



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PARLIAMENT OF MALTA

ANNUAL REPORT

2012



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

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***‘There shall be a Parliament of Malta which shall consist of
the President and a House of Representatives’.***
[Article 51 of the Constitution of Malta]

***‘Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may make laws for the peace,
order and good government of Malta in conformity with full respect for human rights,
generally accepted principles of international law and Malta’s international and
regional obligations in particular those assumed by the treaty of accession to the
European Union signed in Athens on the 16th April, 2003’.***
[Article 65 (1) of the Constitution of Malta]

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FOREWORD

The House of Representatives is presenting the annual report covering its work during the year 2012, the last one for the 11th Legislature.

As in the past years, the report highlights the work of the Members of Parliament in various fora, both locally in the plenary and committees, as well as abroad in inter-parliamentary meetings. In addition to its primary role of enacting laws and holding the Executive to account, Parliament was involved in various other activities aimed at promoting democratic values and bringing civil society closer to Parliament, such as during the Youth Parliament, the *eko-skola* activity, Parliament for persons with special needs and the *Notte Bianca* events, which have now become annual appointments in the parliamentary calendar.

Parliament requires more and more resources to be able to carry out its work effectively. Parliament is at the moment in the process of strengthening its internal structures in order to be able to offer more and better services to the Members of Parliament so as to assist them in carrying out their work. One of our objectives is that of strengthening the current research analysts section in a way that the assistance which till now was only available to the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs and to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs be extended to all committees of the House as well as MPs taking part in international conferences. With the setting up of new committees, the need was also felt to employ additional committee clerks to provide logistical support to the Chairpersons and the Members of the committees. This need is being felt ever more with the new parliamentary committees that are being set up and the greater involvement of Members of Parliament in inter-parliamentary activities. At the beginning of 2012 Parliament appointed for the first time a representative based in Brussels in order to follow more closely what is going on in the European Institutions and to keep Members of Parliament updated in this respect.

Efforts are also being made to further increase the transparency of parliamentary work. After the introduction of audio-streaming of parliamentary debates back in 2003, in 2012 Parliament introduced video-streaming of committee meetings on the Parliament's website thereby providing the public with the facility to visually follow the committees' proceedings. The number of visitors who use the live streaming facility as well as those users who use the on-demand facility after the meetings are adjourned, are evidence that this initiative was well-received.

The next challenge is to provide better access to the parliamentary debates via mobile devices and to make use of the various social media, thereby opening up Parliament further and making it more accessible. In spite of the fact that greater attention is being given to these new media, our Office is committed to keep on making available hard copies of all of its documents so as not to further contribute to the digital divide, but remains accessible to those sections of society who do not have access to or are not computer literate.

Raymond Scicluna
Clerk of the House

1. HOUSE BUSINESS

1.1 Overview

In 2012, the House met 101 times in plenary to pass 26 Acts of Parliament, as well as to discuss various motions presented, including 13 Private Members' motions. On 74 occasions, the House availed itself of the half-hour adjournment time at the end of the parliamentary sitting, equally divided between Government and Opposition members. A general debate on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, was held on 26 June.

In December 2012, the Parliament of Malta welcomed a new member, Hon. Michael Asciani, who was elected to Parliament from the 8th Electoral District following the resignation of Hon. Tonio Borg as Member of Parliament to take up Office as European Commissioner.

During 2012, quorum was called once. In this instance, the sitting was resumed after 15 minutes in accordance with a parliamentary procedure motion after the Speaker ascertained that there was the necessary quorum of 15 Members in the House as provided for in the Standing Orders.

In addition, 140 meetings of standing and select committees were held throughout the year discussing a range of issues as described in Sections 2 and 3 of this report, including 24 meetings of the Standing Committee for the Consideration of Bills.

In 2012, the House received 65 motions including 28 motions of bills for first reading.

On 15 October, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Joseph Muscat, called upon the Speaker to rule that the House be adjourned in terms of Standing Order 13 in order to debate Government's acquisition of St Philip's Hospital. The Speaker ruled that the criteria to suspend the parliamentary agenda were met and a debate was subsequently held in the House.

On 23 October, Hon. Franco Debono called upon the Speaker to rule that the House be adjourned in terms of Standing Order 13 in order to debate the developments ensuing from the resignation of Mr John Dalli from his post of European Commissioner. The House agreed that this issue will be debated at the opportune moment.

Ten ministerial statements were delivered to the House as shown in Section 1.4 of this report.

Four rulings from the Chair were delivered relating to the procedures in the House and its Committees. The use of the casting vote by the Chair was required on one occasion. Details of these rulings can be found in Section 1.8 of this report.

7,679 parliamentary questions were submitted in 2012. 7,584 questions, requiring an oral reply, were raised and answered, whereas out of 95 parliamentary questions requiring a written reply, 76 were answered in 2012.

2,157 documents were laid on the Table of the House, 452 of which were legal notices.

Five petitions were presented as per details shown in Section 1.5 of this report.

During the year under review, 52 divisions were taken, including divisions at the various stages of the parliamentary legislative process.

The website of the House of Representatives www.parlament.mt received a monthly average of 14,677 hits throughout 2012.

Through the scrutiny exercise of legislative proposals issued by the European Commission, the Standing Committee for Foreign and European Affairs examined 187 legislative and non-legislative proposals, six of which were retained for further information from the pertinent Government Ministries.

A number of legislative proposals, totalling 110, issued by the European Commission were also subjected to a scrutiny exercise throughout 2012, in terms of the principle of subsidiarity by the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs. The Parliament of Malta made use of the powers vested in national parliaments through Protocol 2 of the Lisbon Treaty to transmit a reasoned opinion to the Presidents of the European Parliament, of the Council, and of the European Commission signalling a breach of the principle of subsidiarity, in respect of legislative proposal COM (2012) 130 concerning a proposal for a Council Regulation on the exercise of the right to take collective action within the context of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services.

The Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs also deemed it necessary to transmit an opinion to the President of the European Commission concerning legislative proposal COM (2012) 280 relative to a proposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and investment firms and amending Directives 77/91/EC and 82/891/EC, Directives 2001/24/EC, 2002/47/EC, 2004/25/EC, 2005/56/EC, 2007/36/EC and 2011/35/EC, and Regulation (EU) No. 1093/2010.

One of the highlights of 2012 was the hosting in Malta of the 7th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), held on 12 and 13 October 2012, which was co-organised by the Parliament of Malta and the secretariat of the PAM housed at Palazzo Spinola in St Julian's. A number of delegates from 20 Mediterranean littoral countries including Malta, and representatives of international organisations amongst which the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Consultative Council of the Maghreb, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and the Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, participated at this plenary session.

An important decision taken in 2012 was for the Parliament, for the first time, to appoint a Representative of the Parliament of Malta liaising with the European Parliament and the other European Institutions in Brussels at the beginning of January.

With regard to the Parliament's outreach programme, in addition to receiving several groups of school children, Maltese and foreign students interested in the House of Representatives and its functions, parliamentary officials also received varied groups and private individuals, not least, 8,875 visitors on the *Notte Bianca* event held on 29 September 2012.

During the year under review the "Parliament of Malta Foundation" was set up as a registered foundation vested with separate legal personality.

The foundation's objectives are to cultivate the institutional memory of Maltese parliamentary and constitutional history; to contribute, through its work, towards the enrichment of the collective memory of the Maltese nation, thereby, enhancing the people's sense of identity; to promote and enhance the parliamentary institution and propagate knowledge of the functions and workings of parliament and its relevance to citizens; and to foster representative democracy and democratic values in general.

In order to achieve these objectives the foundation may organize exhibitions, conferences, outreach programmes and commission studies related to contemporary and historical parliamentary activities. It is envisaged that these activities shall be made possible through sponsors and other non-commercial activities.

The Foundation shall be administered by a Board of Administrators, composed of the Members of the Standing Committee on House Business and former Members of Parliament as appointed by the Standing Committee on House Business. The Board of Administrators shall be assisted by a *comité d'honneur* consisting of Speakers Emeriti.

As in previous years, this report gives an overview of the work carried out by the House of Representatives and its members.

- Section 1 provides statistical information relating to this work;
- Section 2 provides details of the standing committees of the House;
- Section 3 shows the work carried out by the select committees of the House;
- Section 4 provides information on the international activities engaged in by the members in 2012;
- Section 5 contains information regarding the activities of the Association of Former Members of Parliament;
- Section 6 provides information on activities involving the House of Representatives, not directly related to the legislative function and scrutiny of the Parliament; and
- Section 7 lists the instances where the House commemorated former Members of Parliament who have passed away during the year under review.

1.1.1 New initiatives taken by Parliament in 2012

During 2012, the Maltese Parliament also undertook a number of initiatives with the aim of increasing efficiency in parliamentary work and enhancing the role of Members of Parliament. These included:

- *The appointment of a Representative of the Parliament of Malta to the European Parliament and European Institutions:* an official from the House of Representatives, Ms Eleanor Scerri, Research Analyst with the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, was appointed representative of the Parliament of Malta liaising with the European Parliament and the other European Union institutions, with an office in the European Parliament, following a decision of the House Business Committee late in 2011.
- *The setting up of a Parliamentary Group on the European Capital of Culture:* the first meeting of this Group took place on 8 November 2012, during which it discussed the impact such a prestigious title – European Capital of Culture - will have on the work of the House as well as on the wider political activity in Malta and Gozo, in view of the preparation, organisation, management and implementation of the event. The Parliamentary Group was composed of Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech (Chairman), Hon. David Agius, Hon. Evarist Bartolo and Hon. Owen Bonnici. The first meeting was addressed by Hon. Mario de Marco, Minister for Tourism, Culture and the Environment.
- *Video streaming of committee meetings:* following a decision by the House Business Committee in 2011, the meetings of the parliamentary committees started to be video streamed on the Parliament's website during the year under review, with the first video streaming session of a parliamentary committee meeting taking place on 7 May 2012. The first video streamed meeting was the 31st meeting of the Select Committee on the Re-codification and Consolidation of Laws, chaired by Hon. Franco Debono.
- On 12 April 2012, the Hon. Speaker launched an official workbook entitled *Il-Parlament Malti: Kif Beda, x'inhu u x'jagħmel* as part of the initiatives undertaken

to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Parliament of Malta. This workbook, sponsored by APS Bank Malta, was distributed to secondary school students to foster knowledge of parliamentary democracy in appreciation of its role as a Constitutional Institution.

