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FAX MESSAGE

Piper Lance Plans for further searches

Sharon Spiteri

The families of three local men listed missing in the disappearance of a light plane on its way to Malta from Djerba were on Monday promised that searches were planned to resume off Tunisian waters.

Transport Minister Joe Debono Grech met the families of Carmel Bartolo, Philip Farrugia and Matthew Aquilina who went missing last December 3.

Others on board the plane were Michael Williams of the UK, Tadeus Gorny of Poland and Desmond Boomer of Ireland.

Mr Debono Grech brought the relatives up to date on the situation and said that searches would be carried out under the coordination of the Armed Forces of Malta as soon as weather permitted.

The searches took a new impetus last month when a Tunisian fisherman found the pilot's wallet off the Gulf of Gabes on September 20.

The wallet contained identity card number 287748 (M) and a pilot's card number 4081 belonging to Bartolo. Inside the wallet were also three bank cards and 11 US and Italian bank notes.

Plane debris was also located in the area.

Meanwhile, the inquiry into the mysterious disappearance of the plane is set to continue tomorrow when the three-man board of inquiry set up by the ministry is expected to reveal what has happened to its request to travel to Tunisia for further investigation.

At the last sitting on August 27 the inquiry rapped the authorities for failing to investigate the Tunisian end promptly and thoroughly.

It requested to be allowed to travel to Tunisia to "explore all details in further depth" and to examine certain important witnesses and collect all relevant data and documentary material.

Finad

No atmosphere in business

The finance minister yesterday denied that the change of government had created an atmosphere of uncertainty in business.

Line Spiteri was speaking during a meeting with members of the Association of Financial Services Providers at the Malta Financial Services Centre.

Recent claims by several business organisations that the government's lack of clarity on its European Union policy was causing uncertainty were echoed by a member of the association.

But Mr Spiteri said uncertainty should have eased, not worsened, since the election as the Labour government's policy on Europe was clear - the closest possible ties stopping short of membership.

He claimed there had been stagnation in the business sector while Malta waited for EU membership. Now, as the government no longer had to wait for the conclusion of the Inter-governmental Conference, closer ties with the Union could be established quicker.

The situation was now clearer and the country had a clear aim, he said.

Earlier in a question-and-answer session, Mr Spiteri highlighted the importance of attracting businesses to Malta that "added value".

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Just solution 'serious pro

The next Enemalta board will include women directors and consumer and local council representatives as promised in the Labour Party's electoral manifesto, Commerce Minister Leo Brincat said yesterday.

Addressing a General Workers' Union delegation, Mr Brincat said Enemalta had to be in a position to address the needs of local councils.

He said he wanted good relations with all unions and promised to do his utmost for Enemalta to be managed well for the benefit of the

corporation and of Minister Brincat "serious problems which, he said, should not specify who were but said they were the workers'.

He said that just to be found so the Malta remained a r cly, it was manage the interest of consumers.

Mr Brincat said work more in consu

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MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

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