



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker receives Vietnamese ambassador

Speaker Anglu Farrugia received a courtesy visit from Ms Nguyen Thu Bich Hue, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Speaker Farrugia referred to the excellent bilateral relations that exist between Malta and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which relations were established diplomatically in January 1974. He referred to trade and economic relations and, while noting that bilateral trade was minimal, encouraged the ambassador to do her utmost to enhance trade between the two countries, particularly since the Free Trade Agreement, signed in 2015 between Vietnam and the EU, was expected to enter into force this current year. The ambassador looked forward to Malta's ratification of this agreement.

Speaker Farrugia and Ambassador Hue spoke about the importance of parliamentary diplomacy.

The membership of Malta and Vietnam in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the EU-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* also featured in their discussion.

Ambassador Nguyen Thu Bich Hue was accompanied by Nguyen Duc Thanh, Minister Counsellor, and Hai Long Do, from the Embassy of Vietnam in Rome.