- The House of Representatives also launched a DVD entitled *Il-Parlament Malti: Kif beda, x'inh u x'jagħmel*, as part of the initiatives undertaken to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Parliament of Malta. The DVD, sponsored by Palumbo Shipyards, also features interviews with all living former Speakers of the House of Representatives.
- *Gender Mainstreaming*: the Parliament of Malta has strived to provide a working environment that is equal to both sexes, helping its employees manage a healthy work-family balance by offering family friendly measures. Currently, over 20% of the staff complement avail themselves of family friendly measures, including telework, parental leave, flexi-time and reduced hours. Throughout 2012, three staff members from the House of Representatives received training provided by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality. It is envisaged that such training will resume in 2013. Following these seminars, the Human Resources Section started keeping gender disaggregated statistics with regard to its employees.
- *Petitions*: on 28 March 2012, the Hon. Speaker presented a Memorandum to the House Business Committee, with the aim of formulating the procedure to be adopted following the presentation of petitions in the House of Representatives. The Memorandum was still under consideration by the House Business Committee at the end of the year.
- *Standing Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs*: since the breakout of the financial crisis in Europe, the economic and financial situation of the European economies has taken on increasingly more importance. Since the Maltese Parliament did not have any procedure for discussing certain reports, including those which are at times forwarded for information purposes by international organisations relating to the economy, on 5 July the Hon. Speaker recommended that the House Business Committee discuss the establishment of a Standing Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, to consider the repercussions on the economy resulting from local, European or international decisions or recommendations, and the scrutiny of reports originating locally, from multilateral organisations and from the European Union. In the Memorandum the Speaker proposed that the Chair and members of the Committee represent the Maltese Parliament at interparliamentary meetings dealing with economic affairs and be allocated its own research analyst. The Memorandum was still under consideration by the House Business Committee at the end of 2012.
- *Parliamentary Scrutiny of the United Nations and its Organisations*: traditionally, the area of foreign affairs has been a matter of intergovernmental cooperation and has so far had limited or no scope for parliamentary involvement. In the majority of parliaments, the Foreign Affairs Committee is the main organ that studies UN issues, with either the requirement or the understanding that the government provides all requested information, including by means of parliamentary questions. A number of parliaments regularly receive reports from their governments on relations with the UN, not least considering the fact that certain UN agreements entered into by government require ratification by Parliament. A Memorandum presented by the Hon. Speaker to the Standing Committee on House Business on 1 October 2012, suggests that the Maltese Parliament tries to improve its involvement in UN affairs. A number of options were identified, namely: (a) a Statement to the House by the

Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning the outcome of the annual General Assembly meetings; (b) a regular UN activity report issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Parliament to be considered by the Foreign and European Affairs Committee; (c) participation by two members of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Malta at the UN General Assembly with the official Maltese delegation; and (d) maintaining contacts with the UN desk officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Memorandum was still under consideration by the House Business Committee at the end of 2012.

1.2 Legislative Programme

During 2012, 26 Acts were enacted by Parliament, seven of which were principal acts and 19 amendment acts.

1.2.1 New legislation and objectives behind the following bills

- **Act V of 2012 – The Budget Measures Implementation Act**

The objects of this Bill are to implement various Budget measures and other administrative measures.

- **Act VI of 2012 – The Collective Proceedings Act**

The object of this Bill is to enable the institution of collective proceedings for infringements of laws in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

- **Act X of 2012 – The Sustainable Development Act**

The objects of this Bill are to mainstream sustainable development across the workings of government, to raise awareness of sustainable development issues and practices across society and to promote the adoption thereof, as well as to set up a Guardian of Future Generations.

- **Act XI of 2012 – The Crimes against the Environment Act**

The object of this Bill is to implement Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the protection of the environment through criminal law.

- **Act XII of 2012 – The Participation and Granting of Financial Stability Support under the European Stability Mechanism Act**

The objects and reasons of this Bill are to allow the Government of Malta to participate and grant financial stability support under the European Stability Mechanism.

- **Act XXI of 2012 – The Embryo Protection Act**

The objects of this Bill are to regulate the procedure relating to medically assisted procreation and to protect human embryos.

- **Act XXII of 2012 – The Mental Health Act**

The object of this Bill is to make provision in respect of mental health including the rights of patients receiving mental health care and the duties and procedures applicable to persons responsible for such care.

1.2.2 Amendment Acts and objectives behind the following amendment bills

- **Act I of 2012 – The Social Security (Amendment) Act**

The object of this Bill is to improve the provisions of the Social Security Act with respect to providing for a more equitable manner for diverse groups of persons to avail themselves of early retirement schemes, the supplementary allowance, and the additional bonus. It also provides for changes to current criteria applicable to persons registered as unemployed to undertake community work and provides for the setting up of a competent authority responsible for state-owned hostels for the care and welfare of persons with disability. In addition, it extends the list of diseases and conditions in respect of which free medical aid may be accorded.

- **Act II of 2012 – The Various Laws (Disability Matters) (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to make provision for the enactment of an amendment Act in order to enable the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and with the wider scope of further improving upon the strong legislative framework applicable to persons with a disability with a view to enhancing its relevance to the realities currently faced by persons with a disability.

- **Act III of 2012 – The Government Borrowing and Granting of Loans to the Hellenic Republic (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to make provision, in the Government Borrowing and Granting of Loans to the Hellenic Republic (Amendment) Act, for the inclusion of the agreement entered into in Brussels on the 27 February 2012, which agreement amends the previous agreement which had been entered into in Brussels on the 14 June 2011.

- **Act IV of 2012 – The Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to implement changes to the composition of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development.

- **Act VII of 2012 – The European Union (Amendment) Act**

The purpose of this Bill is to make article 2(2) of the European Union Act applicable to the new Simplified Revision Procedure to amend the Treaty, introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

- **Act VIII of 2012 – The Criminal Code (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to amend the Criminal Code to introduce offences in relation to gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race etc., and to increase punishments therefor, and to also amend the Press Act.

- **Act IX of 2012 – The Equality for Men and Women (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to provide for and to regulate discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, racial or ethnic origin, or gender identity, and to define self-employed workers and the spouses of self-employed workers.

- **Act XIII of 2012 – The Education (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to make provision for the updating of various parts in the Education Act which are required for the better functioning of the educational sectors concerned, namely schools

within compulsory education, examinations, the teaching profession and further and higher education. In particular, the Bill aims to upgrade the relevant definitions of the Act with the aim of providing a clearer picture of the various aspects of the further and higher education and with a view to reflecting European and national developments in this field. It also serves to attribute additional functions to the National Commission on Higher Education in order for it to be able to undertake functions relating to qualifications, recognition, licensing, accreditation and quality assurance of further and higher education. This serves to streamline the various regulatory and policy functions within further and higher education into one single entity and to enable the adoption of subsidiary legislation in related areas in order to regulate the sector.

- **Act XIV of 2012 – The General Elections (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to update the provisions of the General Elections Act to take into consideration the voting process to be undertaken in hospitals and retirement homes. The Bill also provides for changes in the publication of the Electoral Register, the registration of voters and the collection of voting documents.

- **Act XV of 2012 – The Civil Code (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to give rights to married women to re-adopt the surname of her predeceased spouse and for the court to order the consent to a genetic paternity test whenever the natural parentage of a child is required to establish the paternity of the child.

- **Act XVI of 2012 – The Employment and Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to clarify a number of provisions of the Employment and Industrial Relations Act.

- **Act XVII of 2012 – The Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act**

The objects and reasons of this Bill are the making of amendments to the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure for the purpose of explicitly providing for the right of appeal from decisions of the Civil Court (Family Section) and for removing obstacles to the hearing of causes which arise when a party to a cause dies or where there are many plaintiffs or defendants to a cause and to provide for a right of appeal when the production of a document which is an exempt document in terms of article 637(4) of the Code is ordered in a court of first instance.

- **Act XVIII of 2012 – The Various Laws (Classification of Films and Dramatic and other Stage Productions) (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to facilitate the establishment of a system for the classification of cinema and dramatic and other stage productions, and to transfer the laws regulating the classification of cinema and dramatic and other stage productions from the competence of the Ministry responsible for the police to the competence of the Ministry responsible for culture.

- **Act XIX of 2012 – The Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives (Amendment) Act**

The object of this Bill is to extend the transitory period regarding the applicability of certain new requisites for candidates intending to sit for the qualifying examination leading to the warrant to practise as notaries. The Bill also clarifies a number of provisions of the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act and of Act XXIV of 2011 which amends it.

- **Act XX of 2012 – The Explosives Ordinance (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to introduce amendments to the Explosives Ordinance with a view to exercise stricter controls on the persons permitted to obtain a licence to be involved in the manufacture and production of explosives.

- **Act XXIII of 2012 – The Probation (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to transpose Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA of 27 November 2008 as amended by Council Framework Decision 2009/299/JHA of 26 February 2009 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions.

- **Act XXIV of 2012 – The Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure and the Civil Code (Amendment) Act**

The proposed amendments introduce the system of guardianship for those persons with disability or a mental disorder needing support to various extents in order to manage their own affairs and give due account to the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which Malta intends to ratify.

- **Act XXV of 2012 – The Data Protection (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are the introduction of administrative fines and the further rationalisation of the enforcement of the Data Protection Act, in order to provide for a more efficient and proportionate system of enforcement of the Act and a further degree of legal certainty.

- **Act XXVI of 2012 – The Education (Amendment) Act**

The objects of this Bill are to clarify, within the Education Act, matters relating to the juridical personality of the University of Malta and the powers vested in it in this regard.

1.3 Parliamentary Questions

7,679 parliamentary questions were submitted in 2012. 7,584 questions, requiring an oral reply, were raised and answered, whereas out of 96 parliamentary questions requiring a written reply, 76 were answered in 2012.

1.4 Ministerial Statements

The following 10 ministerial statements were delivered in the House during 2012:

Sitting No. 441 – 1 February – Statement by the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, on the Informal European Council of 30 January 2012

Sitting No. 449 – 22 February – Statement by the Minister of Finance, the Economy and Investment, Hon. Tonio Fenech, on the Eurogroup meeting of 20 February 2012 and the decision of the Eurogroup on Greece

Sitting No. 454 – 6 March – Statement by the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, on the European Council of 1-2 March 2012

Sitting No. 491 – 19 June – Statement by the Minister of Finance, the Economy and Investment, Hon. Tonio Fenech, on the financial situation in Spain

Sitting No. 497 – 3 July – Statement by the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, on the European Council of 28-29 June 2012

Sitting No. 505 – 8 October – Statement by the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, on the Summit of the Western Mediterranean Forum (5+5 Dialogue) held in Malta on 5-6 October 2012

Sitting No. 509 – 16 October – Statement by the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, on the resignation of Mr John Dalli as a member of the European Commission

Sitting No. 511 – 22 October – Statement by the Minister of Finance, the Economy and Investment, Hon. Tonio Fenech, on the damage caused to the turbines in the Delimara Power Station extension

Sitting No. 514 – 29 October – Statement by the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, on the European Council held on 18-19 October 2012

Sitting No. 528 – 26 November – Statement by the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, on the European Council held on 22-23 November 2012.

1.5 Petitions

During 2012, the following five petitions were deposited in Parliament:

Sitting No. 460 – 26 March – Petition presented by Hon. Philip Mifsud on behalf of owners of property in the area known as Ħal Mula, in Ħaż Żebbuġ, about the rescheduling of an area from an industrial to an area of mixed use by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority

Sitting No. 461 – 27 March – Petition presented by Hon. Noel Farrugia on behalf of the residents from the area known as Tas-Salib, limits of Rabat, Malta, on alleged abuse by a person working as a sprayer and mechanic

Sitting No. 466 – 30 April – Petition presented by Hon. Anġlu Farrugia on behalf of residents of Triq id-Dawr and Triq l-Istringell, Mosta, for the resumption of roads' resurfacing which was stopped by Mosta Local Council

Sitting No. 486 – 4 June – Petition presented by Hon. Leo Brincat on behalf of several thousands of citizens for the revocation of development permit PA 05560/05 in the Mosta valley

Sitting No. 505 – 8 October – Petition presented by Hon. Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando on behalf of a number of residents of Rabat, Malta, regarding the privatisation of the parking area in Anton Agius Square, known as Kola's Field, and the parking area near the Mdina Main Gate.

1.6 Motions

The Office of the Clerk received 65 motions during the year under review, 28 of which were for first readings of bills. Out of the total number of motions presented, 13 motions were private members' motions.

Other than motions for first reading of bills and a number of motions regarding the approval of the estimates of various government authorities and entities, as well as the approval of a number of

transfers of government property to be utilised and managed by private entities and non-profit-making/charitable organisations, a number of other motions deposited in Parliament during 2012 included a proposal for judicial reform, car parks privatisation, the scrutiny of the Government contract for the acquisition of St Philip's Hospital, a proposal of an amendment to the Standing Orders to include an independent member of parliament in the House Business Committee, political party financing and the role of the former Permanent Representative of Malta to the European Union. Two motions, one of no confidence in the Government submitted by the Opposition, and another of confidence in the Government submitted by the Prime Minister, were also presented and debated in the House.

