



PR231480

28.09.2023

1



PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

The Speaker of the House of Representatives participates in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament held in Dublin

Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Anġlu Farrugia participated in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments held in Dublin. The Conference brings together Speakers and Presidents of Parliaments from the 46 member states of the Council of Europe as well as partner, observer and neighbouring countries and the heads of several interparliamentary assemblies.

The first theme of the Conference was: “Consequences of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and the role of National Parliaments in Ukraine’s reconstruction”. At the beginning of the discussion, the assembly observed a minute of silence in respect of the victims who lost their lives in this war.

In his intervention, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia stated that national parliaments can contribute significantly to Ukraine’s reconstruction; the importance of seeking a resolution to the conflict through diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian efforts. He also referred to other crucial issues including sanctions, security cooperation, the promotion of democracy and public awareness.

The Speaker recalled the various efforts conducted by individual countries like the USA and institutions namely the EU and OSCE aimed at procuring a ceasefire followed by a peace agreement. Unfortunately, these efforts have so far failed to achieve the desired outcomes.

Speaker Farrugia also reiterated his call expressed in Prague and during an IPU gathering. He stressed that it is imperative that a solid ceasefire agreement should be put in place ultimately aiming for a robust peace agreement to be concluded and agreed to by both sides. He also said that the role of national parliaments in assisting to formulate a ceasefire and in the mediation process is of paramount importance. It is parliaments’ responsibility to ensure that the suffering of innocent people emanating from the gruesome effects of the conflict is eliminated at the earliest possible.

Speaker Farrugia was accompanied by Mr Giovanni Buttigieg, Ambassador of Malta to Ireland.