



Valletta Alive Foundation

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The Valletta Alive Foundation urges government to consider carefully its decision on the relocation of the Monti.

Locating market stalls anywhere near the ruins of the old opera house and the new Parliament building is totally inappropriate. For visitors, especially if they are first time visitors to Malta, the opera house and the Parliament building will impart a positive impression, not least because the project was designed by a world-renowned architect. In terms of perception, therefore, nothing could be worse than placing market stalls at the entrance of Valletta.

This would also be inconsistent with the efforts being made to build a positive cultural image for Malta in view of Valletta being the European Capital of Culture in 2018.

Valletta Alive Foundation is confident that solutions can be found. If the decision to reallocate the “Monti” in Ordinance Street is to stand, then it could be placed in that part of Ordinance Street between the government flats and Palazzo Fererria and further in towards St. Johns Cavalier. Under no circumstance should market stalls be allowed to ‘spill’ over into Republic Street and beyond.

In accordance to planning legislation, the material change of use of land constitutes development. Daily use for market stalls is a material change of use and therefore requires a development permit. The negative reaction of civil society suggests that the matter needs to be debated appropriately within the legal processes as set out in planning legislation.

Geoff Pisani Bencini
Co-ordination Officer