

Article Mr Calamatta – ELCA Tour Malta

**ELCA CONFERENCE MAGAZINE**

Dear ELCA Delegates & Friends

It is indeed a great pleasure to welcome you to Malta for the ELCA Excursion 2011. I am certain that you will enjoy your stay with us and that you will appreciate that although you are visiting the smallest country in the big ELCA family you will take back with you great memories of a Mediterranean island full of history and beauty.

My personal association with ELCA goes back many years. I have always found that belonging to ELCA was not only prestigious but it helped me to see the bigger picture of a European family and set my sights to the high standards that were being set by my European counterparts. When together with my fellow directors we formed the ELC consortium and started transforming our Island from a barren desert type landscape to the lush green and colourful miracle that you will witness, I immediately encouraged the directors to become members of ELCA and to participate in their various meetings in the different countries chosen each year. Having attended the first meetings, my directors felt that we should invite the ELCA family to visit Malta and see for themselves what our consortium had achieved in a relatively short time. While in other countries we were being shown particular gardens and landscapes, in Malta we will be showing a whole country which in the short span of nine years has been turned into one holistic green and flowering garden. The open spaces and thoroughfares which we have landscaped are there for all the population and visitors to admire and enjoy year round. We will also be showing you a number of public and private gardens which have a wealth of history behind them and which you will certainly be happy to have visited.

I would like to explain at this point that our Consortium forms part of the first, and in our opinion, the only true Private Public Partnership in Malta. When the Malta Government first proposed this PPP all parties were threading an unchartered territory. Needless to say that negotiations were lengthy and intense. Both sides felt that this experiment was a new concept that could fail miserably if good will and a great vision were not present on either side of the equation. The ELC inherited an untrained and uninspired workforce of 350 and within a few months changed these men from disillusioned and uninspired workmen to a motivated force that was proud of what was being achieved and which today is held as an example to all other entities in our country of how hard work combined with the proper training and incentives can achieve something which is not much short of a miracle.

Once again I welcome you to our little country with a big heart and wish you success and happiness to which we will have contributed in our warm Mediterranean way.

**Peter Calamatta**

**Chairman – E L C**