

# THE MALTA BUSINESS WEEKLY

11 June 2009

## Stockholm Network think-tank CEO to address business leaders

The chief executive and founder of the Stockholm Network, Helen Disney, will next week address a business breakfast organised by The Malta Business Weekly at Le Meridien St Julians.

Competitive Malta recently forged a strategic alliance with the Stockholm Network.

The Stockholm Network is the leading pan-European think-tank and market oriented network. It is a one-stop shop for organisations seeking to work with Europe's brightest policymakers and thinkers. Today, the Stockholm Network brings together more than 120 market-oriented think tanks from across Europe, giving us the capacity to deliver local messages and locally-tailored global messages across the EU and beyond.

Ms Disney has over a decade's experience of influencing public policy debates. Formerly an editorial writer for The Times and an editorial writer and commentator for the Daily Express, as CEO of the Stockholm Network she continues to write regularly on a range of public policy topics for newspapers, magazines and websites.

She has made regular appearances on TV and in radio debates including 'Heart of the Matter', 'Kilroy', BBC News, BBC Radio Scotland, Radio 4's Talking Politics, the BBC World Service and 18 Doughty Street.com.

From 1996-2000, she worked at the Social Market Foundation, an independent pro-market think-tank in Westminster, where she was deputy director and editor of its quarterly journal.

She has contributed to and edited numerous think-tank publications including Impatient for Change, Poles Apart? and An Apology for Capitalism? published by the Stockholm Network.

She sits on the advisory board of the Centre for Medicine in the Public Interest (CMPI), a US think tank and has advised many new think tanks on how to develop their influence on the media and public policy.

Helen is a member of the Chartered Institute of Journalists, Women in Journalism and the Women Writers Network and speaks fluent French and Italian.

The Stockholm Network and its members influence many millions of Europeans every year. The Network is a forum for sharing, exchanging and developing pan-European research and best practice. Interested in ideas which stimulate economic growth and help people to help themselves are promoted and awareness raised on policies which create the social and economic conditions for a free society. These include:

- Reforming European welfare States and creating a more flexible labour market;
- Updating European pension systems to empower individuals;
- Ensuring more consumer-driven healthcare, through reform of European health systems and markets;

- Encouraging an informed debate on intellectual property rights as an incentive to innovate and develop new knowledge in the future, while ensuring wide public access to such products in the present;
- Reforming European energy markets to ensure the most beneficial balance between economic growth and environmental quality; and
- Emphasising the benefits of globalisation, trade and competition and creating an understanding of free market ideas and institutions.