Motions were also presented in connection with the ratification of the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union; a motion for a Bill concerning Government Borrowing and Granting of Loans to the Hellenic Republic; a motion to ratify the Treaty on European Stability, Coordination and Governance signed in Brussels on 2 March 2012; a motion for a Bill to implement Directive 2008/99/EC of 19 November 2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning environmental protection through the criminal code; a motion to authorise Malta's participation in the European Stability Mechanism; and a motion to authorise a Prime Ministerial order for the approval of Council Decision 2011/99/EU of 25 March 2011 to amend Article 136 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union concerning a stability mechanism for the Eurozone.

The 13 private members' motions received were the following:

- Motion No. 286 – Vote of no confidence in the Government, presented by Hon. Anglu Farrugia and Hon. Joe Mizzi
- Motion No. 287 to adjourn the House of Representatives for Thursday, 19 January 2012 to discuss the motion of no confidence in the Government (Motion No. 286) - presented by Hon. Anglu Farrugia and Hon. Joe Mizzi
- Motion No. 288 on party financing, presented by Hon. Franco Debono
- Motion No. 301 concerning the Permanent Representative of Malta to the European Union, presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil
- Motion No. 302 presented by Hon. Joe Mizzi, to adjourn the House of Representatives for the next day to discuss the motion on reforms in the justice and home affairs sectors (Motion No. 280) submitted by Hon. Josè Herrera and Hon. Michael Falzon
- Motion No. 303 presented by Hon. Joe Mizzi, to adjourn the House of Representatives until the next day to discuss Motion No. 301 concerning the Permanent Representative of Malta to the European Union
- Motion No. 322 on the sustainability of industrial development in the Birzebbuga/Marsaxlokk area, in particular concerning the Enemalta Petroleum Plant in Birzebbuga and the Delimara Power Station, presented by Hon. Franco Debono
- Motion No. 327 on the privatisation of car parks, presented by Hon. Joseph Sammut
- Motion No. 330 to censure Hon. Austin Gatt, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communication, relating to the privatisation of car parks, presented by Hon. Franco Debono
- Motion No. 331 to adjourn the House of Representatives for the next day to discuss the motion on the privatisation of car parks (Motion No. 327), presented by Hon. Joe Mizzi

- Motion No. 332 to adjourn the House of Representatives for the next day to discuss the motion to censure the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communication, relating to the privatisation of car parks (Motion No. 330), presented by Hon. Joe Mizzi
- Motion No. 335 requesting the revision of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, parliamentary scrutiny of the acquisition by Government of St. Philip's Hospital, enhancement of parliamentary scrutiny of Government operations and to discuss Motion No. 288 on the financing of political parties, presented by Hon. Franco Debono
- Motion No. 336 to amend the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives to include Hon. Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando, Independent Member of Parliament, in the composition of the Standing Committee on House Business, presented by Hon. Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando.

Other motions of significant importance presented during the course of 2012, were:

- Motion No. 286 – Motion of no confidence in the Government, presented by Hon. Anglu Farrugia and Hon. Joe Mizzi
- Motion No. 309 – Motion of confidence in the Government, presented by Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister
- Motion No. 314 – First reading motion to regulate cohabitation, presented by Hon. Chris Said, Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family
- Motion No. 316 – First reading motion to provide protection to human embryos (also referred to as the IVF Bill), presented by Hon. Chris Said, Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family. This bill was discussed and approved from all stages and subsequently published as an Act of Parliament.

1.7 Papers Laid

In 2012, a total of 2,157 documents were laid on the Table of the House, 452 of which were legal notices. The majority of the remaining documents were replies given to parliamentary questions submitted by Members of Parliament to the various Ministers and annual reports and financial statements of government entities and corporations.

A number of documents were tabled by the Speaker. These documents included reports received from the Office of the Ombudsman and from the National Audit Office, replies to parliamentary questions submitted to the Speaker, the Annual Review of the House of Representatives for 2011, the letter of resignation of Hon. Tonio Borg from Member of Parliament to take up his role as European Commissioner and the letter of resignation of Hon. Jesmond Mugliett from Member of the National Audit Office Accounts Committee. The Speaker also laid on the Table of the House the replies to the reasoned opinion submitted by the Parliament of Malta in respect of the legislative proposal for a Council Regulation on the exercise of the right to take collective action within the context of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services (COM (2012) 130), and to the reasoned opinion in respect of the legislative proposal for a Council Directive on a Common System of Financial Transaction Tax and amending Directive 2008/7/EC (COM (2011) 594 final) from the European Commission. He also presented to the House the interim report on the work carried out by the Select Committee, chaired by the Speaker, that gathered facts on the black dust issue in the South of Malta.

1.8 Rulings

In 2012, the Speaker of the House gave four rulings on issues raised by Members during debates in plenary as well as during committee meetings. The rulings given by the Chair were the following:

- *Sitting No. 440 – 26 January* – Explanation of casting vote by the Hon. Speaker in respect of a motion of no confidence in Government presented by the Opposition
- *Sitting No. 474 – 16 May* – Ruling delivered by the Hon. Speaker on a point raised by Hon. Joe Mizzi on the procedure to be adopted by the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs during its consideration of Motion No. 301 concerning the Permanent Representative of Malta to the European Union as submitted by the Opposition
- *Sitting No. 482 – 29 May* – Ruling delivered by the Hon. Speaker on a point raised by Hon. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the admissibility of an amendment to a censure/confidence motion in the Minister responsible for justice and home affairs
- *Sitting No. 505 – 8 October* – Ruling delivered by the Hon. Speaker on a point raised by Hon. Joe Mizzi with regard to the admissibility of an adjournment motion by the Opposition.

1.9 Parliamentary Whips

Parliamentary Whips are Members of Parliament appointed by each political party represented in the House of Representatives to facilitate the contribution of the parliamentary political group to parliamentary business, so that it can proceed smoothly. By virtue of the nature of this role, both Whips are members of the House Business Committee.

Another responsibility of the Parliamentary Whips is to ensure the regular presence in Parliament of Members in their respective parliamentary group, especially when votes are taken and when divisions are called.

Whips are also responsible for keeping members in their respective parliamentary group informed about the business of the House, propose members to serve on standing and select committees and also nominate members on delegations participating at meetings abroad.

Hon. David Agius served as Government Whip whilst Hon. Joe Mizzi as Opposition Whip.



Hon. David Agius
Government Whip



Hon. Joe Mizzi
Opposition Whip

1.10 Leader of the House

The Leader of the House is defined in the Standing Orders as being the Minister responsible for Parliamentary Affairs. By virtue of this role, the Leader of the House is primarily responsible for the arrangement of Government business in the House, and for setting the parliamentary schedule of the House together with the Government and the Opposition Whips during the meetings of the House Business Committee, presided by the Speaker of the House.

Throughout 2012, the role of the Leader of the House was occupied by three different Ministers, namely:

- Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Minister of Home Affairs, until 30 May 2012 when he resigned from his ministerial post;
- Hon. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, from 30 May 2012 until his resignation from Member of Parliament on 28 November 2012, to take up his role as European Commissioner; and
- Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech, Minister of Foreign Affairs, from 28 November 2012.



Seminar with the topic 'The Democratic Process in the Mediterranean and the Middle East', which was held under the auspices of the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 2 March 2012



Courtesy call on Mr Speaker by HE Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, Ambassador of the United States of America, on 9 May 2012

2. STANDING COMMITTEES

The standing committees of the House, established with the cooperation and approval of both sides of the House in 1995, are of particular relevance in the workings of the House of Representatives. The standing committees, which are an extension of the House itself, have provided that professional touch to various issues discussed.

The standing committees have furthermore introduced an element of consultation with civil society. Technical experts and representatives from various organisations are invited to discuss and contribute through their expertise on particular subjects. More than that, meetings of the standing committees are open to the public and the media and are audio and video streamed, the latter as from 2012, on the parliamentary website, thus facilitating an even closer relationship between the people and their elected representatives in Parliament.

Committees may submit recommendations to the House for its consideration.

In 2012 the House had seven standing committees, namely:

- Standing Committee on House Business
- Standing Committee on Privileges
- Standing Committee on Public Accounts
- Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs
- Standing Committee on Social Affairs
- Standing Committee for the Consideration of Bills
- Standing Committee for Family Affairs.

The Standing Committee for Family Affairs was set up during the 11th Legislature following motion 213 presented by Hon. Carmelo Abela, Hon. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and Hon. Justyne Caruana and approved in Sitting 358 on 2 June 2011 at the height of the debate for the introduction of divorce legislation in Malta, during which it became increasingly evident that the family in Malta was facing a number of challenges and difficulties for which assistance was not always available.

The Environment and Development Planning Act (2010), Cap. 504, and the Auditor General and National Audit Office Act (1997), Cap. 396, provide for the setting up of the Standing Committee on Environment and Development Planning and the National Audit Office Accounts Committee, respectively.

2.1 Standing Committee on House Business

The Standing Committee on House Business was set up by way of Motion No. 9 of 12 May 2008, and in 2012 was composed as follows:



Hon. Michael Frendo

Chairperson Hon. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Members Leader of the House
Hon. David Agius
Hon. Frederick Azzopardi
Hon. Anglu Farrugia
Hon. Joe Mizzi

‘120C. (1) Unless otherwise determined by the House, the Standing Committee on House Business, shall have power to:

- (a) distribute Bills and other business among the Standing Committee appointed in accordance with the provisions of Standing Orders 96, 120A and 120B;
- (b) (i) determine the number of sittings to be allotted for the consideration of a Bill by a Standing Committee;
- (ii) allocate business to each sitting of a Standing Committee; and
- (iii) determine the time when any business, if not previously concluded, shall be concluded by a Standing Committee; and
- (c) consider all matters of procedure and business of the House, and report its opinion thereon to the House from time to time.

(2) A report of all resolutions carried by the Standing Committee on House Business shall be made to the House at the next sitting after a resolution is carried, immediately after Question Time, and shall be recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings of the House.

(3) (a) The Standing Committee on House Business shall be constituted of the Leader of the House, two members nominated by the Prime Minister and two members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

(b) Three members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

(4) Alternate members shall also be appointed for each member of the Standing Committee on House Business and the provisions of paragraph (4) of Standing Order 120B shall also apply.

(5) The Standing Committee on House Business shall be chaired by the Speaker who shall not vote unless on any question the votes are equally divided, in which case he shall have and exercise a casting vote.’

The principal task of this Committee is to organise the business of the House by distributing bills and other work to the other standing committees and the House, establishing and scheduling the number of sittings to be allocated to parliamentary debates and to consider other procedural issues. Correspondence received by the Speaker is also brought to the attention of the Committee.

The Standing Committee on House Business was convened 13 times in 2012.

Besides procedural House Business, the Committee also discussed the following:

- guidelines relating to the video streaming of parliamentary committee meetings
- the *Ombudsplan* for the year 2012
- the allocation of parliamentary sittings for debating various motions, namely, the no confidence motion in Government presented by the Opposition, the motion regarding the Permanent Representative of Malta to the European Union presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, the motion relating to the European Stability Mechanism and the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance, the motion on reforms in the justice and home affairs sectors presented by Hon. Josè Herrera and Hon. Michael Falzon and the motion regarding the transfer of property in Valletta to Malita Investments p.l.c.

- the DVD entitled *Il-Parlament Malti: Kif Beda, X'inhu u X'jagħmel*, as part of the initiatives undertaken to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Parliament of Malta
- the setting up of the Parliament of Malta Foundation
- memorandum on the setting up of a Standing Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs
- memorandum on the parliamentary scrutiny of the United Nations and its organisations
- memorandum on the parliamentary procedure to be adopted in respect of petitions once they are presented by the Members on behalf of the general public.

