

## Priorities

In setting my priorities for the next five years of the European Parliament, I am inspired by my belief as a European Socialist that the citizen should not be a mere number in our political calculations but should, instead, be the centre of politics in Europe.

The current global economic situation is the **topmost priority** for the EU. There is an Economic Recovery Plan to address the crop of economic and financial problems and provide a framework how the European economy can resume its growth path and avoid a repetition of this type of crisis. But the Plan needs to be constantly monitored and updated to respond to the changing scenario.

A **second priority** is to integrate the social perspective into the political and economic fabric, rather than leaving it at the mercy of the neo-liberal and capitalist values that have let us down. Here we need to ensure that the ordinary citizen receives a “fair deal” and that he is afforded the highest protection by the Union’s institutions.

A **third, fundamental priority** is that of the Environment. Europe should be the motor behind environmental action and in the forefront of protecting the world from the worst effects of climate change and in the use of green energy.

A **fourth priority** is that of tackling illegal immigration with the urgency and commitment it deserves. The Maltese need to rest their mind that the EU will be more forceful and timely in its interventions.

**Other priorities** include gender equality, the fight against poverty and social exclusion, the reinforcement of consumer rights, and the promotion of peace and conflict resolution.

A tall order, indeed, but an agenda that will make a substantial positive contribution to the well-being of all Maltese citizens.