



PR231406

20.09.2023

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

The High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Republic of Malta pays a courtesy visit to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives

High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Republic of Malta Matthew Skelly paid a courtesy visit to Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives David Agius.

During the courtesy visit, the longstanding relationship between Malta and Australia was highlighted especially due to the presence of Maltese heritage as well previous and planned visits taking place between the two countries. It was also discussed that the latest Australian census confirmed that around 230,000 Australian residents claimed Maltese heritage.

The two dignitaries discussed how they look forward to strengthening further the relations between the two respective countries, especially in fields which include education, economic trade and other elements that support conditions for peace and prosperity, climate change as well as issues related to energy and food security.

Deputy Speaker Agius was pleased with the ongoing existing strong relations between the two countries and looks forward to establishing The Malta-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The High Commission is also strongly committed to address balance between the European Union and Australia with regards to trade links especially in agriculture.

The Deputy Speaker welcomed Australia's considerations to broaden educational links with Malta as well as further cooperation to ensure more frequent shipping lines services.