

# Chairperson's Statement

In a nutshell, 2022 was largely shaped by the continued improvement of the Authority's governance, which ultimately enabled the future-proofing of the Authority by equipping it with the adequate tools to tackle and address any arising matters and challenges going forward. Building upon the exemplary work of the Authority in previous years, the Board, the Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Committee, and all the Authority's employees ensured that the Authority continued to prioritise and focus on workstreams aimed at solidifying its foundation. Work was conducted to strengthen the Maltese licence by targeting and addressing key areas of the framework to increase the competitiveness of Malta as a place of establishment, addressing the gaps in the legal and regulatory framework that regulates, guides and informs the industry. All this whilst continuing to focus on improving and strengthening the internal processes of the Authority to ensure it is well-placed to tackle any upcoming challenges that the gaming industry may face.

To ensure the sector and the Authority are well-equipped to tackle future global challenges, the Authority conducted the groundwork to serve as the foundation for exploring Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues within the Authority itself and the gaming sector. Based on discussions and the preliminary work carried out in the past year, the Authority shall explore the possibility of developing a voluntary ESG Code of Good Practice for the remote gaming sector. Once again, the Authority is tackling a matter of global priority – grounded in robust data and evidence and with due consideration of key actors and stakeholders in the industry and its broader ecosystem. I am proud to chair an organisation that tackles policy changes and policy formation through an evidence-based approach and that emerges from a process that prioritises extensive research and data collection.

A key priority of the past year was the push towards improved governance within the Authority. The Board understands and supports the notion that



the Authority may only be in the best position to regulate and oversee a key industry within Malta's economy if its internal processes are streamlined to reduce inefficiencies if it is to provide its officers and employees with the appropriate tools necessary to carry out the role entrusted to them properly.

The Authority has worked tirelessly to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, streamline regulatory processes and coordinate in a way that meets its regulatory priorities. The improved gaming licence application process has undoubtedly positively affected the industry. However, improvements made to the internal operations of the Authority across the board have perpetuated stronger communication internally and externally. This has allowed the Authority to transform into a more efficient institution which

is more readily available to the industry. Going forward, the Authority intends to prioritise the continued improvement of its internal governance. This will undeniably allow the Authority to be an institution which will readily handle any potential challenges moving forward whilst ensuring increased compliance by the industry with the applicable regulatory requirements.

The work conducted in 2022, and the consequent results I have witnessed, allow me to confidently state that the Authority remains relevant, up-to-date and well-equipped to regulate, oversee and guide an innovative and ever-changing industry. My commitment as Chairman, as well as that of my fellow board members, is to further guide and provide the necessary tools and support to ensure that the great work undertaken throughout these last few years continues such that the relevance of the Authority and the industry it regulates endures.

Along with my board members, the Authority's Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Committee, and every employee of the Authority, I would also like to express my gratitude to the industry, key stakeholders, and service providers that form part of the extended ecosystem for their continued trust and support in us as an institution. The insights provided by experts in the field are fundamental to our work and essential for the continued good governance of the Authority. Communication between the Authority, Licensees, and key stakeholders that form part of the wider ecosystem ensures we keep abreast with the key issues and matters affecting the industry. It enables us to adapt and improve in line with the requirements and priorities of the Authority and the country at large, yet considers the industry's needs and challenges.

**Dr Ryan C. Pace**  
Chairperson

