



PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anġlu Farrugia, attends the conference on the 20th anniversary of Cyprus' accession to the European Union

On the invitation of the President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, Annita Demetriou, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anġlu Farrugia, led a delegation to Nicosia, Cyprus, from May 9 to 10, 2024. The objective of the visit was to attend the solemn event organized by the Cypriot House of Representatives to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Cyprus and Malta's simultaneous accession to the European Union in May 2024.

The conference was addressed by the President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides, and a recorded message from the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola.

At the roundtable discussion on the subject, 'Collective achievements, shared challenges, and the path forward as EU Member States: The Role of Parliaments', Speaker Anġlu Farrugia spoke about the close collaboration and similarities between Malta and Cyprus, the adverse consequences on small island states like Malta and Cyprus of the European Green Deal, and how differently Cyprus was treated to other EUMS during its bailout process.

Speaker Farrugia also explained how parliaments serve as the cornerstone of democratic governance, representing the voices of the people and providing a platform for deliberation, debate, and decision-making. Additionally, parliaments have an important role to play in promoting inclusivity and diversity by ensuring that the voices of all citizens are heard, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic status.

In the margins of the conference, the Speaker had a bilateral meeting with his Cypriot counterpart, Annita Demetriou, wherein they exchanged views on how to enhance relations between respective parliaments and specific bilateral issues between Malta and Cyprus.

The speaker-led delegation is composed of Ambassador-Advisor International Relations Joseph Cole and High Commissioner Joseph Cuschieri, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the Hellenic Republic.