



PR260676

21.04.2026

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

### ***Members of the Malta-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group hold official meeting***

The Malta-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group met on 20 April 2026 at the House of Representatives. The meeting between the two delegations highlighted the strong and growing relationship between the two countries, with a focus on economic cooperation, tourism, migration, and demographic challenges.

Both sides underscored the positive ties between their people, noting the increasing number of Polish visitors to Malta and the presence of Polish businesses on the island. They also talked about possible strengthening of tourism flows, including the expansion of direct flight connections.

Discussions also explored opportunities for collaboration in key sectors such as maritime and aviation, including cooperation to attract more skilled workers to Malta, thus contributing to economic growth in both countries.

Tourism trends featured prominently throughout the meeting, with Maltese delegates noting that Malta welcomes over four million visitors annually, including a growing number from Poland. While some countries are introducing limits, it was confirmed that Malta is not currently considering a cap on tourism – it is focusing more on improving quality and investment within the sector.

The delegations addressed shared challenges related to rapid development, migration, and population changes, with Maltese delegates highlighting the need to balance economic growth with environmental protection, particularly in urban conservation areas. Both countries exchanged views on migration management, including efforts to combat irregular migration and criminal networks, while maintaining a strong humanitarian commitment to saving lives at sea in cooperation with partners such as Italy.

Demographic trends, particularly declining birth rates, were also discussed. Both sides agreed that addressing this issue requires long-term, comprehensive policies that support families and encourage sustainable population growth.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to deepen cooperation and maintain close dialogue on areas of mutual interest, with the aim of strengthening economic resilience and bilateral relations between Malta and Poland.

The Maltese side was represented by Members of Parliament Carmelo Abela (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Friendship Group), Ivan Castillo and Janice Chetcuti. The Polish side was represented by Mr Tomasz Głogowski, Mr Marek Matuszewski, Mr Michał Połuboczek and assisted by Mr Krzysztof Ziółkowski.