



TIMES OF MALTA
BUSINESS BREAKFAST

GOVERNANCE IN FOCUS

NAVIGATING ESG CHALLENGES

A business breakfast
hosted by Times of Malta
in collaboration with PKF.

TIMES  **MALTA** in collaboration with  **PKF**

Thursday, November 30, 2023
Radisson Hotel, St Julian's

TimesEvents
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AGENDA

8am

Doors open.

9.00 to 9.05am

Introduction of guests by Times of Malta journalist James Cummings.

9.05 to 9.15am

Welcome speech by Minister Stephan Zrinzo Azzopardi

9.15 to 9.25am

Keynote speaker Sofia Moreno, PKF Partner, Portugal

9.25 to 11.30am – One panel debate

Moderator:

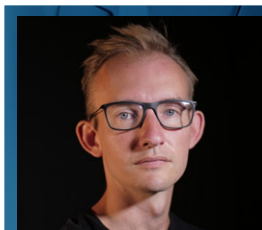
- David Xuereb

Panellists:

- Kevin J. Borg, CEO Malta Maritime Forum
- Charles Borg, CEO PG Group
- Michael Warrington, CEO AX Group
- Stephen Xuereb, CEO, Valletta Cruise Port
- Warda Kinga, MGA

11.30am

Q&A from the audience.



MEET THE HOST

Times of Malta journalist
James Cummings »

GOVERNANCE IN FOCUS

NAVIGATING ESG CHALLENGES

In a time of unprecedented transformations and adaptation, this event will be a pivotal conversation about shaping our collective future. As we embark on this journey together, this event will be a stage for discussions that transcend boardrooms and echo in the corridors of societal progress.

Today, we focus on Governance – the 'G' in ESG — the linchpin in the trinity of Environmental, Social, and Governance considerations. In these concise lines, you are invited to ponder why this 'G' is not a mere letter but a powerful force driving the foundations of a sustainable economy and the wellness of our communities.

Ethical Foundations: At the core of Governance lies ethical leadership. It is the guiding force steering businesses toward decisions that ripple positively through society. By embracing transparency and ethical conduct, we lay the groundwork for organizations that don't just succeed but do so with integrity.

Long-Term Vision: Governance is the compass pointing toward long-term value creation. Focus today is not just on profit margins but on how responsible governance fosters stability and resilience, creating businesses that stand the test of time.

Stakeholder Collaboration: Effective governance is a collaborative effort, engaging stakeholders from all walks of life. By fostering a culture of inclusion, we not only build trust but tap into the collective wisdom needed to address the challenges our world faces.

Innovation in Governance: Adaptability and innovation are crucial in today's dynamic world. The 'G' in ESG challenges us to rethink governance structures, encouraging not just compliance but active participation in positive change.

Resource Responsibility: Finally, the 'G' calls for responsible resource management, aligning our actions with the urgent need for environmental stewardship.

During this morning, we will explore how the 'G' in ESG becomes the bedrock of a future where prosperity, sustainability, and wellness intertwine.



Hon. Stephan Zrinzo Azzopardi

Minister for Public Works and Planning

Dr Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi was born in 1973 and was appointed Minister for Public Works and Planning by Prime Minister Robert Abela in March 2022. Dr Zrinzo Azzopardi graduated from the University of Malta as a lawyer in 1999 and soon after began practicing law mainly in the Civil and Commercial Courts. In 2003, at the age of 30, he was appointed President of the Labour Party and from that position he carried out various reforms in the Party including a major renewal of the Labour Party's statute. Following the 2013 Labour victory, he was appointed chairman of the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation where he was responsible for the completion of several projects in Valletta including the entrance to the City, the new Parliament building, Castille Square, Tritoni Square and Laparelli Garden. In January 2020, Dr Zrinzo Azzopardi was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds under the Office of the Prime Minister. While in office, he regularly attended the General Affairs Council of the European Union and it was at this time that Malta successfully concluded a €2.27 billion financial package for seven years 2021-2027. This included the €320,000,000 Recovery and Resilience Plan as a direct post-pandemic grant. Dr Zrinzo Azzopardi was elected from the 5th district for the second time in the March 2022 election. As Minister for Public Works and Planning, Dr Zrinzo Azzopardi is in charge of the Department for Public Works, the Planning Authority and the Building and Construction Authority, as well as for various other entities within the Ministry. Dr Zrinzo Azzopardi is married to Silvana and father of two children, Federico and Emilia.

KEY SPEAKERS

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Sofia Moreno

Partner PKF Portugal

Sofia Moreno has 15+ years of professional experience in the field of consultancy and training management. She is responsible for the business area of implementing management systems, social responsibility, including non-financial reporting design, and for the PKF Academy. Before joining PKF, she was a quality manager in the context of CPLP, training manager and internal auditor (management systems in accordance with ISO 9001). With a degree in Humanities (FLUL, 2006), she has a postgraduate degree in Economics – Development and International Cooperation (ISEG, 2015), in International Business (IDEFE/ISEG, 2014) and in Human Resources Management (ULHT, 2012).

