

Annual Report 2019
BICC Advisory Board
Presented by Perit Simone Vella Lenicker & Perit Amber Wismayer
25.11.2019

The BICC Advisory Board met 8 times during 2019. The main items discussed were the following:

1. ***Kamra tal-Periti* proposal for a new Building and Construction Regulation Framework** – Perit Simone Vella Lenicker and Perit Andre Pizzuto presented the *Kamra's* proposals, which were approved by the *Kamra's* EGM held in July 2019, to the BICC Board. These were well received, and the *Kamra* is now working to take these proposals forward with Government. This proposal dovetails well with the work that the BICC itself is carrying out on the establishment of a new Building Regulation Framework.
2. **Avoidance of Damage to Third Parties** – The new regulations (LN 136 of 2019) were discussed a number of times. A number of conclusions were reached, namely that:
 - The current list of contractors being compiled is “worthless and a license must be issued”;
 - Holders of a Bachelors degree in Engineering are not necessarily capable of acting as Site Technical Officers;
 - A piecemeal approach to the problems of the industry is not desirable.

In the meetings prior to and immediately after the coming into force of LN136 of 2019, Perit Simone Vella Lenicker stated clearly the *Kamra's* position that it was opposed to the manner in which consultation on the LN was carried out, and its position on the content of the LN as amply explained to the profession in various Circulars and Meetings. Most of the other members of the Advisory Board were generally in agreement with the *Kamra's* positions.

3. **Vision for the Construction Industry 2020 – 2030** – A Working Group was set up to put forward a vision for the construction industry for the next 10 years. Perit Simone Vella Lenicker and Perit Andre Pizzuto will be representing the *Kamra* on this Working Group. No meetings have as yet taken place.
4. **New Residential Leases Act** – The Parliamentary Secretariat for Social Accommodation presented the draft of the new Act to the Board. The main points of contention revolved about the impact on the freedom of the parties to contract according to their specific requirements. Perit Simone Vella Lenicker and Perit Andre

Pizzuto held separate meetings with the Parliamentary Secretariat and is currently working on a proposal to address some of its concerns on the new Act.

5. **National Green Infrastructure Plan** – In 2018, the BICC endorsed a proposal put forward by Perit Charles Saliba on behalf of the Malta Business Network, based in the UK, for the promulgation of a National Green Infrastructure Plan. While *the Kamra tal-Periti* was of the opinion that this Plan should be spearheaded by ERA and PA, it is also of the opinion that this sort of Plan is sorely needed. The NGIP was presented to Minister Ian Borg and a delegation representing Minister Jose Herrera. Both Ministries supported the proposal and promised financial assistance in drawing up the plan. Perit Paul Gauci was appointed to spearhead the drafting process.
6. **Standard Method of Measurement** – A process was initiated to establish a Standard Method of Measurement for Malta. There was divergence of opinion between a number of members of the Board that an ad hoc standard should be developed for Malta, whereas the Kamra held that international standards should be adopted, even if these required some adjustment to address specific local situations. Work on this is still ongoing.
7. **Miscellaneous** – Various other matters were discussed at the BICC Advisory over the year, including:
 - (a) Budget measures 2020
 - (b) Registration of contractors
 - (c) PA Commencement Notice
 - (d) Establishment of new Building and Construction Authority
 - (e) Site Visitor's Cards
 - (f) Accidents on construction sites
 - (g) Product Contact Point for Construction