2.2 Standing Committee on Privileges

The Standing Committee on Privileges was set up by way of Motion No. 17 of 2 June 2008, and in 2012 was composed as follows:



Hon. Michael Frendo

Chairperson Hon. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Members Leader of the House
 Hon. Owen Bonnici
 Hon. Anġlu Farrugia
 Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami
 Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech

- ‘120D. (1) The Standing Committee on Privileges shall have power to consider cases referred to it by the Speaker or by the House and to take such decisions and to make such recommendations as provided in the Standing Orders and in the House of Representatives (Privileges and Powers) Ordinance or in any law from time to time substituting the said Ordinance.
- (2) The Standing Committee shall be constituted of the Leader of the House, two Members nominated by the Prime Minister and two members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.
- (3) The provisions of paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of Standing Order 120C shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the Standing Committee on Privileges.
- (4) The Standing Committee on Privileges shall, without prejudice to the provision of the Standing Order 164, have power and authority to summon witnesses and order the production of documents before it. The Standing Committee on Privileges may request the attendance of the Attorney General or of his representative, who may also be authorized to participate in the proceedings, but he shall in no case have a vote thereat.’

The Standing Committee on Privileges did not meet in 2012.

2.3 Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts was set up by Motion No. 16 of 2 June 2008, amended by Motion No. 51 and subsequently by Motion No. 185, and in the year under review was composed as follows:



Hon. Charles Mangion

Chairperson Hon. Charles Mangion

Members Hon. Robert Arrigo
Hon. Evarist Bartolo
Hon. Helena Dalli
Hon. Tonio Fenech, Minister of Finance, the
Economy and Investment
Hon. Austin Gatt, Minister for Infrastructure,
Transport and Communications
Hon. Philip Mifsud

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts is chaired by a member nominated by the Opposition. This follows the system adopted in the UK House of Commons.

Standing Order 120E outlines the powers and the composition of the Public Accounts Committee as follows:

- ‘120E. (1) The Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall have the power to:
- (a) inquire into matters relating to public accounts referred to it by the House, a Minister or the Director of Audit;
 - (b) inquire into expenditure as is referred to in subsection (3) of section 103 and section 104 of the Constitution;
 - (c) examine the accounts of statutory authorities, including parastatal organisations, whose accounts are presented to Parliament;
 - (d) request the Director of Audit to submit memoranda on any matter where a request for such submission is made by at least three members of the Standing Committee;
 - (e) consider memoranda submitted by the Director of Audit, made upon a request made to him in virtue of paragraph (d) hereof, or on his own initiative;
 - (f) examine reports, and related documents, made by the Director of Audit;
 - (g) report to the House on any accounts, reports or documents referred in the previous paragraphs hereof;
 - (h) report to the House on any change that it considers desirable in the form of the accounts, on the manner in which they are kept, on revenue or expenditure or the control of money; and
 - (i) discuss Malta’s monetary policy and receive reports thereon from the Governor of the Central Bank of Malta.

(2) The Public Accounts Committee shall consist of not more than seven members of whom four shall constitute a quorum. The members shall be chosen so as fairly to represent the House in general and the proportion of Government and Opposition members in particular;

(3) The provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) of Standing Order 120B shall apply to the Public Accounts Committee;

(4) One of the members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition and so designated by him after consultation with the Leader of the House, shall be appointed Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. The Chairman shall have an original vote but shall not have a casting vote.’

In 2012, the Public Accounts Committee met eight times. Details of the meetings are as follows:

29 February	Auditor’s Report for the year 2010 - <i>Ministry for Gozo: Expenditure on services rendered</i>
	Auditor’s Report for the year 2010 - <i>Fully-expensed cars within extra budgetary units (Malta Tourism Authority and Malta Environment and Planning Authority)</i>
7 March	Auditor’s Report for the year 2010 – <i>Medical Assistance: free medical aid</i>
9 May	Auditor’s Report for the year 2010 – <i>Health: Operations and maintenance expenses</i>
30 May	Auditor’s Report for the year 2010 - <i>Social Security Department: Children’s Allowance</i>
26 June	Discussion on the list of witnesses to appear before the committee in relation to the report of the Board of Inquiry into the alleged irregular disposal of the chemical Mercaptan by Enemalta Corporation, dated December 2011
16 July	Witnesses’ testimony concerning the alleged irregular disposal of the chemical Mercaptan by Enemalta Corporation (Continuation)
17 July	Witnesses’ testimony concerning the alleged irregular disposal of the chemical Mercaptan by Enemalta Corporation (Continuation)
24 October	Discussion concerning the government contract for the acquisition of St. Philip’s Hospital.

2.4 Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

The Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs was set up by Motion No. 18 of 2 June 2008, and subsequently amended by Motions No. 50, 139 and 142, was composed as follows in 2012:



Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech

Chairperson	Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech
Members	Hon. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Francis Agius Hon. Charlò Bonnici Hon. Owen Bonnici Hon. Luciano Busuttil Hon. Leo Brincat Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami Hon. George Vella

‘120F. (1) The Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs shall consist of not more than nine members of whom five shall constitute a quorum. The members shall be chosen so as fairly to represent the House in general and the proportion of Government and Opposition members in particular:

Provided that the Government members appointed on the Standing Committee shall include the Minister for Foreign Affairs who shall have the right to participate and to vote:

Provided further that members of the European Parliament elected from Malta shall have the right to participate in the work of the Standing Committee but shall not have the right to vote or to move motions and amendments.

(2) The Chairperson of the Committee shall be nominated by the Leader of the House from amongst the members representing the Government side, provided that any member of the Committee may, at any time, be appointed by the Leader of the House to act as Chairperson in case of the unavoidable absence of the Chairperson.

(3) The Standing Committee shall have the power to appoint select sub-committees and to delegate any of its functions to such sub-committees:

Provided that the composition of any sub-committee appointed by the Standing Committee shall be determined by the Standing Committee so as fairly to represent the House in general and the proportion of Government and Opposition members in particular.

(4) Subject to what is stated in this Standing Order, the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) of Standing Order 120B shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs.

(5) The Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs shall have the following functions:

(a) to deal with matters relating to foreign and European Union affairs which may be referred to it by the House or by the Standing Committee on House Business;

(b) in the context of European Union issues and measures to be taken by the Council of Ministers of the European Union, to scrutinise on its own initiative:

(i) any proposals under the Community treaties for legislation by the Council or the Council acting jointly with the European Parliament;

(ii) any document which is published for submission to the European Council, the Council or the European Central Bank;

(iii) any proposal for a common strategy, a joint action or a common position under Title V of the Treaty on European Union which is prepared for submission to the Council or to the European Council;

(iv) any proposal for a common position, framework, decision or a convention under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union which is prepared for submission to the Council;

(v) any document (not falling within (ii), (iii) or (iv) above) which is published by one Union institution and which does not relate exclusively to the consideration of any proposal for legislation; and

(vi) any other document relating to European Union matters placed on the Table of the House by any Minister; and

(c) to represent the House of Representatives of Malta at the Conference of European Affairs Committees (COSAC).’

Throughout 2012, the Foreign and European Affairs Committee met 19 times in plenary. Details of the meetings held in 2012 are as follows:

9 February	Discussion on the commercial agreement on the fight against falsification (ACTA - Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement)
17 February	Discussion on the commercial agreement on the fight against falsification (ACTA) (Continuation)
21 February	Accession Treaty between the European Union and the Republic of Croatia
2 March	Discussion on the commercial agreement on the fight against falsification (ACTA) (Continuation)
20 March	Procedure regarding the scrutiny of European Union legislative proposals in the light of the principle of subsidiarity
12 April	Meeting with H.E. Mr Egemen Bağış, Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and Chief Negotiator for Turkey’s Accession to the European Union
16 April	Meeting with Prof. Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag
15 May	Discussion related to Motion No. 301 presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, concerning Malta’s Permanent Representative to the European Union
16 May	Discussion related to Motion No. 301 presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, concerning Malta’s Permanent Representative to the European Union (Continuation)
21 May	Scrutiny of two European Union legislative proposals in the context of the principle of subsidiarity (COM (2012) 130 and COM (2012) 131)

	Discussion related to Motion No. 301 presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, concerning Malta's Permanent Representative to the European Union (Continuation)
22 May	Discussion related to Motion No. 301 presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, concerning Malta's Permanent Representative to the European Union (Continuation)
29 May	Discussion related to Motion No. 301 presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, concerning Malta's Permanent Representative to the European Union (Continuation)
4 June	Meeting with Mrs Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner responsible for climate action
5 June	Discussion related to Motion No. 301 presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, concerning Malta's Permanent Representative to the European Union (Continuation)
12 June	Discussion related to Motion No. 301 presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, concerning Malta's Permanent Representative to the European Union (Continuation)
13 June	Discussion related to Motion No. 301 presented by Hon. George Vella and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, concerning Malta's Permanent Representative to the European Union (Continuation)
14 June	Meeting with Mrs Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner responsible for maritime affairs and fisheries
2 July	Motion No. 312 authorising a Prime Ministerial Order for the approval of Council Decision 2011/99/EU of 25 March 2011 to amend Article 136 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union concerning a stability mechanism for the member states in the Eurozone
12 September	Meeting with H.E. Dr Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy
	Scrutiny of a number of European Union legislative proposals in the context of the principle of subsidiarity.

2.4.1 Subsidiarity

During 2012, the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs also considered 108 EU legislative proposals in the context of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality as laid down in Protocol No. 2 of the Lisbon Treaty. Acting on the recommendations of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, the House of Representatives sent a reasoned opinion to the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament with regard to the Proposal for a Council Regulation on the exercise of the right to take collective action within the context of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services [COM (2012) 130 final and COM (2013) 280].

The Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs also decided to send an opinion on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and investment firms and amending Council Directives 77/91/EEC and 82/891/EC, Directives 2001/24/EC, 2002/47/EC, 2004/25/EC, 2005/56/EC, 2007/36/EC and 2011/35/EC and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 (COM (2012) 280).

2.4.2 Informal Meetings

In 2012, Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs also participated in the following meetings:

- 18 June Meeting between members of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, together with other Members of Parliament, and German Members of Parliament from the Malta-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group
- 4 December Meeting between members of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, together with the Hon. Speaker, and H.E. Mrs Lucinda Creighton, Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of Ireland, where the work programme of the Irish EU Presidency for the period between January and June 2013 was discussed.

2.4.3 Sub-Committees

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Standing Order 120F, four working groups were set up in 2008:

Working Group 1



Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech

Chairperson Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech

Members Hon. Luciano Busuttil
Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia
Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami
Hon. George Vella

The objective of this Working Group is to analyse the EU *pipeline acquis* in preliminary scrutiny, that is, to identify those documents of political or legal importance and to reach a decision on whether a particular document should be cleared without reserve or referred for debate at the plenary of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, or in one of the working groups, or the Social Affairs Committee.

Working Group 2



Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia

Chairperson Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia

Members Minister responsible for the *acquis*
Hon. Francis Agius
Hon. Roderick Galdes
Hon. Gavin Gulia
Member *ad hoc* from Government
Member *ad hoc* from Opposition

Working Group 2 addresses issues related to economic and monetary affairs, taxation, transport and energy, budget, internal market and customs union.

Working Group 3



Hon. Charlò Bonnici

Chairperson Hon. Charlò Bonnici

Members Minister responsible for the *acquis*
Hon. Joseph Falzon
Hon. Noel Farrugia
Hon. Joseph Sammut
Member *ad hoc* from Government
Member *ad hoc* from Opposition

The areas of competence of Working Group 3 include health, development and humanitarian aid, rural development, agriculture and fisheries, and justice and home affairs.

Working Group 4



Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami

Chairperson Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami

Members Minister responsible for the *acquis*
Hon. Chris Agius
Hon. Evarist Bartolo
Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech
Member *ad hoc* from Government
Member *ad hoc* from Opposition

The areas of competence of Working Group 4 include research, employment and culture, consumer protection, environment and regional policy.

