

The Journalists' Committee
PO Box 66
Valletta

The Institute of Maltese Journalists
PO Box 21
GPO
Marsa

The Chairman
Mr Sonny Portelli
GO
Spencer Hill
Marsa

7 February 2008

Dear Mr Portelli,

As representatives of all Maltese media professionals, we would like to register our disapproval and condemnation of your company's newly declared corporate policy to stop your news portal di-ve.com from covering political activities and statements.

As one of the foremost communications companies on the islands, we expect that the least GO could do for its customers and the Maltese public, particularly in the run-up to the general elections, is to continue offering updates and regular developments that are happening on the political scene.

Since its launch, di-ve.com has been a news website and a regular reference point for its users. We hope you realise your company's decision is a disservice to your own customers, to the Maltese public in general and to political parties that need journalists to disseminate and analyse their programmes before our country is called to vote. It also humiliates our colleagues working in the di-ve.com newsroom.

Besides the unacceptable interference from the company's board in editorial decisions that should remain di-ve.com's sole responsibility, your decision goes, in fact, against the very claims to corporate social responsibility as claimed by the company.

We hope this mistaken decision is not the result of any political interference and we call on you to withdraw it with immediate effect and show again the trust and editorial freedom that the di-ve.com news team has enjoyed so far.

We also appeal to the Dubai mother company, Tecom Investments, to realise this is a European country in which the free press is an essential part of our democracy. We hope the new owners of di-ve.com realise this to the full having decided to operate in a democratic country where politics is discussed, covered and criticised openly as is the case in the rest of the democratic world.

Looking forward to your reassurances that the decision will be revoked, we remain your sincerely,

Karl Schembri
Chairman
Journalists' Committee

Malcolm Naudi
Chairman
Institute of Maltese Journalists

CC: GO Chief Executive David Kay
Political parties
The press