



Press Release

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**SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR HEALTH, THE ELDERLY AND COMMUNITY CARE
HON JOE CASSAR DURING THE FEDCAR CONFERENCE – FLORIANA - 26TH MAY
2011**

Thank you for inviting me to contribute to your conference this morning.

It is a pleasure to be here this morning, for two main reasons:

I willingly accepted your invite to contribute to this FEDCAR conference because the objectives of FEDCAR are precisely congruent with the overarching aims of the Ministry which I steer.

FEDCAR seeks to: Maximise patient safety across different countries across Europe; Secure optimal standards of dental care; and facilitate the mobility of dental professionals across the EU.

Indeed that is what we constantly strive for, and strongly aspire for as the Ministry of Health of an EU member state/country. We aim for the best care services for the patients, but also the maximum opportunity and support for the workforce.

It is with great pleasure, and moreover, it is very encouraging to be reminded that local and even international entities such as FEDCAR are here to accompany, support and perhaps also guide us, in government, in our journeys towards reaching our aims.

I commend all the work that you do. I thank you for all you do. The contribution you offer towards achieving our common aims and objectives is always most welcome. We all know that sometimes the challenges are tall and the stakes are high. Supporting each other in developing the appropriate regulations and policies, and determining the correct ways of establishing regulations and delivering policies, can only be favourable.

We look forward towards continuing to working closely with FEDCAR towards enhanced care provision and outcomes, coupled with an increasingly enriched workforce.

Attachments: None

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Before I end, I am sure you would allow me to note the second reason to why I am glad to be here today. We take much pride in seeing members of our workforce lead such entities as FEDCAR. I am aware that the presidency of FEDCAR is currently held by Dr David Muscat. Also, we take much pride in having our country host an international audience gathered for a conference as this one, being held here today.

I hope you will all enjoy your stay in our dear country. I am confident that it will provide the apt venue for a fruitful conference, which will reveal the outcomes that this conference pursues.