The Foreign and European Affairs Committee, in Plenary and through its working groups, also has the power to scrutinise on its own initiative, legislative proposals or documents that originate from European Union institutions and measures to be taken by the Council of Ministers.

2.4.4 Meetings of the Working Groups

Working Group 1 held four sessions during 2012 to scrutinise 184 legislative and non-legislative proposals including reports, staff working documents, Green Papers and White Papers. Of these documents, 180 were cleared by Working Group 1, whilst four documents were referred to the ministries concerned for further information.

2.5 Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs was set up by Motion No. 19 of 2 June 2008 and was composed as follows during the year under review:



Hon. Edwin Vassallo

Chairperson Hon. Edwin Vassallo

Members Hon. Frederick Azzopardi
Hon. Justyne Caruana
Hon. Michael Farrugia
Hon. Michael Gonzi
Hon. Stephen Spiteri
Hon. Anthony Zammit

In addition to Motion No. 19, Motions No. 53, 71 and 211 determined the list of Committee Members at the end of 2012, as shown above.

Standing Order 120G states that:

‘120G. (1) The Committee for Social Affairs shall deal with all matters relating to social policy, including social assistance and family matters, which may be referred to it by the House or by the Standing Committee on House Business.

(2) The provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order 120E shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the Social Affairs Committee.’

The Social Affairs Committee held 25 meetings throughout 2012, during which various socially related matters were discussed.

Following a number of meetings held in 2011 on the subject of Paceville and school uniforms, the Committee published the relevant reports and released them for discussion, consultation and approval.

Throughout the year, another two reports were published by the Committee: one dealing with domestic violence and the other dealing with the family and disability. Both these reports were discussed and approved by the Committee members.

A number of meetings were dedicated to the issue of electromagnetic radiation (mobile telephony antennas). The Committee members were given presentations by persons who were personally affected in order to explain the issue in question. Other meetings were organised with various stakeholders, including the major mobile telephony companies, in order to discuss the policies adopted and procedures used.

The report prepared by the Pensions Working Group was another topic that featured on the Social Affairs Committee's agenda. Discussions were held with the Chairperson and members of the working group, as well as with Hon. Chris Said, Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family.

The Committee also discussed issues that are of particular concern to Gozitan students and youth. In this regard, the Committee also held a meeting in Gozo in order to facilitate discussions between different entities working in Gozo.

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs held two informal meetings: one meeting was held with the Anti-Poverty Forum (Malta) and another meeting was held with a delegation from the Bavarian Landtag Committee. Meetings were also held with foreign delegations, namely, a meeting with a delegation from the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the European Commission and another meeting with a delegation from the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) of the Council of Europe. These meetings were held *in camera* due to the sensitive nature of the topic under discussion.

Details of the meetings held in 2012 are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 7 February | Discussion on the report entitled <i>Lejn iktar sigurtà u bon ordni f'Paceville</i> . The Committee members agreed to issue a press release inviting feedback from the public. |
| 14 February | The members agreed to present the reports issued during the 11 th Legislature to Minister Chris Said, Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, and to representatives of the political parties.

Discussion on the report dealing with school uniforms. The Committee Members agreed to issue a press release inviting feedback from the public. |
| 21 February | Discussion with Hon. Chris Said, Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, who was given a copy of the reports issued by the Standing Committee on Social Affairs during the 11 th Legislature. |
| 28 February | Discussion with Mr Joe Camilleri, Chairperson of the National Commission Persons with Disability, was invited to give feedback on queries which had been raised in a previous meeting. The feedback covered issues dealing with the CDAU, foreign personal assistants, disability pensions and the blue badge. |
| 1 March | Discussion with a delegation of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) on the issue of human trafficking. Mr Joseph St. John, Mr Joseph Ellul and Ms Joyce D'Amato from the Ministry responsible for home affairs were present. The meeting was held <i>in camera</i> . |
| 13 March | Discussion on the report <i>Lejn iktar sigurtà u bon ordni f'Paceville</i> with Mr Mark Grima, Mr Jeremy Dalli and Mr Simon De Cesare. |
| 20 March | Discussion on the report <i>L-Uniformijiet tal-Iskejjel</i> with a number of persons who wanted to give their feedback on the report. The Principal of the Santa Margerita College and the Director General in the Office for Competition answered questions raised by the members. |
| 24 April | Presentation by the Gozo University group of the Survey <i>L-Istudent Għawdxu u l-Futur Tiegħu</i> . The Committee agreed that the presentation be sent to relevant authorities for further discussion at another meeting. |

- 26 April Discussion with a delegation from the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). The meeting was held *in camera*.
- 8 May Discussion on the report dealing with the issue of domestic violence.
- 15 May Presentation entitled *Young People in Gozo: A Study – 2* by Dr Andrew Azzopardi. Mr Tony Zammit, Ms Andrea Saliba and Mr Noel Xerri, from OASI, were present for the discussion that ensued.
- 22 May Continuation of the meeting with the members of the Gozo University Group.
- 22 May Meeting with ex-Police Sergeant David Agius regarding his case with the Police Board.
- Presentation by Prof. Daniel Massa, Prof. Peter Xuereb and Prof. Pierre Mallia about the harmful effects of electromagnetic radiation (mobile telephony antennas). The Committee agreed on the entities to be invited at the next meeting on the subject.
- 29 May Discussion with Mrs Helen D’Amato, Commissioner for Children, on the two annual reports of the Commission for Children, covering the years 2010 and 2011
- 5 June Discussion on the report dealing with the issue of domestic violence (Continuation).
- 12 June Discussion on the subject of electromagnetic radiation (mobile telephony antennas) with the main companies in the mobile telephony sector, the Malta Communications Authority, the Ministry responsible for communication, the Ministry responsible for education and the Director of Church Schools.
- 19 June Discussion on the Final Report of the 2010 Pensions Working Group of the Strategic Review carried out under Article 64B of the Social Security Act with Mr David Spiteri Gingell, Mr Frank Micallef and Mr Godwin Mifsud.
- 26 June Continuation of the discussion on the Final Report of the 2010 Pensions Working Group.
- 3 July Continuation of the meeting on the subject of electromagnetic radiation (mobile telephony antennas) with the Malta Communications Authority, the Ministry responsible for health, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority.
- 10 July Discussion on the report dealing with the family and disability.
- 11 July Discussion with Prof. Joe Friggieri, Fr Manuel Cordina, Mr Noel Scerri and Mr Anthony Zammit from OASI, ECO-Gozo and the University of Gozo. The meeting was held at the Gozo University.
- 16 October Discussion with Hon. Chris Said, Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family, on the Final Report of the 2010 Pensions Working Group.
- 30 October Discussion with Mr James Carabott on the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations.

- 13 November Follow-up meeting after the publication of the report *Lejn iktar sigurtà u bon ordni f'Paceville* with a number of interested persons on the subject, namely, residents, people with business in the area, and police representatives.
- 27 November Presentation of the reports drawn up by the Standing Committee on Social Affairs during the 11th Legislature, to the General Secretaries of the political parties in Malta. Speaker, Michael Frendo, participated in this meeting.

2.6 Standing Committee for the Consideration of Bills

The Standing Committee for the Consideration of Bills was set up by Motion No. 20 of 2 June 2008, amended by Motion No. 146 of 6 May 2010, and in 2012 was composed as follows:



Chairperson Hon. Francis Agius

Members Seven Members: four Government Members including the Chairperson, and three Opposition Members appointed according to the Bill under discussion

Hon. Francis Agius

The principal task of the Committee for the Consideration of Bills is to consider bills referred to it by the House after the conclusion of the debate in the second reading stage or by the House Business Committee. The work of the Committee is regulated by Standing Order 120B:

- ‘120B. (1) In addition to the Standing Committees listed in Standing Order 120A, the House may, on motion made after notice, appoint such Standing Committee as may be necessary for the consideration of Bills or other business committed or referred by the House to a Standing Committee.
- (2) A motion as is referred to in paragraph (1) of this Standing Order shall:
- (a) fix the number of members to serve on the Standing Committee which is to be so composed in such manner as appears practicable to the House as fairly to represent the House in general and the proportion of Government and Opposition members in the House in particular; and
- (b) name the Chairman who shall preside the Standing Committee.
- (3) Each side of the House shall nominate the members representing it on a Standing Committee, and shall also nominate alternate members for any members so appointed. The members and alternate members representing the Government side shall be nominated by the Leader of the House while the members and alternate members representing the Opposition side shall be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition. The name of members and alternate members so nominated and appointed by the House shall be recorded in the Minutes of the sitting.
- (4) Each side of the House may substitute any member or alternate member nominated by it in accordance with paragraph (3) hereof to represent it on a Standing Committee. Such substitution shall only have effect after the Speaker is notified therewith. The Speaker shall,

at the first available opportunity, notify the House, or, if the House is in recess, the Standing Committee on House Business.

(5) Government Bills referred to a Standing Committee shall have precedence over the other business of the Standing Committee and shall unless otherwise ordered by the House, be considered in such order as the Standing Committee on House Business may determine.’

The Standing Committee for the Consideration of Bills met 24 times in 2012. 19 Bills were discussed, approved and referred back to the House for third reading.

Details of the meetings held in 2012 are as follows:

24 January	Bill 84 - Social Security (Amendment) Bill
1 February	Bill 85 - Various Laws (Disability Matters) (Amendment) Bill
6 February	Bill 85 - Various Laws (Disability Matters) (Amendment) Bill (Continuation)
13 February	Bill 85 - Various Laws (Disability Matters) (Amendment) Bill (Continuation)
20 February	Bill 85 - Various Laws (Disability Matters) (Amendment) Bill (Continuation)
22 February	Bill 85 - Various Laws (Disability Matters) (Amendment) Bill (Continuation)
28 March	Bill 78 - Civil Code (Amendment) Bill
28 May	Bill 102 - Collective Proceedings Bill
12 June	Bill 105 - Criminal Code (Amendment) Bill
19 June	Bill 107 - Equality for Men and Women (Amendment) Bill
27 June	Bill 92 - Education (Amendment) Bill
2 July	Bill 92 - Education (Amendment) Bill (Continuation)
3 July	Bill 108 - Crimes against the Environment Bill Bill 95 - Sustainable Development Bill
3 July	Bill 92 - Education (Amendment) Bill (Continuation)
9 July	Bill 93 - Civil Code (Amendment No. 2) Bill
15 October	Bill 103 - Employment and Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill
29 October	Bill 117 - Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill
30 October	Bill 106 - Various Laws (Classification of Films and Dramatic and other Stage Productions) (Amendment) Bill
12 November	Bill 124 - Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives (Amendment) Bill Bill 125 - Explosives Ordinance (Amendment) Bill Bill 109 - Civil Code (Amendment No. 3) Bill

21 November	Bill 109 - Civil Code (Amendment No. 3) Bill (Continuation)
26 November	Bill 116 - Probation (Amendment) Bill (Continued) Bill 109 - Civil Code (Amendment No. 3) Bill (Continuation)
27 November	Bill 109 - Civil Code (Amendment No. 3) Bill (Continuation)
28 November	Bill 113 - Mental Health Bill (Continuation) Bill 116 - Probation (Amendment) Bill Bill 111 - Data Protection (Amendment) Bill Bill 109 - Civil Code (Amendment No. 3) Bill (Continuation)
3 December	Bill 113 - Mental Health Bill (Continuation).

