

Daily Stock Market Review – 1 March 2018

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MSE Equity Price Index climbs to near 2-month high

The **MSE Equity Price Index** erased yesterday's decline of 0.12% as it rebounded by 0.3% to a near two-month high of 4,510.887 points. Overall, the gains in the share prices of GO, HSBC, BOV and MIA outweighed the declines in RS2, MaltaPost and FIMBank.

Just over half of today's trading activity took place in the equity of **Bank of Valletta plc** which recaptured the €1.83 level (+0.5%) across 73,749 shares.

Within the same sector, **HSBC Bank Malta plc** added 1% to the €1.97 level on volumes totalling 41,923 shares. Shareholders as at close of trading on Friday 9 March 2018 will be entitled to receive a total net dividend of €0.0806 per share.

Also among the large companies by market capitalisation, **GO plc** was the best performing equity today with a gain of 1.1% to the €3.54 level after opening at a low of €3.48 (-0.6%). A total of 5,070 shares traded. This morning, the quad-play telecoms operator announced that it exercised the right to acquire the remaining 49% of the issued share capital of Kinetix IT Solutions Limited that it previously did not own. Accordingly, GO will now be the sole shareholder of Kinetix.

A single deal of just 995 shares lifted the equity of **Malta International Airport plc** 0.4% higher back to the €4.96 level. Shareholders as at close of trading on Wednesday 4 April 2018 are entitled to receive a final net dividend of €0.07 per share.

In contrast, **RS2 Software plc** slipped by 0.8% to its 28-month low of €1.28 across 4,600 shares. Yesterday, RS2 announced the appointment of Ms Daniela Mielke as the Chief Executive Officer of RS2 North America. Ms Mielke's career spans more than 25 years in global management roles with more than fifteen years in payments and related Fintech. Previous to joining RS2, Ms Mielke was Chief Strategy and Product Officer at Vantiv Inc. (now WorldPay Inc.) which is the largest US merchant acquirer. In the past, Ms Mielke served also as Vice-President of Strategy at PayPal Holdings Inc. as well as Senior Vice-President of Strategy at Visa International.

FIMBank plc lost 1.6% to an over two-month low of USD0.61 across 12,000 shares whilst **MaltaPost plc** retracted by 1.5% to the €1.92 level albeit on just 2,575 shares.

The **RF MGS Index** extended the recent positive momentum as it gained 0.14% to an over two-week high of 1,111.156 points. Euro zone sovereign yields drifted lower (bond prices gained) despite encouraging results from surveys gauging the level of confidence among purchasing managers in the manufacturing sector in Germany and across the whole of the single currency area. Moreover, the unemployment rate within the euro zone remained at its multi-year low of 8.6% in January.

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Stock markets are volatile and subject to fluctuations which cannot be reasonably foreseen. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results.