



The Institute of
Internal Auditors
Malta

IIA Malta Annual Conference 2026

Challenge Accepted: Rethinking Governance, Audit & Accountability

Conference Description

The most effective organisations are not those that avoid difficult questions, but those willing to ask them. **Challenge Accepted: Rethinking Governance, Audit & Accountability** brings together Board members, Audit Committees, regulators, business leaders and Internal Audit professionals to explore how constructive challenge, professional scepticism and independent assurance can strengthen governance, accountability and organisational performance.

Featuring keynote addresses by **Anthony J. Pugliese, President & CEO of IIA Global**, and **Kathleen Meganck, Vice President of ECIIA and Chief Audit Executive of Belgium's Federal Internal Audit Department**, the conference combines global and European perspectives on the profession's evolving contribution. The conference will also put Audit Committees in the hot seat, and challenge one of the profession's most persistent perceptions: does Internal Audit stifle business, or enable organisations to move forward with greater confidence?

Date: Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Time: 08:15 – 14:30

Venue: The Xara Lodge, Rabat

CPE: 3 Hours

Pricing: IIA Malta Members €75; Non-Members €95

Agenda at a Glance

Time	Session
08:15 – 09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Address Giancarlo Millo – Chairperson, IIA Malta & Group Chief Internal Auditor, Mizzi Organisation
09:15 – 10:00	Keynote Address – The State of the Internal Audit Profession Anthony J. Pugliese – President & CEO, IIA Global
10:00 – 10:45	Panel Discussion – Audit Committees in the Hot Seat: Are They Asking the Right Questions?
10:45 – 11:15	Networking Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:00	Keynote Address – The Courage to Challenge: Internal Audit as a Catalyst Kathleen Meganck – Vice President, ECIIA & Chief Audit Executive, Federal Internal Audit Department of Belgium
12:00 – 12:45	Panel Discussion – Challenge the Myth: Does Internal Audit Stifle Business?
12:45 – 13:00	Closing Reflections Stefan Tanti – Vice Chairperson, IIA Malta & Head of Internal Audit, Sparkasse Bank Malta
13:00 – 14:30	Networking Lunch

Agenda Details & Speakers

09:00 – 09:15 | Opening Address

Format: Address

Opening remarks setting the tone for a conference built around constructive challenge, stronger governance and the evolving contribution of Internal Audit. Highlights from IIA Malta's activities over the past year and upcoming initiatives as part of the IIA's global community will also be presented.

Speaker:

- **Giancarlo Millo** – Chairperson, IIA Malta & Group Chief Internal Auditor, Mizzi Organisation

09:15 – 10:00 | The State of the Internal Audit Profession

Format: Keynote Address

A global keynote perspective on the current and future direction of the Internal Audit profession, including the changing expectations of Boards, Audit Committees and Chief Audit Executives, with relevant insights from IIA Global and Risk in Focus 2026.

Speaker:

- **Anthony J. Pugliese** – President & CEO, IIA Global

10:00 – 10:45 | Audit Committees in the Hot Seat: Are They Asking the Right Questions?

Format: Panel Discussion

Audit Committees face growing expectations to challenge management, scrutinise financial and non-financial information, oversee risk and assurance, and maintain a clear view of issues that may not always reach the Boardroom. This session will examine whether committees receive the right information, ask sufficiently searching questions and follow through when concerns arise.

Speakers:

- **Kathleen Meganck** – Vice President, ECIIA & Chief Audit Executive, Federal Internal Audit Department of Belgium (kathleen.meganck@audit.fgov.be)
- **Etienne Borg Cardona** – Chairman, IFSP Malta Directors Chapter (etienne.borgcardona@idc.org.mt)
- **Lorraine Vella** – Head, Capital Markets Supervision, MFSA (lorraine.vella@mfsa.mt)
- **John Zarb** – Chairman, Mizzi Organisation (john.zarb@mizzi.com.mt)

Moderator:

- **Andrew Said** – Main Committee Member, IIA Malta & Head of Internal Audit, MFSA

11:15 – 12:00 | The Courage to Challenge: Internal Audit as a Catalyst

Format: Keynote Address

Effective Internal Audit requires more than technical expertise and adherence to standards. It requires the courage to question established practices, address uncomfortable issues and transform independent assurance into meaningful organisational improvement.

At a European level, this catalytic role extends beyond individual organisations. Through advocacy, stakeholder engagement, research and thought leadership, the European Confederation of Institutes of Internal Auditing (ECIIA) helps strengthen the internal audit profession and amplifies its voice across Europe. By engaging with European institutions, regulators, policymakers and other key stakeholders, ECIIA contributes to shaping the environment in which internal auditors operate and supports the profession in addressing emerging governance, risk and control challenges.

Drawing on her leadership experience within Belgium's federal public administration and her role as Vice President of ECIIA, Kathleen Meganck will explore how internal auditors can act as catalysts for stronger governance, risk management and internal control, both within their organisations and at a broader

European level. The session will highlight the importance of constructive challenge, effective stakeholder engagement and collaborative advocacy in creating lasting impact.

As IIA Malta begins a new chapter within the European internal audit community, the keynote will also demonstrate how collaboration, knowledge-sharing and active participation in the ECIIA network contribute to a stronger and more influential voice for the profession. Together, Internal Audit can drive positive change and help build resilient organisations and institutions across Europe.

Speaker:

- **Kathleen Meganck** – Vice President, ECIIA & Chief Audit Executive, Federal Internal Audit Department of Belgium (kathleen.meganck@audit.fgov.be)

12:00 – 12:45 | Challenge the Myth: Does Internal Audit Stifle Business?

Format: Panel Discussion

A provocative discussion challenging the perception that Internal Audit slows decision-making or creates unnecessary bureaucracy. The panel will explore how Internal Audit can provide robust independent challenge while helping organisations manage risk intelligently and pursue strategic objectives with confidence.

Speakers:

- **Anthony J. Pugliese** – President & CEO, IIA Global
- **Morgan Carabott** – Head of Internal Audit, HSBC Bank Malta (morgan.carabott@hsbc.com)
- **William Spiteri Bailey** – President, The Malta Chamber (wsbaileyconsult@gmail.com)
- **Mark Wirth** – Partner, Zampa Partners (mark@zampapartners.com)

Moderator:

- **Bernard Mallia** – Main Committee Member, IIA Malta & Chief Internal Auditor, MAPFRE Malta

12:45 – 13:00 | Closing Reflections

Format: Closing Address

Closing reflections drawing together the key messages from the conference and reinforcing the importance of constructive challenge, accountability, professional scepticism and ethical governance in practice.

Speaker:

- **Stefan Tanti** – Vice Chairperson, IIA Malta & Head of Internal Audit, Sparkasse Bank Malta

Sponsors