2.7 Standing Committee on Family Affairs

The Standing Committee on Family Affairs was set up by Motion No. 213 of 2 June 2011 and was composed as follows:



Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia

Chairperson Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia

Members Hon. Charlò Bonnici
Hon. Justyne Caruana
Hon. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca
Hon. Jesmond Mugliett

The principal task of the Committee on Family Affairs is to discuss matters and legislation related to family affairs. The work of the Committee is regulated by Standing Order 120H:

- ‘120H. (1) The Standing Committee on Family Affairs shall deal with all matters relating to the family, including the appraisal, analysis and monitoring of current and future family legislation and policies, and such other matters relating to the family as may be referred to it by the House or by the Standing Committee on House Business.
- (2) The Standing Committee on Family Affairs shall consist of five members, three of whom shall be appointed from the Government side, one of whom shall be nominated as Chairman and two from the Opposition side; a majority of all the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- (3) The provisions of paragraph (3) of Standing Order 120E shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the Standing Committee on Family Affairs.’

The Standing Committee on Family Affairs continued its work by focusing on the challenges faced by the family in Malta. In establishing its working plan, the members agreed to hold discussions with the Centre for Family Studies and the National Family Commission.

The meetings throughout the year focused on different aspects of family life, including the challenges faced by refugee families residing in Malta.

The Standing Committee on Family Affairs met 10 times in 2012, as follows:

- 21 February Presentation by Mons. Philip Calleja on the subject of civil and religious marriage. Fr Alfred Vella, Ms Helen Borg Bonnici and Ms Antoinette Giglio were also present.
- 5 March Discussion on the working plan to be followed throughout 2012 and agreement on the guests to be invited to discuss the subjects of family and children.
- 27 March Discussion on the study *A Minimum Budget for a Decent Living* with Mons. Victor Grech, Mr Leonid McKay, Mr Karm Farrugia, Dr Suzanne Piscopo and Mr Joe Sammut.
- 23 April Presentation entitled *The Needs of Maltese Families with Dependent Children – A Focus Group Study among Professionals*, given by Dr Angela Abela on behalf of the Centre for Family Studies. Prof. Marianne Lauri, Dr Ruth Farrugia and Ms Claire Casha were also present for the discussion.
- 22 May Continuation of the discussion on the subject of civil and religious marriage with Dr Stephanie Pappalardo, Ms Ermelinda Zahra, Mons. Philip Calleja and Ms Antoinette Giglio.
- 12 June Discussion with officials from the Foundation for Social Welfare Services about the services offered by its agencies and their contact with community entities, namely, Ms Sina Bugeja, Ms Graziella Castillo and Ms Remenda Borg Grech.
- 10 July Discussion with Prof. Mark Brincat about the medical aspect of teenage pregnancies. The issues of respite homes, reproductive health education and family spacing technique were also referred to.
- 9 October Discussion with Ms Micheline Sciberras and Ms Sandra Cortis about the educational aspect of teenage pregnancies, where the services offered by the Education Department were explained. The discussion tackled the issue of counselling for males, vulnerable girls, the use of contraceptives and sexual education.
- 30 October Discussion with Mons. Philip Calleja and Fr Alfred Vella on refugee families in Malta. The discussion covered topics dealing with refugees, including social benefits, working without permits, and births of refugee children.
- 13 November Discussion on the access of Maltese families to childcare centres with Mr Roderick Agius and Ms Frances Mallia, Mr Simon Zammit, Ms Louise Zammit and Ms Roslynn Vella.

2.8 National Audit Office Accounts Committee

The National Audit Office Accounts Committee was set up by Motion No. 21 of 2 June 2008, and amended by Motion No. 55 of 22 September 2008, in accordance with Part IV of the National Audit Office Act (Cap. 396) as follows:

- ‘13. There shall be a Committee to be styled the National Audit Office Accounts Committee (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Committee’) which shall be composed as follows:

- (i) the member of the House of Representatives who is for the time being Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Representatives or such other committee of the said House from time to time replacing such Committee;
 - (ii) the Minister responsible for parliamentary affairs (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Leader of the House of Representatives’);
 - (iii) three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the said House upon a motion by the Leader of the House of Representatives, as to two members from among members supporting the Government and as to the remaining member from among the members in Opposition.
14. The Committee shall from time to time but not less often than once a year present to the House of Representatives (through the Leader of the House of Representatives) a report of its activities and the report of its examination of any estimates prepared by the Auditor General.
 15. The Committee shall elect a chairman from among its members, and may regulate its own proceedings.
 16. Upon the dissolution of the House of Representatives, the Committee shall be deemed to be dissolved until it is next reconstituted after the House next meets. Where upon the dissolution of the House of Representatives the sum to be established for the purposes of paragraph 8 of Part III is not so established or the House has not after the end of a financial year established the said sum, the Auditor General shall be entitled to expend, each month, a sum equivalent to one twelfth of the sum or sums established for the previous financial year, until the said sum is so established.
 17. The validity of any proceedings of the Committee shall not be affected by any vacancy among its members or by any defect in the appointment or nomination of any of its members.’

In 2012 the Committee was composed as follows:

Chairperson Leader of the House

Members Hon. Charles Mangion, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee
 Hon. Chris Agius
 Hon. Philip Mifsud
 Hon. Jesmond Mugliett

The National Audit Office Accounts Committee met eight times in 2012. At the first meeting on 9 January 2012, Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, then Leader of the House, was appointed chair of the Committee. He was replaced by Hon. Tonio Borg on 9 July 2012 when Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici resigned from his ministerial post and also from Leader of the House. Hon. Philip Mifsud was appointed *ad hoc* Chairman at the last meeting of the Committee held on 5 December since Hon. Tonio Borg had resigned from Member of the House of Representatives to take up the post of European Commissioner.

In October 2012, Hon. Jesmond Mugliett resigned from Member of the Committee.

Details of the meetings held in 2012 are as follows:

9 January	Resolution on the transfer of government property for use by various associations and clubs
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6 March	Resolution on the transfer of government property (Selmun Palace) Resolution on the transfer of government property (GO p.l.c.)
27 April	Resolution on the transfer of government property (GO p.l.c.) (Continuation) Resolution on the transfer of government property (Malita Investments p.l.c.)
9 July	Resolution on the transfer of government property for use by various associations and clubs Resolution on the transfer of government property for use by the Community Chest Fund Resolution on immovable property in various parts of Malta pertaining to the government or to Enemalta Corporation used for the generation, distribution and provision of electrical energy in Malta and Gozo
19 September	Resolution on the transfer of government property in Pietà for use by the Order of St Augustine
3 October	Resolution on the transfer of government property in Floriana for use by MCP Company Limited
27 November	Resolution on the transfer of government properties for use by the Philharmonic Society Santa Katerina and by the Leone Philharmonic Society Resolution on the transfer of government property in Ta' Qali to the Malta Fairs and Convention Centre National Audit Office Annual Report for the year 2011, and Financial Estimates of the National Audit Office for the year 2013
5 December	Resolution on the transfer of government property in Valletta for use by the Malta Employers' Association Resolution on the transfer of government property for use by various associations and clubs Resolution on the transfer of government property in Pembroke for use by the Verdala International School Foundation.

2.9 Standing Committee on Environment and Development Planning

Motion No. 196 moved in the House by Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi on 6 December 2010 set up the Standing Committee on Environment and Development Planning, replacing the former Development Planning Committee that had been established in terms of Article 17B of the Development Planning Act. This change was a result of the entry into force of the Environment and Development Planning Act of 2010. Article 34 of the said Act states that:

‘34. (1) There shall be a Standing Committee on Environment and Development Planning which shall consist of five members appointed by the House, of whom three shall be members supporting the Government, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairman, and the other two shall be members from the Opposition.

(2) The Standing Committee shall:

(a) review any plan referred to the House of Representatives in terms of this Act. The Standing Committee shall also recommend to the House whether the plan should be approved, with or without amendments, or rejected;

(b) discuss any report referred to it by the Minister relating to the structure plan or any review thereof;

(c) discuss any other plan or policy referred to it by the Minister and report thereon to Parliament. Such a report may also include any dissenting opinion on the plan or policy. The Minister shall take cognisance of the said report and shall forward the report to the Authority for its consideration in the determination by the Authority of the plan or policy if the said plan or policy has not yet been approved by the Authority:

Provided that where the said Standing Committee fails to report to Parliament within the period by which it was requested to do so, the Minister may request the Authority to finalise the said plan or policy, and the Minister may also approve the said plan or policy as forwarded to him by the Authority.

(3) When notice of a motion, as is referred to in article 53(2), is given by the Minister, that motion shall be referred to the Standing Committee of the House, and the said Standing Committee shall discuss the said motion and report thereon to the House.

(4) Not later than one month after a notice as is referred to in subarticle (3) has been referred to the Standing Committee of the House, the said Standing Committee shall discuss the structure plan or any review thereof, and shall, not later than one month after the said plan or review thereof has been referred to it, report thereon to the House:

Provided that where the said Standing Committee fails to report to the House within the said period of one month, the House may pass on to discuss the motion.

(5) Where the report of the Standing Committee on a motion is unanimous, the House shall proceed to vote on such motion and on any amendments that are proposed in the said report without debate.'

Motion No. 196 provides for a committee comprising three members from the Government, one of whom will be the Chairman, and two members from the Opposition. The Committee was composed as follows:



Hon. Jesmond Mugliett

Chairperson Hon. Jesmond Mugliett

Members Hon. Leo Brincat
Hon. Charles Buhagiar
Hon. Ċensu Galea
Hon. Philip Mifsud

In addition to Motion No. 196 of 6 December 2010, Motion No. 281 amended the Committee members by substituting Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia with Hon. Ċensu Galea.

The Committee held six meetings in 2012. Details of the meetings are as follows:

24 April	National Environment Policy
2 May	Proposals regarding minor infringements related to sanitary requirements
9 May	Objectives of the Strategic Plan for Environment and Development of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority
28 May	Objectives of the Strategic Plan for Environment and Development of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (Continuation)
19 November	Analysis of the effects of Legal Notice No. 229 of 2012 and a study of the possibility for further amendments to the Eighth Schedule of the Environment and Development Planning Act, particularly Category B of the said schedule
4 December	Proposal by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority to extend the Compliance Certificate Scheme.



Conference on 'Mixed Legal Systems, East and West: Newest Trends and Developments' held in the parliamentary Chamber on 14-15 May 2012



Speech by Speaker Michael Frendo on the occasion of the Sette Giugno commemoration which was held in Hastings Gardens in Valletta on 6 June 2012

3. SELECT COMMITTEES

Standing Order 121 states that:

‘The House may appoint a Select Committee of its Members for the purpose of investigating any subject. It shall be competent for the Speaker to be appointed a Member of any Select Committee of the House.’

3.1 Select Committee tasked with establishing the facts about the issue of black dust precipitation over the southern localities of Malta

Towards the end of 2010, the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, presented to Parliament a Motion - Motion No. 176 - on the setting up a Select Committee tasked with establishing the facts relating to the issue of black dust precipitation over the southern localities of Malta.

This Motion established that the Committee be chaired by the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker in his absence, and composed of two Members from each side of the House as follows:



Chairperson Hon. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Members Hon. Leo Brincat
Hon. Franco Debono
Hon. Joe Mizzi
Hon. Jesmond Mugliett

Hon. Michael Frendo

During 2012, the Select Committee met four times. It met with officials from Enemalta Corporation and from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. The Select Committee also met with Prof. Raymond Agius, Professor in Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Director at the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Manchester, who made a presentation on the issue of black dust and its correlation to health. Following this meeting with Prof. Agius, the Select Committee discussed the specifications of a protocol relating to a study on the issue of black dust precipitation over the southern part of Malta to be prepared by Prof. Agius.

In December, the Speaker, Hon. Michael Frendo, presented to the House an interim report on the work carried out by the Select Committee since its setting up in 2010.

Details of the meetings held during 2012 are the following:

3 August	Discussion with officials from Enemalta Corporation
	Discussion with Prof. Raymond Agius, Professor in Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Director at the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Manchester
28 August	Discussion with officials from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for the environment

- 28 September Discussion on the specifications of a draft protocol on a study of the black dust issue in the southern part of Malta
- 26 November Discussion with officials from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority.

