



BANK ĊENTRALI TA' MALTA  
EUROSISTEMA  
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA

Seminar on the

# **FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT 2022**

## **Stability in a changing financial landscape**

Monday, 18 September 2023 | Central Bank of Malta

# Synopsis

The Central Bank of Malta's *Financial Stability Report* is the Central Bank's flagship report on Malta's financial stability. This seminar entitled *Stability in a Changing Financial Landscape* will focus on the Bank's recently published *15<sup>th</sup> Financial Stability Report* which covers the developments that took place in 2022 in the Maltese financial sector. The key takeaways from this edition of the Report will be presented during this seminar. Relevant themes from the Report will also be discussed, of which, the construction of a domestic cyclical systemic risk indicator, which is another measure in the Bank's tool kit to guide its macroprudential policy stance.

This year, we are holding a panel discussion on *The Role of Macroprudential Policy in a Tighter Monetary Policy Environment*, offering us perspectives on the interaction of these policy frameworks, and how authorities balance the two, to minimise unintended consequences.

**Financial Stability  
Report 2022**





# Programme

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<b>09:00</b>	<b>Registration &amp; light business breakfast</b>	
<b>09:30</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b>	<b>Professor Edward Scicluna</b> Governor Central Bank of Malta
<b>09:40</b>	<b>Keynote speech</b>	<b>The Hon Clyde Caruana</b> Minister for Finance and Employment
<b>09:50</b>	<b>FSR 2022 – Main findings</b>	<b>Mr Alan Cassar</b> Chief Officer, Financial Stability Central Bank of Malta
<b>10:10</b>	<b>Constructing a cyclical systemic risk indicator for Malta</b>	<b>Dr William Gatt Fenech</b> Manager, Financial Stability Research Office Central Bank of Malta
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Panel discussion:</b>  <b><i>The role of macroprudential policy in a tighter monetary policy environment</i></b>  Moderator: <b>Dr Robert M Suban</b> Head of Department & Senior Lecturer University of Malta	<b>Dr Carsten Detken</b> Head, Macprudential Policy Division European Central Bank  <b>Mr Marcel Cassar</b> Chair, The Malta Bankers' Association  <b>Ms Christine Balzan</b> Manager, Policy Crisis Management & Stress Testing Department Central Bank of Malta  <b>Ms Rita Schembri</b> Head, Economic Analysis Department Central Bank of Malta
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Questions &amp; answers session</b>	
	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Mr Oliver Bonello</b> Deputy Governor – Financial Stability Central Bank of Malta

# Speakers

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## **Clyde Caruana**

*Minister for Finance and Employment*



Mr Clyde Caruana, was appointed Minister for Finance and Employment in November 2020. Economist by training, he has held the position of Executive Chairperson at the State employment agency, Jobsplus, since 2014. More recently, he had taken up office as Prime Minister's Chief of Staff. During the tenure at Jobsplus, he authored several position documents and policy papers, which have been central to the government's labour force policy. Additionally, he was the main driver to implement these policies and reforms, most notably, related to free childcare, inwork benefits and others. He had previously worked at the National Statistics Office between 2007 and 2012. Caruana also lectures in Economics at the Faculty of Economics, Management and, Accountancy at the University of Malta. He has written papers and articles in the welfare state and the labour market, as well as related research and consultancy work.

## **Edward Scicluna**

*Governor, Central Bank of Malta*



Professor Edward Scicluna is Governor of the Central Bank of Malta and Deputy Chairman of the Malta Financial Services Authority, after having served as Malta's Minister for Finance (2013–2020). He also served as an MEP and Vice-Chairman of ECON (2008–2013). His previous appointments also included that of Professor and Head of the Department of Economics at the University of Malta (UM), and Chairman of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development. Scicluna graduated from the University of Oxford with a Diploma with distinction in politics and economics, and from the UM with a First Class Honours BA degree. He read for his Masters and Doctorate in Economics at the University of Toronto.

## **Oliver Bonello**

*Deputy Governor – Financial Stability, Central Bank of Malta*



Mr Oliver Bonello is the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Malta responsible for Financial Stability. He represents the Central Bank as a member of the Supervisory Board of the ECB, SSM, and the European Banking Authority as well as other High Level Task Forces of the ECB. He is also Chairman of the Bank's Statistics Committee, Risk Committee, and the Domestic Standing Committee. He is also a member of the Bank's Financial Stability Committee and the Joint Financial Stability Board. Mr Bonello also serves as a member of the Supervisory Board of the Malta Development Bank. Over the years, he chaired or participated in various committees and working groups mainly related to financial stability, both locally and abroad.

