

MOMENTUM

Perspectives from Momentum and the European Democrats

Recent Articles

Creating a fair, modern and beautiful Malta

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Who cares about politics?

At Momentum we have set out on a mission to listen. Through our Vision Circles, we gathered Maltese youth and policy experts to confront the real challenges facing the next generation. What we heard was clear that young people in Malta feel unheard and increasingly detached from a political system that is quite corrupt, unfair and offering only temporary gifts which insult their intelligence.

Scan the QR code below to continue reading this article.



Preserving Malta's Open Spaces Is A National Necessity

By Matthew Agius

Across Malta, a renewed appreciation for our green, blue and urban open spaces is gaining momentum. From the woodland paths of Buskett to the quiet fortification trails around Cottonera, these spaces offer more than just fresh air. They connect communities, support biodiversity, protect cultural heritage, and provide vital spaces for mental, physical, and social well-being.

Scan the QR code below to read about our proposals.



Building a movement for a better Malta



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CARMEL ASCIAK, NATASHA AZZOPARDI, MARK CAMILLERI GAMBIN, KATYA COMPAGNO, ARNOLD CASSOLA, MATTHEW AGIUS

Together, let us harness the momentum of our collective will to build a better Malta for all.

By Arnold Cassola

Momentum reflects the force of a growing movement of people who are choosing to support our cause. Momentum signifies action, the conscious choice to engage, to participate, and to shape the destiny of our nation, rather than passively accepting the status quo.

What are Momentum's core principles?

Good governance is a top priority. We will strive to rebuild trust in our institutions and ensure that public servants act with integrity and in the best interests of the Maltese people. We will implement robust anti-corruption measures, promote open government, and empower residents to participate meaningfully in the decision-making process.

The future of our islands depends on environmental sustainability. We are committed to protecting our environment, promoting renewable energy, and ensuring a healthy and vibrant natural world for generations to come. We will prioritise sustainable tourism, invest in green infrastructure, and combat climate change with urgency and determination.

In Malta, economic injustices still prevail. A just economy must be in everyone's reach, not just a privileged few. We will work towards an economy built on a level playing field for all. A just economy ensures that workers are respected and fairly compensated, and that no one is left behind.

The first three points should lead to a holistic improvement in well-being.

Human wellbeing: We will strive to improve access to quality healthcare, promote mental health awareness, and foster strong and supportive communities. We will prioritise preventative healthcare, invest in early childhood education, and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a fulfilling and happy life.

Cultural preservation should be a pillar of the Maltese economy. We will work to preserve our historical landmarks and heritage, support our artists and cultural institutions, and ensure that our unique identity flourishes. We will invest in cultural education, promote our cultural events, and ensure that our heritage is passed onto future generations.

Educating our youth is the biggest investment for our country's future. Momentum will prioritise access to quality education, empower young people to become active citizens, and create a society where their voices are heard. We will invest in vocational training, support entrepreneurship, and ensure that young people have the opportunities they need to thrive.

A compassionate society must also ensure that the most vulnerable members of our society receive the support they need. We will fight for social justice and create a more equitable and compassionate Malta. We will address issues such as poverty, homelessness, and social exclusion, and work towards a situation whereby everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and respect.

Animal Welfare: A compassionate society also respects the members

of the animal world. We believe that all sentient beings deserve our respect and compassion. We will advocate for stronger animal welfare laws and work to create a society where all living beings are treated with kindness and respect. We will combat animal cruelty and ensure the humane treatment of animals.

In conclusion, Momentum believes in honest, knowledgeable, and courageous leadership. We strive for consistency, efficiency, and a collaborative spirit in all our endeavours. We are committed to open and honest communication, to actively listening to the concerns of our constituents, and to always act in the best interests of the Maltese people.

We are committed to fostering a culture of dialogue and cooperation, working with other like-minded parties and individuals to achieve our shared goals.

We welcome your ideas, your energy, and your passion. Join us as a member, volunteer your time, or simply spread the word about our vision for a better Malta. Together, let us harness the momentum of our collective will to build a better Malta for all.



Audit Every Asset, Open Every File

We believe the most powerful anti-corruption tool is also the cheapest: radical transparency.