3.2 Select committee on re-codification and consolidation of laws

The Select Committee on Re-codification and Consolidation of Laws was set up on 14 December 2009 by Motion No. 114 and chaired by Hon. Franco Debono with Hon. Josè Herrera and Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech as members of the Committee. During 2012 the Select Committee met 16 times.



Chairperson Hon. Franco Debono

Members Hon. Josè Herrera
Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech

Hon. Franco Debono

Motion No. 222 presented by Hon. Justyne Caruana and approved during Sitting 433 of 12 December 2011 stated that the Select Committee is to present a bill on judicial process in Gozo. After discussing and formulating this bill, a bill entitled *An Act to abolish the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) sitting in its superior jurisdiction and to extend the jurisdiction of the Civil Court, First Hall, the Civil Court (Family Section) and the Civil Court (Voluntary Jurisdiction Section) to the Islands of Gozo and Comino, to establish one Court of Magistrates having general jurisdiction over all the islands in Malta, and to make ancillary and consequential provisions thereto* was presented in Parliament on 26 March 2012.

During 2012, the Select Committee also finalised the drafting of the Administrative Code with the draft bill being presented to Parliament on 29 May 2012. The public was invited to give its feedback on this bill.

During the year under review, the Select Committee was working on the codification of the criminal, electoral, commercial and press laws.

The meeting of the 7 May 2012 was the first committee meeting that was video streamed on the Parliament's website following the decision by the House Business Committee to video stream the meetings of the parliamentary committees, and eventually the parliamentary sittings in the Chamber.

Details of the meetings of the Select Committee on the Re-codification and Consolidation of Laws in 2012, are as follows:

- 7 February Discussion on the Bill regarding the judicial process in Gozo
- Discussion with Prof. Kevin Aquilina, Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Laws and Head of the Department of Media, Communications and Technology Law at the University of Malta, on the Administrative Code

13 February	Discussion on the Bill regarding the judicial process in Gozo (Continuation) Discussion with Prof. Kevin Aquilina on the Administrative Code (Continuation)
20 February	Discussion on the Bill regarding the judicial process in Gozo (Continuation) Discussion with Prof. Kevin Aquilina on the Administrative Code (Continuation)
27 February	Discussion with Prof. Kevin Aquilina on the Administrative Code (Continuation)
12 March	Discussion with Prof. Kevin Aquilina, Dr Austin Bencini and Mr Raphael Vassallo on the Administrative Code (Continuation)
20 March	Discussion with Prof. Kevin Aquilina and Dr Austin Bencini on the Administrative Code (Continuation)
26 March	Approval of the final draft of the bill regarding the judicial process in Gozo (Continuation) Discussion with Prof. Kevin Aquilina on the Administrative Code (Continuation)
23 April	Discussion with Prof. Kevin Aquilina and Dr Edward Zammit Lewis on the Administrative Code (Continuation)
30 April	Discussion with representatives from the Institute of Maltese Journalists on the consolidation of the press laws
7 May	Presentation by Prof. Kevin Aquilina of the first draft of the Administrative Code Consolidation of the commercial laws
23 May	Consolidation of the criminal laws and the criminal proceedings laws
28 May	Consolidation of the penal laws
29 May	Consolidation of the commercial laws (Continuation)
30 May	Discussion with members of the media regarding the consolidation of the press laws (Continuation)
6 June	Discussion with members of the media regarding the consolidation of the press laws (Continuation)
18 June	Discussion with representatives of the political parties regarding the consolidation of the electoral laws, political parties and party financing legislation
2 July	Discussion with representatives of the political parties regarding the consolidation of the electoral laws, political parties and party financing legislation (Continuation).

3.3 Select Committee on Strengthening Democracy

The Select Committee on Strengthening Democracy was set up in terms of Standing Order 121, by way of Motion No. 47 moved by the Prime Minister, seconded by Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, on 16 July 2008 and approved unanimously by the House.

The resolution established the main themes to be considered by the Committee:

- strengthening of Parliament
- strengthening transparency and accountability, including public financing of political parties, the Commission against Corruption, the Office of the Ombudsman, conflicts of interest of the Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretaries and Ministers
- public broadcasting in Malta, including the regulation of TV stations pertaining to the political parties
- strengthening the Constitution in order to improve the electoral process.

In 2012 the Committee was composed as follows:

Chairperson	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Substitute	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Government Members	Hon. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Leader of the House Hon. Austin Gatt, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech
Substitutes	Hon. Charlò Bonnici Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami Hon. Michael Frendo
Opposition Members	Hon. Anġlu Farrugia Hon. Charles Mangion Hon. Karmenu Vella
Substitutes	Hon. Evarist Bartolo Hon. Michael Falzon Hon. George Vella

The Committee did not meet in 2012. On 7 May 2010, the Leader of the Opposition issued a statement stating that following events that took place in the House earlier that month, the Opposition parliamentary group agreed to withdraw its participation from the Select Committee.



Annual Ekoskola Parliament event which was held in the parliamentary Chamber on 12 June 2012



Meeting of the German-Maltese Parliamentary Friendship Group on 18 June 2012

4. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, the House of Representatives continued reaching out to inter-relate with other parliamentarians around the globe.

Besides hosting foreign visitors to the Maltese Parliament, the Speaker led several delegations drawn from both sides of the House on official visits to other parliaments and to participate in inter-parliamentary meetings overseas.

4.1 Outgoing visits and participation in international fora by Mr Speaker

4.1.1 Working Visit to London, 1 – 3 February

The High Commissioner of Malta in London arranged a formal meeting between the Speaker and the then recently-constituted All Party Parliamentary Group of the House of Commons, which had taken over from a similar Group that had been dissolved following the change of government in the UK in 2010. The All Parties' Parliamentary Group, under the chairmanship of Conservative Member of Parliament Mark Pritchard, was planning to include Malta in one of its forthcoming working visits abroad. At the meeting, Speaker Michael Frendo traced the historical beginnings of the Parliament of Malta, referring in particular to the initiations of the first responsible Maltese administration under the Amery-Milner Constitution of 1921. A lively question and answer session which followed the Speaker's presentation recalled the various sectors in which Maltese and British relations continued to be strengthened over the years.

During his stay in London, the Speaker also held meetings with Sir Alan Haselhurst, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and with Commonwealth Secretary General Kamallesh Sharma. The productive participation in Commonwealth activities by the Maltese Parliament's representatives was highlighted during these meetings, and the possibility of the Parliament of Malta and the House of Commons coordinating their approaches in matters of common interest arising in such fora, through prior consultation between the two, was discussed.

4.1.2 Official Parliamentary Visit to Iceland, 11 – 14 March

Hon. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives, led a parliamentary delegation on an official visit to Iceland at the invitation of Ms Ásta Ragnheiður Jóhannesdóttir, Speaker of the Althingi, the Parliament of Iceland. The Althingi is the oldest parliamentary institution in the world which exists to this day.

During this visit, the Speaker was accompanied by the two Parliamentary Whips, Hon. David Agius and Hon. Joe Mizzi.

In Reykyavik, the Maltese delegation also paid a courtesy call on the President of Iceland, Dr Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson at the Bessastadir, official residence of the President, and on Mr Össur Skarphéðinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland. A formal meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee's Working Group on European Affairs of the Althingi was included in the programme.

During the visit to Iceland, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with Mr Robert Wessman, Honorary Consul of Malta in Reykyavik.

4.1.3 Seventh Conference of the Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States, 9 – 11 September

Speaker Michael Frendo attended the Seventh Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States held in Kotor, Montenegro.

The themes discussed during this two-day Conference covered:

- a) Parliamentary diplomacy of small countries as an incentive for foreign investments.
- b) The role of parliaments in controlling the security sector.
- c) Small countries and financial services.

The Final Joint Declaration issued at the close of the Conference highlighted the importance of the various inputs that small states can contribute in each of these sectors through their unique experiences honed by their respective geographical locations, variegated cultures and spangled histories.

4.1.4 Official Parliamentary Visit to China, 13 – 21 September

Speaker Michael Frendo led a parliamentary delegation to China at the invitation of the Secretary General of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. The Speaker's delegation, comprising the two Parliamentary Whips Hon. David Agius and Hon. Joe Mizzi, visited Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai.

In Beijing, the Speaker met with Mr Lu Yongxiang, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and with Mr Chen Zongxing, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The latter high-ranking official delegation had been hosted by the Maltese Speaker three months before in Malta. After a private meeting with the leaders of the Beijing Municipal Government, Speaker Michael Frendo was asked to jointly inaugurate, along with other eminent personalities who had been purposely invited for the occasion, the 12th Beijing CBD (Central Business District) Business Festival.

In Xi'an, the Speaker's delegation was hosted by the leader of the Standing Committee of Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress.

In Shanghai, Speaker Frendo delivered a public address at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies with the topic *Developing a vibrant partnership between China and the Mediterranean – the role of Malta and its Parliament*, which was followed by a question and answer session from the academics and students who were present. Later, the Maltese delegation was hosted by Mr Wang Peisheng, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress.

4.1.5 Official Parliamentary Visit to Tunisia, 17 – 19 October

Speaker Michael Frendo led a parliamentary delegation to Tunisia at the invitation of Mr Mustapha Ben Jafar, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Tunisia. The delegation comprised Hon. David Agius, Hon. Frederick Azzopardi, Hon. Stefan Buontempo and Hon. Joe Mizzi.

At the Maltese Speaker's request, the Maltese delegation had a highly interesting exchange of views with eight Commission Presidents of the Tunisian Parliament, who hailed from different groupings of the political spectrum in the country, about the writing of the new Tunisian Constitution. Speaker Frendo explained how the Maltese experience could be of use in this exercise, and how the

approaching General Elections in Malta could provide Tunisians with a tangible example of Maltese electors democratically exercising their right to vote in full freedom, without fear or favour.

In Tunis, the Speaker and his delegation paid a courtesy call on Mr Hamadi Jebali, Prime Minister of Tunisia since December 2011, who is also the Secretary General of the Ennahda Movement which had won the elections in the country held immediately after the revolutionary happenings of the Arab Spring. Hon. Michael Frendo offered the Tunisian Chief of Government, Maltese parliamentary expertise as Tunisia embarked on a slow transition process towards national reconciliation and the establishment of democracy in the country.

The parliamentary delegation also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Mr Rafik Abdesslem, where the strong relations between the two countries were highlighted.

4.1.6 Second EU-League of Arab States Ministerial Meeting, 13 November

Speaker Michael Frendo participated as a Special Envoy for Malta in the Second Ministerial meeting between the European Union and the League of Arab States in Cairo. This was the first meeting after the Arab Spring and the second such convocation after the inaugural meeting held in Malta in February 2008, at the time that Hon. Michael Frendo was then Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Ministers intervened in the Cairo meeting on a number of issues ranging from the political situations in Syria and the Sahel, and the Middle East Peace Process, to horizontal cooperation in the fields of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, democratic transition and civil society.

During his intervention, Speaker Michael Frendo mapped out Malta's important role in the whole process. It was the 'Malta Initiative' in 2006 which had eventually led to the first EU-LAS Ministerial Meeting. Hon. Frendo stressed that the two sides '*should continue to build on the successes of this cooperation*' and also urged for '*the setting of a regular structured pattern for this meeting*'. Reference was made to the EC-LAS Liaison Office hosted by Malta and its importance in conducting joint projects between the two sides. The Middle East Peace Process was also mentioned during Hon. Frendo's intervention, with special emphasis on the importance of maintaining the viability of the Two-State Solution.

At this occasion, the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton also inaugurated jointly with the Secretary General of the Arab League, Dr Nabil Elaraby, the new Crisis Room of the Arab League, partly funded by the EU. The Crisis Room aims to create capacity within the League of Arab States to perform effective crisis-related early warnings and also establishes links with the EU's early warning system.

