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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Conclusion of the 17th Conference Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States hosted by the Parliament of Malta

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anġlu Farrugia, together with Speakers and Presidents of Parliaments or their representatives from Andorra, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, and San Marino met on 26 and 27 September 2024 for the 17th Conference Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States.

The participants took part in three sessions, namely the economic opportunities of climate change, the role of Small States in the context of multilateralism, and migration.

The session concerning the economic opportunities of climate change was moderated by the Director of the Islands and Small States Institute, University of Malta, Dr Stefano Moncada, who explained that climate change can be seen as an economic opportunity for small states, despite the significant challenges it poses, such as food and water scarcity, disease, and economic loss. Small states, due to their geographic vulnerability, face disproportionate impacts but they can adapt and find benefits through investments in renewable energy, environmental research, and new strategies.

The second session was moderated by Prof. Mark Harwood, Director of the Institute for European Studies, University of Malta, related to the role of Small States in the context of multilateralism. Prof. Harwood remarked that small states play a crucial role in the international order. Despite limited resources, they pursue similar foreign policy goals as larger states and rely heavily on multilateral diplomacy to amplify their influence. Hence, forming alliances helps small states overcome resource limitations and contribute significantly to global leadership and diplomacy.

The third and final session, was moderated by Prof. Anna Khakee, Associate Professor International Relations from the University of Malta and discussed the different situations small states are facing in the field of migration and people on the move. Amongst various perspectives, it was noted that migration, driven by factors like war, climate change, and economic opportunities, is leading to increased diversity in many countries.

At the conclusion of the conference the participants unanimously agreed on a declaration outlining a number of recommendations on the three topics of the Conference.

In 2025 the Conference will be held in Cyprus.



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
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PRESS RELEASE

Attachment: Declaration adopted by the 17th Conference of Speakers of Small European States.