For the second year in a row, the Prime Minister has decided that the private wealth of his cabinet is a state secret. He's using the shield of "cabinet secrecy" to block requests for the 2023 asset declarations, completely ignoring orders from both the Data and Standards Commissioners to release them. Newsrooms that dare to ask are met with a wall of silence.

So, why the panic? This obsessive secrecy flies in the face of their own promises of transparency. But it gets worse. When past declarations have eventually been dragged into the light, watchdog journalists at the Times of Malta and The Shift News exposed them as a complete sham. We're talking copy-and-paste jobs, missing properties, hidden bank accounts, and assets valued at laughably low prices. These aren't clerical errors; they are giant red flags that point to politicians getting mysteriously wealthy while in office.

And let's be clear: this type of rot isn't confined to one party. Both PL and PN have benefited from this murky system for years, allowing potential conflicts of interest and personal enrichment to flourish in the dark.

Momentum is here to turn on the lights. We believe the most powerful anti-corruption tool is also the cheapest: radical transparency. The people of Malta deserve a crystal-clear, real-time view of where their money goes and who is profiting.

Scan the QR code below to read about our proposals.



Your protest sign belongs in Parliament

Dear Activist. You are a person who is accustomed to fighting for what you believe in. You're out there on the streets where you've organised, mobilised, educated, and resisted.

The reality is that you are the real engine of change in this country. Truth is that the realest form of politics is activism. And yet if you're like most, when you look at the local political landscape you are probably saying: "that is definitely not for me."

Selling out is not an option, and stepping into the political arena reeks of it. You're afraid that you'll be forced to dilute your message, compromise your values, and use less posturing will drain the energy

you currently pour into your activism. You're afraid you won't have time for the work that truly matters.

Here's what I'd like you to know: your activism is the work that matters. And it's time to take that work, without changing its current form, to the one place it can have the most profound impact: the ballot sheet, and ultimately, Parliament.



It's time to move the front line of your activism from the street to the very heart of our democracy.



Proposal for a more livable Malta

By Carmel Asciale

The plan calls for less noisy hours, mandatory quiet periods, and an enforcement framework to tackle the widespread issue of construction noise and disruption. The current regulations permit construction work for up to 13 hours a day, six days a week. These are a source of stress and frustration for residents all across Malta and Gozo. Our proposals introduce a balanced, modern approach designed for more respectful and sustainable development. Scan the QR code below to read about our proposals.



What's different about Momentum?

By Mark Camilleri Gambin

We all love to talk about "the odds." We build models, track surveys, and confidently declare what is and isn't possible. We often talk about probability, we look at history and to the entrenched system. And then, we are proven wrong.

This is what happened in New York just a few weeks ago. What we learn from the Mamdani phenomenon and other recent political twists is that the odds are not destiny. Surveys are simply a snapshot of the present. What surveys hide is the scale at which each of us has the power to influence the future.

This is the core promise of democracy. The word comes from the Greek *deimos* which highlights that power rests with the people. But this power is not just about casting a vote every few years. It's the ability to affect the trajectory of our future. Some despair and forfeit the belief that this system still works. I have no doubt that democracy is the best option, not because it's perfect, but because it is by nature revolutionary: it gives us agency to speak, to persuade, and to spread a message of hope.

It's a system that allows one person who believes in a better future to create a sphere of other believers. This sphere can grow, and against all 'odds,' it can fundamentally succeed.

For too long we've been told to accept the given. We all know the two-party system. We watch the pendulum swing from one side to the other, usually in the span of a few decades. Yet the basics are rarely changing. We, Maltese citizens, have to continue witnessing the deterioration of our natural environment and of any semblance of good governance or meritocracy.

We've been told this is the only way. We've seen good, capable politicians forced to compromise their values, joining one of the two big parties because it was "the only way to make a difference." Both parties are funded primarily by the contributions of big developers. This forces them into devilish pacts, shackling them to debts, favours, and historical baggage. You can hear this compromise in their voices: "That's just the way things are." This "truth" is only true because

powerful forces want it to be so. They want us to have shackled politicians, dependent on a system that mutes real change. They want us to believe we have no other choice. But we can change that. This time, something is different.

This time, we are reaching out to you. This time, we are working closely with the community. And this time, the most critical difference is your part in it.

We are a new group of people, many of whom have never been involved in traditional politics and we are rallying around an untainted political party, Momentum. We are not just commentators; we are activists. We are not just idealists; we are organised, structured, and tirelessly working to deliver a platform that is strong, reliable, and effective.

