



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### ***Maltese Parliamentary Delegation attends the Commonwealth Conference on Parliamentary Scrutiny and Oversight of National Security of the CPA in London, UK***

A parliamentary delegation comprising of MPs Carmelo Abela and Charles Azzopardi has attended the Commonwealth Conference on Parliamentary Scrutiny and Oversight of National Security. The annual conference was held between the 21 and 23 November in London, United Kingdom.

The conference was organised by the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), with the aim of providing participants with the necessary knowledge to scrutinise and deliver oversight on national security in their legislatures, and to increase their knowledge on global trends and issues on national security. The conference gave the delegates the opportunity to widen their networks by creating an open communication line to work collaboratively with their peers and share good practices in holding the executive into account.

The three-day conference consisted of 12 sessions, where delegates were able to discuss topics such as: Navigating the Global Security landscape: Exploring Emerging Trends and Challenges, Role of Parliament in Scrutinising and Overseeing National Security Laws, Strengthening Financial Oversight of the Security Sector, National Security Challenges and Solutions in Small Jurisdictions, Addressing Violence against Women and Girls in Conflict, Climate Change and National Security: Risks and Adaptation Strategies, Building Cyber Resilience: National Strategies and International Cooperation, amongst others.

As part of the programme, MPs Abela and Azzopardi were also able to follow Prime Minister's question time at the House of Commons during the parliamentary sitting on Wednesday afternoon. The conference ended with participants providing a recap of the key issues from the three-day programme. The parliamentarians present also had the opportunity to collectively develop an action plan for future collaboration, identifying areas of mutual interest and potential joint initiatives to strengthen national security within the Commonwealth and their respective parliaments.