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The Speaker of the House meets with new UĦM leadership

Speaker of the House of Representatives Carmelo Abela met with representatives of UĦM – Voice of the Workers as part of a series of meetings with social partners and workers' representatives to hear their priorities, experiences, and concerns.

During the meeting, Speaker Abela congratulated UĦM and its new leadership, particularly Isabelle Farrugia, on her appointment as the first woman to serve as Chief Executive Officer of a general trade union in Malta. He extended his best wishes to all members of the leadership team in their respective responsibilities.

The Speaker highlighted the importance of keeping Parliament open, accessible and close to the people, stressing that engagement with social partners and workers' representatives forms an important part of this commitment. He also referred to his visits to companies and workplaces, which provide an opportunity to listen directly to workers and employers about their experiences and the challenges they face. In this regard, he noted that he had already visited Gozo twice and met with business representatives, adding that he intends to continue making time for such visits.

The meeting gave UĦM an opportunity to share its work and priorities, as well as its views on how awareness and participation in parliamentary life can be further strengthened.

During the meeting, UĦM President Josef Vella explained that, although the union had undergone a complete revision of its statute over the past ten years, its objectives had remained unchanged. He also referred to the agreement between UĦM and the University of Malta to support specific areas of study and invited the Speaker and Parliament to put forward ideas and proposals.

Speaker Abela reiterated the importance of dialogue and direct engagement with different sectors of society, noting that such meetings help strengthen the relationship between Parliament, social partners, and the wider community.