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The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Carmelo Abela, holds bilateral meetings with counterparts from Cyprus and Slovakia

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Carmelo Abela, held separate bilateral meetings with Annita Demetriou, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Cyprus, and Richard Raši, Speaker of the National Council of Slovakia, to discuss matters of mutual interest and strengthen parliamentary relations in Slovakia.

During the meeting with Speaker Demetriou, discussions focused on cooperation between Malta and Cyprus on issues of common interest at European Union level, as well as the shared interests and challenges facing Mediterranean countries.

The two Speakers also exchanged views on budgetary regulations and practices in their respective countries.

In a separate meeting with Speaker Raši, Speaker Abela emphasised the importance of maintaining close dialogue and coordination among EU Member States, particularly in the context of preparations for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The two Speakers also discussed opportunities for closer cooperation between the Netherlands, Malta and Slovakia as the three countries prepare for their respective Council Presidencies in 2030. This cooperation is particularly relevant in ensuring continuity, coordination and the advancement of shared European priorities.

The situation in Europe, particularly the ongoing war in Ukraine, also featured prominently in the discussions. Speaker Abela reiterated that Malta's neutrality does not prevent the country from speaking clearly and firmly against aggression and violations of other States' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Both meetings provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on current European and regional developments, reaffirm the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, and explore avenues for enhanced cooperation between Malta and its European partners.