



***PRESS RELEASE***

**THE FIFTH LITIGATION CASE  
OF DISCRIMINATION  
ACCORDING TO ACT 1 OF 2000  
THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (PERSONS WITH DISABILITY) ACT  
9<sup>th</sup> September, 2002**

On Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2002 the National Commission Persons with Disability filed the fifth litigation case in connection with discrimination according to Act 1 of 2000, the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (EOA) against SBT Ltd. of San Gwann.

The Commission has, since June 2001, been trying to reach an agreement with this Company to comply with the EOA by making it possible for deaf and hard of hearing persons to have access to the provision of its Breakdown services by means of an SMS message. Unfortunately all efforts made by the Commission, with the aim of reaching an agreement, proved futile. - this in spite of the fact that, the Commission with satisfaction can say that it has reached an agreement with all other similar Companies.

This is the first Court case where persons with a communication impairment are insisting that they, like any other citizen, have a right to receive services in a way they can access. In this case, disabled persons are insisting that if for example, their car breaks down, they have a right that, by means of an SMS message, they can request the breakdown service provided by the Company.

This is the fifth litigation case that the Commission has filed since the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2000. The Commission has twice already filed charges in Court, first against Michele Peresso Ltd. of B'Kara and then against Invicta Ltd. of Msida. Another two cases have been referred to Arbitration, one case against St

James Cavallier Art Centre in Valletta and another against the Ministry for Internal Affairs in St. Venera.

The Commission reiterates its commitment so that disabled persons and their families shall, in a concrete way, have equal opportunities in a just and reasonable manner.

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