



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

Government response to the Public Consultation on
the Construction of the Malta-Italy Gas Pipeline
European Union Project of Common Interest 5.19,
Delimara, Malta – Gela (Sicily), Italy



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

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Contents

CONTENTS

Contents.....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
Introduction and overview	4
Responses to the consultation and process used to seek stakeholder views	5
Summary of responses and decisions.....	7
Implementation	7
Contact Details.....	8
Annex A: List of respondents (<i>optional</i>)	8

Executive Summary

Introduction and overview

1. A brief introduction about the subject.

In line with the conclusions of the European Council of the 4 February 2011, where the Council noted that “No EU Member State should remain isolated from the European gas and electricity networks after 2015 or see its energy security jeopardized by lack of the appropriate connections”; the October 2014 European Council Conclusions where Malta is specifically mentioned as requiring special attention in the context of PCI implementation; the March 2015 European Council conclusions where the Council called for the acceleration of infrastructure projects, ‘including interconnections in particular to peripheral regions’ and the Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Policy’, which calls for the end of energy islands from the main electricity and gas networks, the Government of Malta intends to implement a connection to the trans-European Natural Gas Network to end Malta’s isolation. The latter will be achieved by connecting Malta via a gas pipeline from Delimara (Malta) to Gela (Sicily) Italy, intended for the importation of gas from the Italian gas network to meet Malta’s future gas demand, initially for power generation. The Project has been selected as a Project of Common Interest by the European Union.

The proposed gas pipeline will have a supply capacity of 232,000Sm³/hr and a diameter of 22 inch with a total length of 159 km. The offshore subsea pipeline is estimated to be 151 km long and the length of the onshore section between the Gela terminal station and the shore line in Sicily shall be approximately 7.1km. A 0.7km length of pipeline is planned to cross the Delimara peninsula through a trenchless method from the Malta landfall to the Delimara Terminal Station.

The pre-application permitting procedure has been launched in both Malta and Italy in November 2017.

2. The public consultation date. Include the objective and purpose of the public consultation.

A public consultation was launched on Friday 30th March 2018 by the Project Promoter as part of the permitting procedure for the Malta-Italy gas pipeline interconnection Project of Common Interest 5.19 pursuant to Article 9(4) of the TEN-E Regulation. The purpose for the public consultation was to take into consideration the public’s views through appropriate public participation during the pre-application procedure and before the submission of the final and complete application file to the Planning Authority, as Malta’s Competent Authority, pursuant to Article 10 (1)(a) of the same regulation.

The main objectives of the public consultation included the dissemination of information to the public in a transparent and non-technical manner, providing updates of the status of the project. Through the public consultation, the contact details of the Project Promoter were provided, together with the project information through the full set of application documents. The Project Promoter also welcomed comments and objections that were conveyed during the public consultation period. Furthermore, a brief description of the project, including predicted timelines, alternative routes considered throughout the basic design process, envisaged project impacts, and any planned mitigation measures, were also provided.

3. This consultation sought views on:

- The identification of the most suitable location and the relevant issues to be addressed in the application file from an early stage.
- The impacts that the project will incur, especially upon protected and archaeological areas.
- The mitigation measures being proposed to counteract the impacts being envisaged.
- The preliminary timelines being proposed for the permitting procedure and for the overall project timeline.

Responses to the consultation and the process used to seek stakeholder views

This document is the Government Response to this consultation and sets out the Government's decisions on these matters.

4. The closing date of the public consultation. Which methods were used to receive the feedback. The total amount of responses. From whom you received the feedback.

The consultation closed on Sunday 20th May 2018. The consultation documents were available online on the Energy & Water Agency website, the Planning Authority's website, and the official Government Public Consultation website. Notices informing the general public of the public consultation were also set up on the Marsaxlokk and Birzebbuga Local Council notice boards. In addition, the public consultation process was also advertised on newspapers and the Agency's and Ministry's social media pages. Feedback in written form was obtained through electronic mail, while verbal feedback was registered during the public consultation meeting. No feedback was received by post.