## **Alan Cassar**

*Chief Officer, Financial Stability, Central Bank of Malta*



Mr Alan Cassar holds the post of Chief Officer within the Financial Stability and Statistics Division of the Central Bank of Malta. Mr Cassar chairs the Financial Stability Forum and sits on a number of committees, such as the Bank's Financial Stability Committee, the Risk Committee, the Statistics Committee and the Domestic Standing Committee. Mr Cassar is Secretary to the Joint Financial Stability Board, member of the ECB's Financial Stability Committee, as well as the European Systemic Risk Board's Advisory Technical Committee.



## William Gatt Fenech

*Manager, Financial Stability Research Office, Central Bank of Malta*



Dr Gatt Fenech manages the Bank's Financial Stability Research Office. He coordinates and conducts research on financial stability and macroprudential policy using theoretical and empirical methods. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Nottingham, specialising in loan-to-value borrower-based macroprudential policy, and is also affiliated with the University of Nottingham's Centre for Finance, Credit and Macroeconomics as an External Research Fellow. Dr Gatt Fenech has published several papers in international peer-reviewed journals. He also serves as a journal referee. He delivers technical training courses to staff and has also lectured at the University of Malta and the University of Nottingham.



# Panelists

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## Carsten Detken

*Head, Macroeprudential Policy Division, European Central Bank*



Since summer 2017, Dr Carsten Detken heads the Macroeprudential Policy Division within the Directorate General Macroeprudential Policy and Financial Stability at the European Central Bank, which is also responsible for the ECB's Macroeprudential Report. He is co-chairing the ECB's Macroeprudential Policy Group and the ESRB's Instruments Working Group. Before 2017, Carsten was for many years responsible for the ECB's Financial Stability Review and previously, he worked for 12 years in the ECB's Directorate General Research, five of which as Senior Adviser to the Director General. Before moving to the European Monetary Institute in 1997, he worked for three years at Swiss Bank Corporation and SBC Brinson Institutional Asset Management in Basle, after obtaining his PhD in Economics from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland.

## Marcel Cassar

*Chair, The Malta Bankers' Association*



Mr Marcel Cassar is CEO of APS Bank plc since 2016. His career started in 1987 with Price Waterhouse, followed by successively senior executive positions at MIBA/MFSC (now MFSA), Lombard Bank Malta plc and FIMBank plc. He presently chairs the Malta Bankers' Association and sits on the board of the European Banking Federation. Marcel is a CPA, fellow of the Malta Institute of Accountants and holds an MBA in Bank Financial Management jointly from the University of Wales and Manchester Business School (1995). He has lectured, supervised and examined at both FEMA and the MA Financial Services course, University of Malta.



## **Christine Balzan**

*Manager, Policy Crisis Management & Stress Testing Department, Central Bank of Malta*



Ms Christine Balzan holds a Masters of Sciences Degree and a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree in Economics from the University of Malta. She has been working with the Central Bank since 2006 within the Financial Stability Division, where she occupies the role of Manager of the Policy Crisis Management and Stress Testing Department. She has served in the European Central Bank on secondment to assist with the bank quality assurance process for the EU-wide stress test exercise. Furthermore, she contributes to ECB and EBA working groups and in the drafting of a number of Directives issued by the Central Bank.

## **Rita Schembri**

*Head, Economic Analysis Department, Central Bank of Malta*



Ms Rita Schembri heads the Economic Analysis Department at the Central Bank of Malta. She is a member of the ECB's Monetary Policy Committee and previously participated in two of its working groups – those on forecasting and public finance. She has authored research on public finance issues, the labour market and the construction sector in Malta, and regularly directs research in other areas. Before joining the Economic Analysis Department, she worked on issues pertaining to Malta's membership in the various international financial institutions and in the preparedness of the Maltese Economy for Economic and Monetary Union.

## **Robert M Suban**

*Head of Department & Senior Lecturer, University of Malta*



Dr Robert M Suban is the Head of the Department of Banking and Finance of the University of Malta. He holds a Bachelor in Business Administration, a Masters Degree in European economic studies, and a PhD. in Accounting & Finance from the Alliance Manchester Business School. Dr Suban has also completed the ACCA qualification. Dr Suban regularly attends and presents his research at various internationally peer-reviewed academic conferences in the area of finance. He has considerable experience as a practitioner having worked at the Central Bank of Malta, Jobsplus and a leading private travel organisation. Dr Suban held the position as a non-executive director of Mapfre Middlesea p.l.c. and is currently non-executive director and Chair of the Risk Committee of Bank of Valletta, non-executive director of Malta Investments plc and chair of its audit committee.





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