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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

### ***Speaker Farrugia receives courtesy visit from new Egyptian Ambassador***

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia has received a courtesy visit from new Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Malta Khaled Mohammed Sameh Anis.

After welcoming the Egyptian Ambassador, Speaker Farrugia said that he looked forward to the strengthening of the very close and friendly relations that have existed between the two countries since these were established diplomatically in November 1965.

He recalled his visit to Cairo in May 2018 when he participated in the 5th Summit of Speakers of the PA UfM. He mentioned the numerous Maltese diaspora in Alexandria, Egypt, which run into thousands, but which presently amounts to between 120 and 130 Maltese citizens.

Ambassador Anis said that Egypt wanted to enhance bilateral relations with Malta in all fields as his country is undergoing a lot of development. He mentioned COP27, which will be held in Sharm el-Sheikh towards the end of 2022.

Speaker Farrugia and Ambassador Anis discussed various issues of mutual interest such as the COVID-19 situation, Libya, the Middle East Peace Process, migration and the relations with the European Union.

The numerous Egyptian diplomats who graduated in a Master's in Diplomacy at MEDAC were also mentioned in the discussion.

The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt was accompanied by Mr Abram Gad, Deputy Chief of Mission.