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

### *Maltese delegation participates in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on EU Foreign and Security Policy*

A Maltese parliamentary delegation, composed of Edward Zammit Lewis and Adrian Delia, attended the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP) in Warsaw from 23 to 25 March 2025.

The conference, a key event under the parliamentary dimension of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, brought together representatives from the national parliaments of EU Member States and the European Parliament. Discussions focused on pressing security and defence issues, particularly in light of Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine and the broader challenges facing European stability.

Security, particularly its international and military dimensions, remained at the forefront of discussions, reflecting its central role in the Polish Presidency's agenda. Delegates engaged in debates on external hybrid threats destabilising Europe, the need to strengthen European defence capabilities, and enhancing security in the Baltic Sea region. The recently commenced institutional cycle was seen as a crucial opportunity to reassess the European Union's foreign policy priorities and security framework.

During the Conference, the Maltese delegation emphasised the need for a more strategic and coherent EU approach to global security, calling for stronger leadership in peace negotiations in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other conflict zones. They underscored Malta's commitment to international law and humanitarian principles, urging the EU to maintain consistency in its foreign policy and to prioritise diplomatic solutions. They also advocated for the immediate lifting of restrictions on humanitarian aid to Gaza and the full implementation of the ceasefire-hostage agreement.

The delegation also reaffirmed Malta's dedication to multilateralism, peacebuilding, and stability, highlighting its longstanding role as a neutral yet engaged actor in international diplomacy. They stressed the importance of reinforcing EU partnerships in the Mediterranean and Africa to address security challenges and prevent regional instability. Additionally, they called for greater youth engagement in security and diplomacy, emphasising Malta's focus on inclusivity and dialogue ahead of its upcoming Presidency of the Council of Europe.

The Conference reiterated the necessity of coordinated action among EU Member States to safeguard Europe's security interests and address evolving geopolitical challenges.