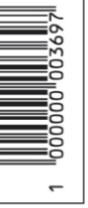


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Labour leader Joseph Muscat's secret political strategy

'Avoid engaging the government'



Disengage on traditional targets: Joseph Muscat's political strategy is to fight the Nationalist machine on issues where political failure is imminent only, rather than pick other bones of contention - such as Louis Galea's nomination to the European Court of Auditors. Labour MEPs were caught off-guard when a Spanish MEP queried the former minister on corruption allegations inside the Auxiliary Workers Training Scheme

JOSEPH Muscat's secret strategy of "disengagement" was unexpectedly put into peril this week when his MEPs were caught off-guard by a Spanish socialist MEP who quizzed Louis Galea over the squandering of funds inside the Auxiliary Workers Training Scheme and the Foundation for Tomorrow's Schools.

Galea, nominated by Lawrence Gonzi to the European Court of Auditors, faced a grilling by Inés Ayala Sender on a MaltaToday report into investigations by the Per-

manent Commission Against Corruption, the Auditor General and a magisterial inquiry into allegations of favouritism and corruption.

Present during the hearing were

Labour MEPs Edward Scicluna and Louis Grech, who were caught off-guard by Ayala's questions, after they were briefed at Mile End not to raise any embarrassing questions on the mismanagement of funds at the Auxiliary Workers scheme and the Foundation for Tomorrow's Schools.

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