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22nd Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA

A delegation of the Maltese Parliament, comprised of Head of Delegation Amanda Spiteri Grech and members Alex Muscat and Joe Giglio participated in a meeting on the Informal Call for Action - Helsinki +50 which took place on 22 February in Vienna, Austria. The delegation then took part in the 22nd Winter Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), on 23 and 24 February, also in Vienna.

The Informal Call for Action – Helsinki +50 meeting was addressed by President of the OSCE PA Margareta Cederfelt and Secretary General Roberto Montella. Following a presentation by a panel of experts, the delegations present discussed the role of the OSCE PA, particularly in light of the war in Ukraine, as well as the way forward.

The focus of the Winter Meeting was the one-year anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The meeting was comprised of meetings of the three General Committees, a Joint Session and a Standing Committee. All sessions discussed different aspects of the war in Ukraine, ranging from the OSCE’s role in the current scenario, to the accountability for human rights abuses during times of conflict.

During the Joint Session of the Three General Committees, Joe Giglio addressed the delegates present and spoke of the relevance of the OSCE. He said that the current scenario should be a catalyst for the organisation to understand how it can enhance its relevance, and that it should also debate whether it should take on additional roles, such as the overseeing and coordination of sanctions. He spoke of the situation in Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and Crimea and ended his address stating that each country, no matter its size or its strength, has a role to play in order to ensure that the enhanced relevance of the organisation will guarantee peace.