



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker Farrugia receives Albanian Acting Minister for Europe And Foreign Affairs

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anglu Farrugia received a courtesy visit from Mr Gent Cakaj, the Acting Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania.

Speaker Farrugia referred to the friendly relations between Malta and Albania established diplomatically in March 1973. He said that these relations were enhanced by the state visit to Tirana by former President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca in February 2016 and the state visit to Malta in March 2018 by President of the Republic of Albania Ilir Meta.

Speaker Farrugia highlighted his visits to Tirana in February 2016, when he received the PAM Award 2015 – Excellence in the Mediterranean, and in November 2018, when he participated in the 2nd Session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace, launched in Malta in July 2018.

The two dignitaries mentioned the respective diaspora, with Speaker Farrugia recalling the good work being carried out by the fifty-strong Maltese community in Albania and Acting Minister Cakaj noting the good number of Albanians working in Malta.

Speaker Farrugia and A/Minister Cakaj discussed other issues of mutual interest including COVID-19, cooperation between the respective parliaments (particularly through the Parliamentary Friendship Group) as well as the relations between Albania and the EU, with Speaker Farrugia encouraging Albania to continue on the path of reform.

The Speaker was accompanied by Mr Ray Scicluna, Clerk of the House; Mr Ancel Farrugia Migneco, Private Secretary to Mr Speaker; Ms Eleanor Scerri, Director, International Relations, HoR; Mr Pierre Mallia, Director, HoR, and Mr Giovanni Miceli, Adviser, International Relations, HoR.

The Acting Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania was accompanied by Mrs. Anila Bitri Lani, Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the Republic of Malta; Mr Dastid Koreshi, Director of the Cabinet of the Minister; Mr Gazmend Turdiu, Director of the Region and Neighbouring Countries, and Mr Anton Koliqi, Political Counsellor.