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Malta and China emphasise the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in strengthening international peace and security

Speaker of the House of Representatives Carmelo Abela held a meeting with Peng Qinghua, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, as part of the longstanding and friendly relations between Malta and China.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed the importance of further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, which were established in 1972 and have continued to develop over the years across various fields, including politics, the economy, education, science and culture.

The Speaker emphasised that relations between Malta and China are built on trust, mutual respect and ongoing dialogue. He underlined the importance of continued institutional and parliamentary engagement in further consolidating this friendship and creating new opportunities for cooperation, to enhance economic and trade cooperation, with particular emphasis on investment, maritime and air connectivity, tourism, and facilitating business contacts between the two countries. The potential for further collaboration in education, research, science, innovation and cultural exchanges was also acknowledged.

The meeting provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on regional and international developments. Topics discussed included European Union-China relations and the war in Ukraine. The importance of maintaining diplomatic dialogue and multilateral efforts as key instruments for addressing international challenges was emphasised.

The meeting also addressed the trilateral summit held in Shenzhen a few days ago, which brought together the Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. In this regard, the importance of maintaining direct channels of communication between the world's major powers was acknowledged, particularly on matters concerning international peace and security, nuclear stability and global governance.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Speaker Carmelo Abela reiterated Malta's commitment to building on its positive relationship with China, while promoting dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect as essential pillars of international relations.

In this regard, Speaker Abela reiterated that the meetings in Shenzhen should be viewed as an important diplomatic development rather than a decisive breakthrough on the international issues discussed. He noted that

Chinese President Xi Jinping had assumed a facilitating role in promoting dialogue between the major powers, underlining the importance of direct communication, cooperation and the pursuit of solutions through diplomacy. Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining regular contacts and exploring further opportunities for cooperation for the mutual benefit of the peoples of both countries.