In total, three written responses (two from Italy and one from Malta) were received via e-mail and a number of comments were registered during the public consultation hearings in Delimara, Gela, and Rome. Two of the written comments were received from private individuals, while the third was registered from the Club Sicilia Malta.

5. Include (if any) meetings with stakeholders and list who the stakeholders were.

A public consultation meeting was held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at the St Thomas Moore, Primary School, Marsaxlokk. As part of the project, another three public consultation meetings were held the following week in Italy, specifically a public hearing in Gela, another in Palermo, Sicily and a third and final hearing in Rome.

The meeting in Marsaxlokk was attended by the following entities:

- Planning Authority
- Environmental and Resources Authority
- Ministry for Energy and Water Management
- Energy & Water Agency
- Marsaxlokk Local Council
- Birzebbuga Local Council
- Enemalta plc

- ElectroGas Malta
- Shanghai Electric Power Malta Holding Ltd.
- Transport Malta
- Department of Fisheries and Agriculture
- Occupational Health and Safety Authority
- Civil Protection Department
- Armed Forces of Malta
- Birzebbuga Environment Action Group
- Bird Life Malta
- Members of the general public

The meeting in Gela was attended by the following entities:

- Maltese Ambassador for Italy
- Energy & Water Agency
- Italian Ministry for Economic Development (MISE)
- Gela Town Council
- Comune di Gela – Settore Urbanistico
- Gela Industrial Consortium (ASI)
- Cultural Association “Amici di Antifemo ed Entimo”
- Civil Protection Department
- Police Forces (Polizia Locale, Polizia, Carabinieri)
- Coast Guard
- LIPU – Riserva Biviere
- Club Sicilia-Malta
- Asso Imprese Siracusa
- Federazione Dei Verde Sicilia
- Consorzio per l’Area di Sviluppo Industriale di Gela
- Confcommercio Ascom Gela
- Ugl Unione Territoriale Di Gela
- Petroltecnica
- Eurotec SpA
- Entrepreneurs and members of the general public

The meeting in Palermo was attended by the following entities:

- Maltese Ambassador for Italy
- Energy & Water Agency
- Italian Ministry for Economic Development (MISE)
- Sicilian Regional Department for Energy
- Club Sicilia-Malta
- Members of the general public

The meeting in Rome was attended by the following entities:

- Maltese Ambassador for Italy
- Energy & Water Agency
- Italian Ministry for Economic Development (MISE)
- Italian Ministry of Environment (MATTM)
- Gela Town Council
- SnamReteGas
- Club Sicilia-Malta

- Entrepreneurs and members of the general public

Summary of responses and decisions

The following is a summary of the consultation responses received. We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the consultation and participate in stakeholder meetings throughout the consultation exercise.

6. Statistics.

- Total feedback received: 3
- Total feedback received by individuals: 2
- Total feedback received by organisations: 1
- Total feedback received through email: 3
- Total feedback received through online form: 0
- Total feedback received by post: 0

7. Summary of feedback received.

All three written observations received, came from private citizens or cultural associations and none of them expressed actual concerns or opposition to the project. In particular, one of the observations focussed on the economic and commercial non-opportunity of a new gas pipeline when compared with an LNG regasification plant; a second observation asked for assurance that the project will consider general health and safety aspects; and the third observation focused on technical aspects to be further analysed during the design development.

8. Your assessment and the Government's decision (list the Government's decisions).

No immediate action or specific Government decision are required, as no main comments or concerns have arisen from the public consultation process. However, all comments and remarks will be considered for the development of the engineering design and permitting activities. In particular, it will be made more clear that the pipeline's primary aim is to convey gas to the Delimara Power Plant for power generation; however future development of the internal gas market in Malta may still be accommodated by the pipeline but this is currently not defined and not included in the present project scope.

Implementation

9. When you intend to implement the decisions

The concerns and comments will be taken into consideration during the development of the design engineering (FEED) and permitting activities.

Contact Details

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact:
Ministry for Energy and Water Management (Malta)
gas-energywateragency@gov.mt

Annex A: List of respondents

Organisation
Club Sicilia Malta
Private Individuals (2)