MODERATOR



David Xuereb

Chairman, Malta ESG Alliance

Perit David Xuereb graduated in Architecture and Engineering in Malta in 1991, Structural Engineering in London in 1993 and Zero-Carbon Economics in Cambridge in 2021. Xuereb has led significant teams of professionals in many parts of the World, driving innovation and sustainable design, engineering and management in the built environment for nearly 30 years. Xuereb presided over the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry between 2019 and 2021 and has now turned his attention to ESG, Climate Change and Decarbonisation of all economic sectors in the country and this with purpose. He is currently the Chairman of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) and the Chairman of the Malta ESG Alliance (MESGA).

SPEAKERS

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PANELLIST

Kevin J. Borg

CEO, Malta Maritime Forum

A graduate in Economics, Kevin J. Borg is an accomplished professional with more than 25 years experience in leadership of the business community. Through the various positions he occupies and has occupied, Borg built himself a distinct reputation for integrity and professionalism with all stakeholders he has connected with including entrepreneurs, political leaders and social partners. Besides occupying the post of Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Maritime Forum, he also serves as Consultant to the Malta Employers' Association and as Non-Executive Director of Bank of Valletta plc. Borg is also a former Director General of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry through which he sat on a number of boards at national and European level including the MCESD, BusinessEurope and Eurochambres.

SPEAKERS



PANELLIST

Charles Borg

CEO, PG Group

Charles Borg is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (UK) and holds a banking degree and a Masters degree in financial legislation from the University of Malta. He retired from Bank of Valletta plc in December 2015 following a career of 34 years during which he occupied various senior management positions, including that of Chief Executive Officer between 2011 and 2015. He has occupied directorship positions of listed companies in Malta and was appointed Chairman of the Housing Authority during the period 2008 to 2011. He also chaired the Audit Boards of the European Investment Fund, which is a subsidiary of the European Investment Bank. Borg also served as a director on the World's Savings Bank in Brussels and was also the President of the Institute of Financial Services and the President of the Malta Bankers Association. Borg is currently the CEO of PG p.l.c. and Executive Director at PG p.l.c. and sits on the board of a number of locally listed companies.

SPEAKERS

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PANELLIST

Michael Warrington

CEO, AX Group

Michael Warrington is a Director and the Chief Executive Officer of the AX Group Plc. Warrington is a Certified Public Accountant and a Fellow of the Malta Institute of Accountants, as well as an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in the United Kingdom. He holds a Masters Degree in Financial Services from the University of Malta. He worked for several years with Bank of Valletta p.l.c., moving on to Air Malta p.l.c., where he was the group head responsible for the finance and information technology functions of the airline. He worked in the hospitality industry for a number of years. Warrington holds various board positions with public listed companies in Malta and overseas, as well as a number of private entities and family owned companies.

SPEAKERS



PANELLIST

Stephen Xuereb

CEO, Valletta Cruise Port

Stephen Xuereb was appointed Chief Operating Officer of Global Ports Holding Plc in August 2016. He has been involved in the cruise industry since the inception of Valletta Cruise Port plc in 2002, serving first as its CFO until 2014 and subsequently as CEO until to-date. At VCP, Xuereb was responsible for establishing the finance and administration function, overseeing the financing and the development of the Valletta Waterfront as we know it today and the growth of the Valletta Cruise Port in one of the key cruise destinations in the Mediterranean. He also oversaw the development of the ancillary support services in the Port of Valletta. At Global Ports Holding plc (GPH), Xuereb formed part of the core team during the IPO process on London Stock Exchange and the subsequent expansion. He is responsible for the harmonization of operational processes and systems across the group as well as nurturing a culture of knowledge sharing for the continued development of the individual ports in terms of operational excellence and revenue maximization. Xuereb sits on a number of Boards within the Group, most notably Global Ports Melita, GPH Malta Finance Plc, Valletta Cruise Port Plc, Cruceros del Port de Barcelona, Cruceros Malaga, Lisbon Cruise Port, Venezia Investimenti SRL, Cagliari Cruise Port, Catania Cruise Terminal, Taranto Cruise Port, GPH Antigua Ltd, Goulette Cruise Holding Ltd, Goulette Shipping Cruise and Zadar Cruise Port amongst others. Prior to entering the Cruise sector, Xuereb held positions in the audit and financial advisory sectors, as well as the retail, property and hospitality industries. Xuereb is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Accountants and a Henley MBA graduate.

SPEAKERS

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PANELLIST

Warda Kinga

Chief Officer, Policy & International Affairs at the MGA

Warda Kinga is the Chief Officer – Policy & International Affairs at the MGA. Kinga joined the Authority in 2014 as a Research Executive within the Research Department. Since then, she occupied the roles of Research Manager, Head – Information Management, Head – Policy & Outreach prior being appointed Head – Policy & International Affairs. In her current role of Chief Officer – Policy & International Affairs, Kinga is responsible for all EU and international matters pertaining to the gaming industry, including the implementation of the MGA's international affairs strategy. In addition, Kinga is responsible for spearheading the evidence-based policy development process and driving the MGA's outreach programme. Kinga holds a Bachelor Degree in International Management from the University of Lodz (Poland) and a Master Degree in Management with a specialisation in marketing from the HEC Management School – University of Liège, (Belgium). Kinga is a Board Member of the Gaming Regulators European Forum and a member of the International Association of Gambling Regulators.

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