Koperattiva tirbaħ proġett Ewropew għat-taħriġ tal-piloti

minn Charles Muscat

Il-Koperattiva tal-Piloti Marittimi rebħet proġett kofinanzjat mill-Programm Leonardo tal-Unjoni Ewropea msejjah *Certipilot* maħsub biex permezz tat-taħriġ, tkompli ttejjeb il-ħiliet tal-piloti.

Il-Koperattiva organizzat laqgħa internazzjonali ta' konsultazzjoni f'Malta li għaliha attendew organizzazzjonijiet tal-piloti u rappreżentati oħra mis-settur marittimu biex jiddiskutu l-qafas ġdid ta' taħriġ għall-piloti marittimi.

F'kummenti lil *IN-NAZZJON*, Jesmond Mifsud, *Chief Pilot* u l-President tal-Koperattiva tal-Piloti, qal li l-konferenza f'Malta hi unika fl-Ewropa kollha. Hu spjega li l-Koperattiva rebħet il-proġett ta' Leonardo li jittratta t-taħriġ vokazzjonali tal-piloti. Dan biex jitfasslu *standards* għal dawk li jsiru piloti halli jkomplu jistudjaw u jagħmlu l-portijiet aktar siguri u b'hekk jattiraw aktar investiment lejn il-pajjiż.

Hu qal li fil-konferenza ħadu sehem l-aqwa piloti marittimi mill-Ewropa u flimkien iddiskutew dwar l-aħjar studji li għandhom jieħdu l-piloti biex ikomplu jtejbu s-servizzi tagħhom.

Sadattant fil-ftuħ tal-laqgħa, Austin Gatt, il-Ministru għall-Infrastruttura, it-Trasport u l-Komunikazzjoni, tkellem dwar l-importanza tas-settur marittimu għal Malta.

95 fil-mija tal-kummerċ ta' pajjiżna, inkluż l-importazzjoni u l-esportazzjoni, isir permezz tal-vapuri. Matul is-sena li għaddiet madwar 8,700 vapur daħlu f'Malta. Fl-aħħar 18-il xahar fil-portijiet Maltin daħlu 374 vapur li kienu itwal minn 300 metru.

Il-Koperattiva tal-Piloti Marittimi investiet fit-taħriġ tal-piloti u fl-ekwipaġġ, xtrat żewġ *pilot boats* b'investiment ta' €2 miljun u anke *simulator* għat-taħriġ tal-piloti. Illum il-Koperattiva timpjega 25 ruħ fuq bażi *full-time* u tinvesti mal-€250,000 fit-taħriġ tal-piloti.

New BOV chairman

Ex-PricewaterhouseCoopers partner Frederick Mifsud Bonnici was made chairman of Bank of Valletta yesterday.

Mr Mifsud Bonnici, who has vast financial service experience, recently retired as head of assurance at PwC.

Since 1982, the senior lecturer at the University of Malta has been an elected member on the Council of the Malta Institute of Accountants.

Finance Minister Tonio Fenech expressed confidence in Mr Mifsud Bonnici and said the government's announcement follows regulatory clearance required by the Malta Financial Services Authority.

Maritime training

Safety and reducing environmental risks in harbour operations are the aims behind a vocational training programme being developed for maritime pilots.

The Certipilot training is an international project co-financed by the EU.

"Certipilot will contribute to further develop Malta as a maritime hub and a centre of excellence for maritime services, as well as enhance the safety and environmental protection of Maltese ports," said Transport Minister Austin Gatt.

Cruise trips fell in June

Fewer cruise liner passengers visited the Grand Harbour last month but this failed to dent the industry's results for the first half of the year.

Official figures released yesterday showed passenger traffic in June fell by less than a percentage point as the total for the first six months rose by almost 13 per cent to 227,353.

A vast majority came from EU member states, as Germany had the biggest group, at 66,365, followed by 36,847 Italians and 29,198 French.