

Report:

Representation of Kamra tal-Periti on the Periti Warranting Board

The undersigned was appointed as one of the Kamra tal-Periti representatives on the Periti Warranting Board, for a term of two years, in January 2019, which therefore expires in January 2021. The other members of the Warranting Board over this period were Perit Catherine Galea, appointed to represent the KTP for a period of two years from January 2018, perit Claude Mallia and perit William Lewis, appointed by the Minister and perit Ivan Zammit and the Hon. perit Toni Bezzina, elected by the body of warranted professionals. The Chairman appointed by the Minister, over this period, was Dr. Mark Attard Montalto. The full Board would normally meet on approximately a monthly basis, but this past year, meetings, and therefore the work of the Warranting Board were much less regular. In addition, other meetings are held by sub-committees to interview applicants for the Warrant. The undersigned served on the sub-committee assessing applications by candidates who are not Maltese citizens, which met on a number of occasions to interview prospective candidates seeking to establish themselves in Malta.

The Warranting Board is the Designated Authority for the profession, in accordance with the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Regulations, that is the Competent Authority in terms of the relative Directive. In previous reports, I have highlighted the role of the Warranting Board (i) to regulate the Professional Training undertaken after graduation by Maltese nationals seeking access to the profession of Perit, and to organize the examinations at the end of the relative professional training period; (ii) to assess the applications by EU nationals, or third country citizens entitled to work in Malta, or Maltese nationals who have undertaken studies abroad, so as to decide on admission to the profession; (iii) to respond to notifications by professionals from EU Member States wishing to offer temporary and occasional services in Malta, in accordance with the Services Directive; (iv) to investigate reported allegations that the title of perit is being claimed by a person who does not in fact hold the warrant; (v) to assess courses leading to the professional status of architect as notified to all member states, in accordance with the PQD.

As previously reported, the members of the Warranting Board are hard pressed to deal with all these activities, not least because the Board does not have a Permanent Secretariat to support its work.

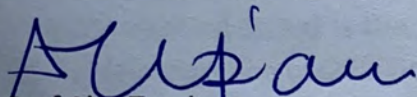
The two main themes of this year were the developments in the Periti Act, and the correspondence with MCAST about their graduates obtaining a warrant.

In spite of the provisions of the Periti Act, the Warranting Board has been asked, on a couple of occasions, to comment on the proposed amendments to the Periti Act. The Minister tends to understand the role of the Periti Warranting Board as a sort of advisory committee to the Minister, rather as a committee which has the responsibility to execute what is agreed between

the Government and the Kamra. In addition, the Chairperson of the Board has been asked to act as consultant to the Minister on the draft amendments to the Periti Act, a request that, in the opinion of the undersigned can lead to conflict between the respective roles.

The undersigned adds, however, that there is unanimous agreement that the amended Periti Act is now seriously overdue. There is also concern that the resources of the Board may not be sufficient to deal with the long list of duties and responsibilities.

Earlier this year, the MCAST administration wrote to the Chairperson asking for a meeting with the Board to explore what changes need to be made to their programme of studies so that MCAST graduates could qualify for the warrant. The Chairperson seemed to be encouraged by the Ministry to hold this meeting. The position of the undersigned was that the Warranting Board should not take the role of drafting course degree programmes, and that MCAST be (a) reminded of the current (and future) legal requirements and (b) invited to submit details of their current course programme, so that, in line with its statutory role, it would be evaluated by the Board. This has not yet happened.



Prof. Alex Torpiano

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