If you have hope, we can defy all odds. We can utilise democracy in its truest sense. This is the opportunity before us. As the pendulum may or may not swing once more, we can do more than just watch it pass. We can break the cycle and allow political ideas to flourish. New ideas which are not imprisoned by the past. So long as we have the courage to act, every moment remains open to us to convince others to join our cause.

Belief is the currency we need for change. It is the force that inspires action, and through action we can rewrite the odds. Hearts and minds can be changed through honest debate and human connection. Real solutions can be pushed forward.

This is how we can build enough momentum to make history. Together, we can prove that this time, things truly are different. This is how hope wins.



Mark Camilleri Gambin, General Secretary, Momentum

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Momentum is powered by people, not big business. To cover our expenses and help get our message out to more people, we rely on donations from supporters like you. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a real difference. Please consider donating today on partimomentum.org/donate to help us build a fairer Malta. Thank you!

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Perspectives from Momentum and the European Democrats



A stronger more united Europe

Europe's Housing Crisis: Why Malta Should Pay Attention and Act Now



MEP Ciaran Mullooly at the EDP Congress in Bilbao

By Ciaran Mullooly, MEP (Midlands–North-West, Ireland), Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Special Committee on the Housing Crisis

Across Europe, from Dublin to Valletta, families, young people, and older citizens face a stark reality: homes are too expensive, rents keep rising, and supply is nowhere near meeting demand. As Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Special Committee on the Housing Crisis, I have listened to countless stories from people struggling simply to secure a decent place to live. The message is loud and clear: we need action, not more speeches.

What Malta is experiencing mirrors what is happening across the Union—and this means solutions can also be shared. From our work in the Committee, three priorities stand out that could resonate strongly in Malta.

1. Before we can solve Malta's housing crisis, we must confront an uncomfortable truth. Hundreds of residential properties sit vacant across our islands while Maltese families struggle to find affordable homes. This isn't a supply problem, it's a market dysfunction driven by speculation, lack of transparency, and policies that favour investors over residents.

Malta urgently needs a comprehensive property register implemented immediately, recording both seller and purchaser prices to create real transparency and dampen speculation. We need progressive taxation on vacant residential properties, excluding the first to protect families with legitimate second homes, with escalating fees based on years vacant and property

size. Revenue should fund social housing directly. We need transparent data on foreign property ownership and its impact on affordability, with targeted measures if necessary to ensure housing serves residents first. And we need enforcement, tighter controls on short-term rental conversions, strict application of planning laws, and real penalties for those gaming the system.

2. Affordability must be the goal — not just more units for those who can already afford them

Increasing supply means little if ordinary people still can't buy or rent. That's why we advocate measures such as reduced VAT for first-time buyers, support for self-builders, and targeted tax relief for those struggling with deposits or mortgage costs. Affordability must be a structural part of every housing strategy. Social, cooperative and non-profit housing models — used successfully in countries like Austria — also deserve more attention. They ensure long-term affordability and keep homes tied to community needs rather than speculation.

3. Protect the "right to stay" — strengthen rural, small-town and island communities

Housing policy must look beyond major urban centres. In Ireland, we talk about the "right to stay": the ability for people to live in the towns, villages or rural areas they come from. Malta, with its unique geography and vibrant

village life, faces similar pressures. Renovating derelict buildings, bringing vacant properties back into use, and revitalising smaller localities all help ease pressure on overheated markets while strengthening social cohesion.

A European crisis demands European courage — and national responsibility. In the European Parliament we are working to shape a coherent EU-level housing strategy that supports decent, affordable homes for all. But no directive or funding scheme can replace national political will. Each Member State must adapt and implement solutions that fit its realities.

For Malta, where population growth, limited land and rising prices create intense pressure, this is a crucial moment. A forward-looking housing policy is not only an economic necessity; it is a matter of social stability and fairness.

A home is not just a roof — it is security, dignity and the foundation for community life. In Malta, in Ireland and across Europe, we need to restore this basic right. The time for action is now. This is my commitment, and this is our shared commitment as European Democrats and as part of Renew Europe: to deliver practical, fair and forward-looking solutions that put people back at the centre of housing policy.

