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

***Iranian Ambassador pays farewell call on Speaker Farrugia***

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Hamad Reza Bayat, paid a farewell call on Speaker Anglu Farrugia.

Speaker Farrugia expressed his appreciation for Ambassador Bayat's efforts during his tenure of office to enhance the cordial relations that exist between Malta and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which relations had been established diplomatically in May 1972.

Ambassador Bayat said that bilateral relations are moving in the right direction and added that Maltese businesspersons were eager to do business with their Iranian counterparts, particularly in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Speaker Farrugia and Ambassador Bayat discussed topics of mutual interest, including the relations between Iran and the European Union as well as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with the Iranian Ambassador expressing the hope that agreement would be finally reached regarding the JCPOA.

Mr Hamad Reza Bayat was accompanied by Mr. Mohammad Darabi, First Counsellor for Legal Affairs and Research, at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based in Rome.