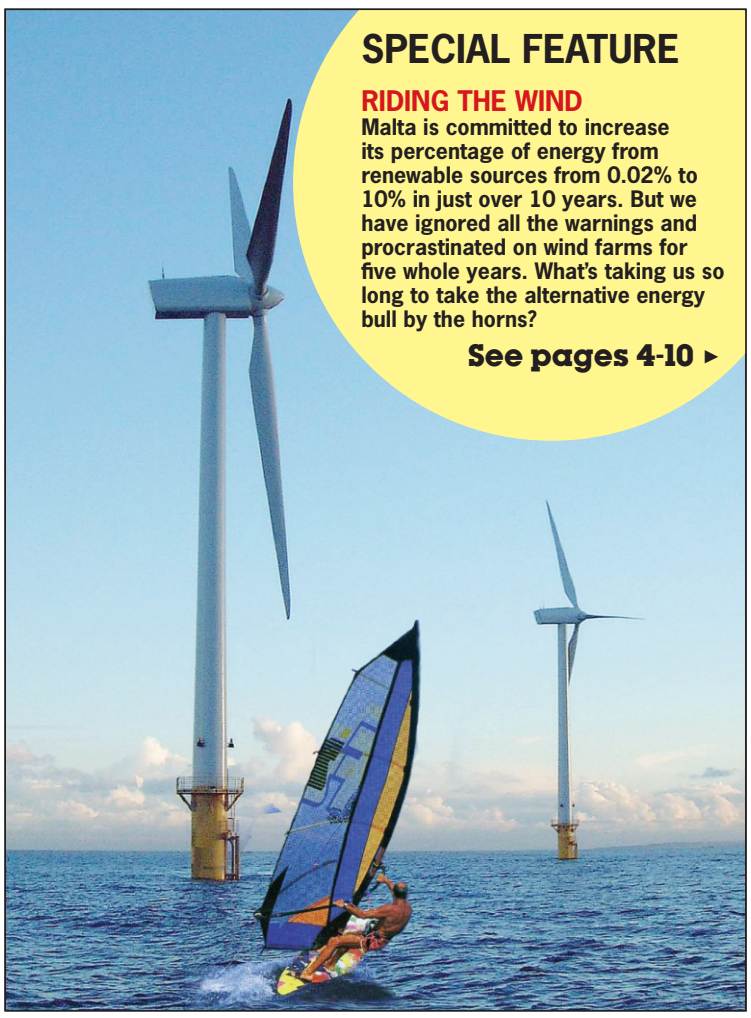


IMAGE COURTESY OF GEORGE DEBONO

SPECIAL FEATURE

RIDING THE WIND

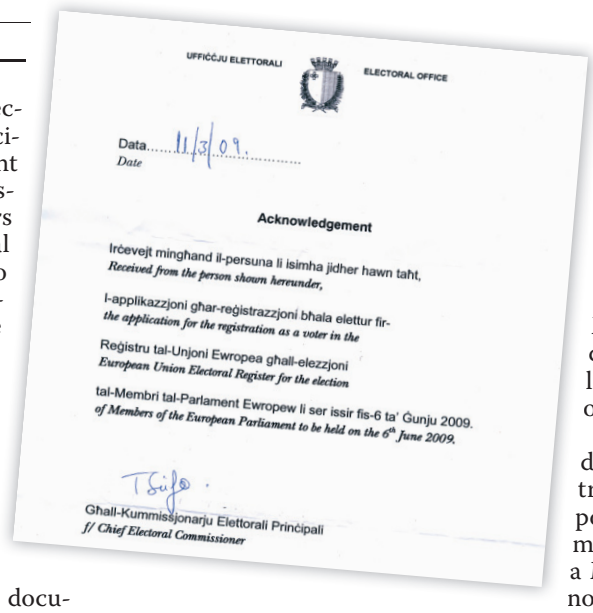
Malta is committed to increase its percentage of energy from renewable sources from 0.02% to 10% in just over 10 years. But we have ignored all the warnings and procrastinated on wind farms for five whole years. What's taking us so long to take the alternative energy bull by the horns?

See pages 4-10 ▸

Registered, but struck off anyway

Even EU nationals who re-registered in March have been struck off the European electoral register, as the EP's Malta representation asks Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi to take action on the issue

RAPHAEL VASSALLO



UFFIĊĊJU ELETTORALI
ELECTORAL OFFICE

Data 11/3/09.
Date

Acknowledgement

Irċevejt minghand il-persuna li isimha jidher hawn taht,
Received from the person shown hereunder,

l-applikazzjoni ghar-reġistrazzjoni bhala elettur fir-
the application for the registration as a voter in the

Reġistru tal-Unjoni Ewropea ghall-elezzjoni
European Union Electoral Register for the election

tal-Membri tal-Parlament Ewropew li ser issir fis-6 ta' Gunju 2009.
of Members of the European Parliament to be held on the 6th June 2009.

Ghall-Kummissjonarju Elettorali Principali
// Chief Electoral Commissioner

AS anger grows at the Electoral Commission's decision to impose different conditions for the registration of foreign voters MaltaToday can reveal that even citizens who had formally re-registered to vote within the March 31 deadline have been denied their voting documents.

Iain Sims, an EU citizen who has been residing in Malta these last four years, was among the 966 enrolled non-Maltese voters who did not receive his voting document this week, despite having met all the conditions imposed on foreigners by the Electoral Commission.

These same conditions are now being questioned by the European Parliament's representation to Malta, which has written to Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi about the issue.

Of the 966 EU citizens who registered for the 2004 elections, Sims was among the few who re-applied for inclusion in the 2009 register within the stipulated deadline.

A copy of the receipt issued by the Electoral Commission (left) clearly bears the date 11 March 2009 – 20 days before the deadline formally elapsed on the 31st.

But when voting documents were distributed this week, the police brought documents for Sim's wife – a Maltese citizen – for not for Sims himself.

When he enquired why he had not received any voting documents, he was told that his name had been deleted from the register.

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Newspaper post