



Press Release

PR 191868

09.09.2019

PRESS RELEASE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Maltese parliamentary delegation participates in the inter-parliamentary conference for the CFSP/CSDP

A delegation of the Maltese Parliament comprising Etienne Grech and Frederick Azzopardi took part in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP) which took place in Helsinki on 4-6 September 2019 as part of the programme of meetings organised within the framework of the inter-parliamentary dimension of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

MPs Etienne Grech and Frederick Azzopardi participated actively in the general debate held in plenary. Etienne Grech spoke about the importance of peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa region in order to have peace in Europe. He emphasised the need for the EU and its Member States to do more to achieve peace in Libya, where the civil war has had a devastating effect on the country and its population with many deaths. He argued that it is crucial for the EU to do its utmost to bring peace to Libya, which in the right conditions can be prosperous. With regard to the prospects for peace in the Middle East, particularly with regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Syria it is essential to ensure stability and reconstruction in these areas and for peace efforts to continue.

Frederick Azzopardi spoke about the importance of a security policy for the EU to counter the complex set of threats and challenges which it faces, requiring well-coordinated responses by all actors involved. He stated that although there have been some improvements in strategic transport and intelligence, there remain shortfalls which need to be addressed. He further argued that whilst European countries rely on treaties dating from the cold war for peace and security in Europe, these are not cast in stone. He also spoke about the impact climate change on migration on Europe's southern border and that countries such as Malta require practical solidarity on this issue.

The next meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the CFSP/CSDP will take place in Croatia in March 2020.