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This is an official bulletin from Momentum and the European Democratic Party

Innovation without compromise: building a future that works for people

By Mark Camilleri Gambin, Deputy Secretary General at the European Democratic Party

Europe currently finds itself standing at a crossroads. As we gathered recently in Bilbao, a difficult question hung in the air: Can Europe remain competitive on the global stage without abandoning its values?

There is a loud narrative today suggesting that the only way to keep up is to relax our sustainability rules. We are told that to survive, we must cut corners on health, wellbeing, and ethics.

Our answer is simple: No.

We cannot build a better future by lowering our standards; we build it by raising our innovation. We must find ways to reduce bureaucracy and move faster, but we must never water down Europe’s ethical backbone. Protections for sensitive data, fundamental rights, and human health are not negotiable. As we race to embrace Artificial Intelligence, we need to look closely at who actually benefits from this technology. We must avoid what we call the “efficiency trap.”

Imagine if AI makes a company 20% more efficient. In the current model, that usually means 20% more output or profit for the shareholders. But why shouldn’t that benefit the worker? If technology does the heavy lifting, it should return time to the human being in the form of training, adapting to changing job markets, and yes even time to live. We need to stop measuring success solely by revenue generated and start measuring it by human growth.

To achieve a future that actually prioritizes humans, we have to stop allowing Big Tech to dictate the rules of our democracy.



Mark Camilleri Gambin, Deputy Secretary General (EDP) and Secretary General (Momentum).

We are currently seeing a troubling trend regarding political advertising. Giants like Meta and Google have banned political ads in the EU, claiming that complying with our transparency laws is “too hard.” This is not a technical difficulty; it is a

“We do not fear the future or the changes it brings. We simply insist that the future works for us; the people, not just the corporations.”

refusal to play by the rules. By doing this, they silence small parties who do not have the massive media machinery of the state or established powers. This is a direct threat to pluralism and democratic fairness.

We see this same arrogance in how these tech giants treat our children. They believe they have a right to monetize our children’s attention, and it is time to say “enough.”

In many European countries, EDP is leading the charge to ban social media access for those under 16. In Malta, Momentum is the most active party on this front. However, we must be careful how we achieve safety. We reject the proposed “EU Chat Directive,” which attempts to solve online safety by scanning private messages. We do not need mass surveillance of citizens. Instead, we need device-level restrictions for minors that respect privacy while keeping the addictive algorithms of social media at bay.

Whether we are fighting for a Digital Euro to guarantee our monetary sovereignty, or fighting for equal pay across the continent, our path is clear.

We do not fear the future or the changes it brings. We simply insist that the future works for us; the people, not just the corporations.



About the European Democratic Party

The European Democratic Party (EDP) is a pro-European, centrist and reformist political family that brings together parties, elected representatives and citizens who believe in a stronger, more democratic and more effective European Union.

Today, the EDP unites 20 member parties from 17 countries, with 9 Members of the European Parliament and 113 national parliamentarians working to deliver a Europe that is closer to citizens and stronger in its values.

Our President is François Bayrou, former Prime Minister of France, and our Secretary General is Sandro Gozi, Member of the European Parliament. Together with our leadership and member parties, they drive our political

work across Europe and within the Renew Europe family in the European Parliament.

We defend the rule of law, democratic standards and fundamental rights, while promoting a modern European model that combines competitiveness, social fairness and real opportunities for all. Our approach is pragmatic: we focus on solutions that improve people’s daily lives, not on slogans.

A key part of our work is bringing people together. Every year, we organise political events and initiatives across Europe, culminating in our Congress — the latest one held in Bilbao, in the Basque Country — a moment where our European family meets, debates priorities, and sets a shared direction

for the future.

Communication is also central to what we do. Through digital campaigns, media content and political storytelling, we reach more than 20 million people every quarter, ensuring that Europe is not only discussed in institutions, but understood and felt by citizens.

The EDP is a European movement built on unity, responsibility and action — because Europe works best when it stays close to people, protects democracy, and delivers.



Above: A tradition that says it all: every year, this photo captures the moment our big EDP family comes together — united in one single frame. The family keeps growing. Delegates increase. Challenges multiply. The world changes overnight — but our commitment stays the same. The same values. The same determination. The same fight for democracy, rights and a stronger Europe. As European Democrats, we know: unity is our strength. Always.

