



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Corporate Misgovernance and Dysfunctional Companies: Why and how companies start going bad – A look at the ongoing Volkswagen scandal as a case study

Wednesday 21st June 2017

The Department of Accountancy – University of Malta – in collaboration with Malta University Consulting Ltd is holding the third CPE seminar for 2017 which qualifies for 2 hours (Core Competencies) of Continued Professional Education.

Date: Wednesday 21st June 2017

Time: 17.30hrs - 19.30hrs

Venue: The University Residence, Robert Mifsud Bonnici Street, Lija (*ample parking space available*)

Speakers: Dr David Fabri

AIM AND CONTENTS OF THE SEMINAR

Many recent discussions have focused on Directors' duties and liabilities and on the principles of corporate governance.

The subject of this seminar is different.

It will tackle corporate misgovernance and some of the realities lurking behind dysfunctional companies, highlighting some poor board practices and other bad habits. Is it true that the recent Volkswagen scandal was an 'accident waiting to happen'? Why and how do things go wrong inside a company?

It would be too easy and incorrect to suggest that all company failures are exclusively the result of failures in corporate governance. Many reasons combine to lead a company towards bankruptcy and either close shop or are bought out. Think of Alitalia, Air Berlin and Air Malta and football clubs in Malta. Mismanagement, self-dealing, misappropriation, incompetence, marketing flaws, fraud are serious factors in this discussion. But there have been many cases where poor corporate practices – often or usually in collusion with other factors – have led to deep financial and corporate distress.

The challenge is to draw positive and useful lessons from dysfunctional companies and negative board and corporate experiences, including Enron, Parmalat, BCCI and other recent failures. The seminar will also explore how far the law should be expected to intervene to correct poor governance practices, and whether corporate codes of conduct and ethics are effective.

The ongoing Volkswagen scandal will be briefly analysed as a timely case-study and as a back-drop to the themes explored during the seminar.

SPEAKER

Dr David Fabri is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Commercial Law at the University of Malta where he also co-ordinates the Masters in Financial Services programme. He holds the degrees of LL.D (1979) and a Ph.D (2015). For over twenty years, he worked for the Malta Financial Services Authority as Head of its Legal and International Affairs Unit and as Board Secretary. His main areas of interest are consumer policy and protection, company and co-operatives law, whistle-blowing, business ethics, financial services legislation and regulation generally, subjects on which he has lectured and written extensively. He has drafted or co-written numerous laws on these subjects including the Consumer Affairs Act 1994, the Companies Act 1995 and the Product Safety Act 2001. He currently serves on the University Research Ethics Committee and the Administrative Review Tribunal. In the past, he formed part of the Co-operatives Board and the Consumer Affairs Council.

COURSE FEE, REGISTRATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Euro 25.00 – students Euro 18.00

Cheques to be made payable to Malta University Consulting Ltd

Registrations have to be made by not later than Friday 16th June 2017 by emailing the attached Registration Form to: maria.bugeja@muhc.com.mt

(Open the attachment read only, fill in fields provided as directed, then send by e-mail as a Word attachment or PDF document).

For further information kindly contact:

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