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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker Farrugia receives visit from Canadian Speaker

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy call from Anthony Rota, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada.

Speaker Farrugia said that Malta and Canada enjoy very good and longstanding relations which were established diplomatically on 21st December 1964. He mentioned his recent participation in the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which was held in Halifax, Canada last August. He referred to the thriving Maltese diaspora in Canada which creates an even stronger link. He also expressed Malta's appreciation for the assistance provided by Canada in relocating a group of third-country nationals.

Speaker Farrugia and Speaker Rota discussed the developments in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. Speaker Farrugia said that Malta reiterates its support to Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty and firmly rejects and unequivocally condemns the illegal annexation by Russia of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia. He added that Malta continues to support Ukraine through the delivery of medical and pharmaceutical products and by fully implementing the sanctions agreed amongst the EU Member States.

Speaker Farrugia said that all parliamentary efforts should be made to explore all possible avenues with both the Russian and Ukrainian Parliaments, leading to a peaceful solution, this in the light of Speaker Farrugia's interventions earlier this year in the IPU Assembly and the Conference of Speakers of the EU.

The two dignitaries discussed issues of mutual interest, particularly EU-Canada relations and bilateral trade. The situation in Libya, the tension between Greece and Turkey, the Palestinian situation, as well as illegal migration featured in the discussion between Speaker Farrugia and Speaker Rota.

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia was accompanied by Ray Scicluna, Clerk of the House; Ancel Farrugia Migneco, PS to the Speaker; Eleanor Scerri, Director, International Relations, HoR; Pierre Mallia, Director, HoR; Giovanni Miceli, Adviser, International Relations, HoR; and Elaine Burmingham, Research Analyst.

Speaker Anthony Rota was accompanied by Richard Cannings, Member of Parliament; Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament; Kevin Waugh, Member of Parliament; Christine Normandin, Member of Parliament; Elissa Golberg, High Commissioner of Canada to Malta; Saba Zarghami, Counsellor, High Commission of Canada to Malta; and Ariane Calvert, Secretary of Delegation.