



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Liu Xincheng, Vice-Chairman of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC and Executive Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of CAPD, pays a courtesy visit to Speaker Farrugia

Vice-Chairman of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Executive Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of China Association for Promoting Democracy (CAPD) Liu Xincheng paid a courtesy visit to Speaker Anġlu Farrugia.

Speaker Farrugia referred to the excellent diplomatic relations that exist between Malta and the People's Republic of China, which were established in January 1972. These relations have been manifested by the 60 bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding and further enhanced by the steady flow of high-level visits to and from China. He highlighted the courtesy visits which he received in the past years by dignitaries from the CPPCC and the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. He proposed a Parliamentary Friendship Group between the CPPCC and the Maltese Parliament.

Speaker Farrugia referred to Prime Minister Joseph Muscat's visit to China last November, during which visit a memorandum of understanding within the framework of the One Belt, One Road Initiative was signed, which provides the basis for projects, investments, and cooperation on matters of trade, financial services as well as tourism between the two countries.

Speaker Farrugia also mentioned the twining agreement between Santa Luċija and Jin Chang (Suzhon), the MoUs signed in September 2017 between Guizhou Provence and MTA and Heritage Malta, as well as the Chinese students who attended courses at MEDAC and IMLI.

Mr Xincheng concurred with Speaker Farrugia that the relations between the two countries were cordial and dynamic throughout the years. He said that his country commends Malta's support for the 'One China' policy, that China is grateful for Malta's support to its accession to the WTO, to its bid to host the EXPO, as well as during the Libyan conflict. He also mentioned cooperation between Enemalta and Shanghai Electric Power and proposed further cooperation in other sectors, inter alia, in culture, maritime and tourism.

He elaborated on the set-up of the CPPCC and took note of the proposal by Speaker Farrugia to have further cooperation between the two Parliaments. He even said that he would like to receive Members of the Maltese Parliament on a visit to China.

The two dignitaries spoke about the relations between China and the European Union and they also discussed the outcome of the last election of the European Parliament.

Attachments: photos

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The Speaker was accompanied by Edward Zammit Lewis, Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Ray Scicluna, Clerk of the House, John Aquilina, Malta's Ambassador to the PR of China, Ancel Farrugia Migneco, Personal Assistant, Eleanor Scerri, Director International Relations, Peter Paul Mallia, Director, and Giovanni Miceli, Adviser International Relations.

Liu Xincheng was accompanied by Liu Xiaobing, Full-time Vice-Chairwoman, Committee of Culture, Study and Historical Data, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Danke, Member, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Ye Dabo, Member, Committee of Culture, Study and Historical Data, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Song Jirong, Member, Committee of Culture, Study and Historical Data, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Wang Qiang, Deputy Director-General, Foreign Affairs Bureau, General Office, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Peng Yuanguo, Deputy Director-General, Liaison Bureau, General Office, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Li Qiang, Secretary; Xia Wei, Division Director, Office of the Committee of Culture, Study and Historical Data, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Wang Zhongwei, Principal Staff Member, Foreign Affairs Bureau, General Office, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Xin Qi, Principal Staff Member, Foreign Affairs Bureau, General Office, 13th National Committee, CPPCC; Wang Meng, Security Guard, and Li Jiwei, Interpreter. Cai Jinbaio, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta, was also present.