

Concluding Address

Louis A Farrugia

Chairman, Simonds Farsons Cisk plc

One hopes that this initiative to organise a conference on industrial heritage in Malta will generate not only a renewed interest in our Islands' industrial heritage but also a wider debate about the diverse opinions on how best to repair, restore and reuse our industrial past.

I am pleased with the debate we had and with the opportunity for Farsons to make a presentation about its contribution towards Malta's industrial heritage over the years, particularly the initiatives which we are planning for the future.

As a Company, we want to preserve and treasure our heritage and also go one stage further: we want to share this significant heritage with the community. This is a community with which we have built a strong business relationship for the last 85 years, as all along we have constantly endeavoured to deliver the highest quality products in the best way possible. Farsons is in many ways a recognised name with many families in Malta, recognised not only for our brands but also for the employment of hundreds of employees who have been part of our growth development over all these decades. In return, we have been honoured by this community's support and esteem. In this regard, we would like to share our story. However we want to do this with an aspiration to have a future that strategically builds on our remarkable past.

If there is a hallmark that has constantly inspired us, this is our outlook that has always been projected towards the future: we also have the determination to grow overseas. At the same time, one of the benefits that we have is that we are still an independent Maltese Company that is a hundred per cent Maltese-owned. There are not too many breweries in the world that remain independent today.

We understand these advantages and want to benefit from them. I am very much encouraged by the response of all stakeholders at this conference because, in actual fact, this is a project that we need to share. This is not the case of a new product that needs to be kept a secret until its launch.

Here, we have a project that we need to share with the community in Malta and we look forward to the response as plans are unfolded.

This conference has served, I think, as a very encouraging stimulus. I want to thank you all for your active participation and, in particular, I would like to thank Prof. JoAnn Cassar on behalf of the University of Malta, Mr Bryan A Gera on behalf of The Farsons Foundation, and obviously all speakers, Mr Timothy Ambrose, Prof. Alex

Torpiano and everyone who has contributed to a successful debate that has served as a curtain-raiser to reveal the extensive richness of what so far may have not been highlighted enough.

On our part, we appreciate what we have learnt, and will retain and put these insights and knowledge to good use in what are trying to achieve. We leave with renewed determination to safeguard and invest in the wealth offered by our industrial heritage and to promote it further.

Thank you.