4.1.7 EU Speakers Conference, 19 – 21 April

Hon. Ċensu Galea, Deputy Speaker, participated in the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU, in Warsaw, Poland.

The Conference of Speakers brings together the Speakers/Presidents of the national parliaments of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Parliament, together with the Speakers of parliaments of candidate countries who participate as observers. The participants have different mandates according to the constitutions of their own countries or – for the President of the European Parliament – the consolidated treaties. The meetings of the Conference operate by consensus, respecting the autonomy and constitutional positions of individual parliaments and their speakers.

The 2012 Conference focused on four major topics:

- a) How to resolve the crisis of European unity;
- b) Parliamentary control over the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP);
- c) The Treaty of Stability, Coordination and Governance in the EMU; and
- d) Parliament, public opinion and the media.

The required consensus on establishing an Interparliamentary Conference that would meet twice a year to discuss the second item on the agenda, i.e. parliamentary control over the CFSP/CSDP, was reached, enabling the first such Conference to be convened in Paphos, Cyprus in September 2012.

4.2 Outgoing Visits of Maltese Parliamentary Delegations

4.2.1 Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

March	Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech, Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, participated in the meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on foreign affairs (COFACC) held in Copenhagen on 11-12 March
April	Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech, Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, and Hon. Luciano Busuttil represented the Maltese Parliament in the XLVII COSAC Meeting, held in Copenhagen on 22-24 April
July	Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech, Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, participated in the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting held in Limassol, Cyprus on the 8-9 July

4.2.2 European Parliament and European Union Presidency Meetings

Members of Parliament participate in two types of interparliamentary meetings with the European Parliament: meetings of committee Chairs organised by the parliament of the country holding the rotating EU Presidency and interparliamentary committee meetings organised by the committees of the European Parliaments.

Interparliamentary committee meetings with national parliaments are proposed on the initiative of the individual parliamentary committees of the European Parliament, for which national colleagues from their corresponding committees are invited. These meetings are a continuation of existing practice and mainly cover the policy areas where the European Union has legislative powers using the co-decision procedure. The aim of these meetings is to promote exchange of views between European and national parliamentarians with a view to influencing the legislative decisions of the European Parliament and ensuring more transparency and openness in the decision-making process. They are co-organised by the Legislative Dialogue Unit of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and the European Parliament committee concerned.

During the course of the year under review, Maltese Members of Parliament participated in the following European Parliament, European Union Presidency and European Commission meetings:

- February Hon. Jesmond Mugliett and Hon. Charles Mangion participated in the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting organised by the economic affairs, employment and budget of the European Parliament, together with national parliaments on the *European Semester for Economic Policy Coordination* held in Brussels on 27-28 February
- Hon. Jesmond Mugliett and Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis participated in an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting organised by the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament, held in Brussels on 28 February, on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
- March Hon. Charlò Bonnici and Hon. Leo Brincat participated in the meeting of chairpersons of the committees on climate change, building and transport, held in Copenhagen on 26-27 March
- Hon. Karl Gouder and Hon. Leo Brincat participated in the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting organised by the environment committee together with national parliaments *Towards the Rio+20 Summit* held in Brussels on 21 March
- Hon. Karl Gouder participated in the 2nd High Level Conference with national parliaments on the *EU Multiannual Financial Framework and Own Resources* held in Brussels on 22 March
- April Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami and Hon. Anglu Farrugia participated in the meeting of chairpersons of committees on business, growth, trade and employment, on *Relaunching the Single Market – A Strategy for Economic Growth and Employment in Europe*, held in Copenhagen on 16-17 April
- Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech participated in the meeting on the future revision of Europol's legal basis organised by the European Commission, held in Brussels on 20 April
- June Hon. Ċensu Galea and Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis participated in the meeting of chairpersons of committees on agricultural/rural affairs and environment, held in Copenhagen on 7-8 June
- Hon. Frederick Azzopardi and Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis participated in the Interparliamentary Committee meeting organised by the agriculture committee of the European Parliament together with national parliaments on *The CAP Reform* held in Brussels on 25 June
- July Hon. Karl Gouder and Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis participated in the Conference on *The CAP towards 2020 – taking stock with civil society* organised by the European Commission in Brussels on 13 July
- September Hon. Anglu Farrugia participated in a conference on employment policy *Jobs for Europe* organised by the European Commission, held in Brussels on 5-7 September
- Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech, Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, together with Hon. George Vella, participated in the inaugural session of the Interparliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) held in Paphos, Cyprus on the 9-10 September

Hon. Frederick Azzopardi and Hon. Michael Falzon participated in the meeting of chairpersons of the justice and home affairs committees, held in Cyprus on 23-24 September

Hon. Karl Gouder participated in the meeting of the Economic Affairs Committee where an exchange of views with national parliaments on *The 2012 cycle of the European Semester* organised by the European Parliament was held on 26 September

November Hon. Philip Mifsud participated in the meeting of chairpersons of the committees on agriculture held in Nicosia, Cyprus on the 11-13 November

Hon. Franco Debono participated in the meeting of chairpersons of the committees on finance held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 25-26 November.

4.2.3 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) brings together democratically elected Members of Parliament from the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe. Its powers extend only to the ability to investigate, recommend and advise, nevertheless, its recommendations on issues such as human rights have significant weight in the European political context. The European institutions often refer to the work of the PACE, especially in the fields of human rights, legal cooperation and cultural cooperation. The Assembly has 10 permanent committees that meet throughout the year to prepare reports and projects for resolutions in their respective fields of expertise.

The Assembly sets its own agenda; it discusses European and international events and examines current subjects which interest the populations of the countries of Europe covering issues related to human rights, democracy, protection of minorities and the rule of law.

The Maltese delegation to the PACE was composed as follows:



Hon. Francis Agius

Members Hon. Francis Agius,
Leader of the delegation
Hon. Giovanna Debono
Hon. Joe Debono Grech

Substitute Members Hon. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca
Hon. Joseph Falzon
Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami

During 2012, Hon. Francis Agius, Leader of the Maltese Delegation, was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly with the task of assisting in the conduct of business in the Assembly. Hon. Agius was also one of a group of observers who, on behalf of the PACE, supervised the holding of parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan in January 2012.

The delegates, besides attending the meetings of their respective political groupings, also participated in the debates held in plenary and in the meetings of the respective committees as shown hereunder:

Hon. Francis Agius

- Political Affairs Committee
- Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
- Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Hon. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca	- Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights - Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media - Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination -
Hon. Giovanna Debono	- Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Hon. Joe Debono Grech	- Political Affairs Committee - Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons - Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)
Hon. Joseph Falzon	- Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development - Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media
Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami	- Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights - Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

During the Second Part of the 2012 Session, the report known as the Strik Report titled *Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: Who is responsible?* drawn up by *rapporteur* Ms Tineke Strik (SOC) on behalf of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, was of particular relevance to Malta because it dealt with the loss of 61 persons at sea while fleeing Libya by boat, which unfortunate event took place in the middle of the Mediterranean. That report made two specific references to Malta in paragraph 3 and paragraph 13.1 where it was stated that the Rescue and Coordination Centres of Malta and of Italy failed to launch any search and rescue operation and at the same time it stated that the Italian Authorities, having been the first to be informed, had greater responsibility to ensure the boat's rescue.

Ms Strik had visited Malta in December 2011 where she had held a series of meetings with government officials, notably with the Armed Forces of Malta personnel, in connection with her investigation into this incident.

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons held a meeting in Brussels in March 2012, where the Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami moved two amendments. These amendments were supported by Hon. Joe Debono Grech also sitting on this Committee and aimed at removing references to Malta having any responsibility since the boat in question never entered Malta's search and rescue region. These two amendments were not adopted and the Committee considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution.

During the debate on the Strik Report and the draft resolution, the Maltese delegates explained to the Assembly that Malta had nothing to do with the incident and at the same time highlighted the disproportionate burden that Malta had to bear as a consequence of irregular immigration and reiterated Malta's call for burden sharing. The Assembly adopted the report and resolution, with the Maltese delegation voting against.

Hon. Joseph Falzon, Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage, together with the Chairperson Ms Muriel Marland-Militello, prepared a memorandum on priority issues to be considered by the Sub-Committee. He also represented the Committee in various events, such as the Europa Nostra European Congress in Lisbon. Hon. Falzon tabled a motion on the theme *Fathers and their influence on children's well-being*.

Hon. Joe Debono Grech, substitute member in the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee, participated in the discussion on the report and resolution on *The Definition of Political Prisoner* submitted by the *rapporteur* Mr Christoph Strasser. The report and resolution were adopted by the Assembly at the same session.

Hon. Joe Debono Grech, together with Mr Pedro Agramunt, *co-rapporteurs* on behalf of the Monitoring Committee on Azerbaijan, carried out three fact-finding missions in Azerbaijan which culminated in the adoption of a detailed report and related resolution (Doc. 13084) at the Committee meeting held in Paris in December 2012. This report will be submitted for discussion and vote in plenary at the January 2013 session.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, representing the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, addressed the Assembly. The main thrust of his speech was to reinforce local democracy, to combat discrimination, to strengthen the rule of law across Europe and efforts to reform the European Court of Human Rights.

During 2012, the Assembly was also addressed by the Finnish President Tarja Halonen, Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic, Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha, the President of Moldova, Nicolae Timofti British Minister for Europe David Lidington, Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze, the Foreign Minister of Morocco, Saad dine El Otmani, United Nations Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet and UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, who spoke about various issues ranging from the effects of the Arab Spring to the uprising in Syria and to the need to enhance the cause of human rights, freedom and dignity.

In 2012, the members of the delegation to the PACE participated actively in both the plenary sessions of the Assembly as well as in the various committees of which they are Members.

The following information lists the Maltese delegation's participation in both the Assembly plenary sessions and Committee meetings where Members had the opportunity to participate in discussions on a number of texts which later were adopted or otherwise, by the Assembly:

January	Hon. Francis Agius participated in the meeting of the <i>ad hoc</i> Committee for the Observation of the Early Parliamentary Elections in Kazakhstan held on 12-16 January
	Hon. Joe Debono Grech participated in a fact-finding visit to Baku, Azerbaijan on 30 January-3 February
March	Hon. Joseph Falzon participated in the meeting of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media held in Paris on 5-6 March
	Hon. Joe Debono Grech participated in the meetings of the Monitoring Committee and of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy held in Paris on the 13-14 March
	Hon. Joe Debono Grech and Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami participated in the meeting of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons held in Brussels on 15-16 March
April	Hon. Francis Agius, Hon. Joe Debono Grech, Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami and Hon. Joseph Falzon participated in the Second Part Session of the PACE held in Strasbourg on 22-27 April
May	Hon. Joseph Falzon, Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage, was invited by the Council of Europe to represent the Committee on

Culture, Science, Education and Media in the Judging Panel, at the European Museum of the Year Award 2012 held in Penafiel, Portugal on 19 May

Hon. Francis Agius participated in the meeting of the Standing Committee held in Tirana, Albania on 25 May

June Hon. Joseph Falzon, Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage, was invited by the Council of Europe to represent the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media in the Judging Panel, at the *Europa Nostra* European Heritage Congress 2012 held in Lisbon, Portugal on 1 June

Hon. Joe Debono Grech was invited by the Council of Europe to participate in the fact-finding visit to Baku, Azerbaijan on 12-14 June

Hon. Francis Agius, Hon. Joe Debono Grech and Hon. Joseph Falzon participated in the Third Part Session of the PACE, held in Strasbourg on 25-27 June

Hon. Joseph Falzon, Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage, was invited by the Council of Europe to represent the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media in the Judging Panel, at the Culture Watch Europe 2012 Event *Cultural Access and Participation – from Indicators to Policies for Democracy*, held in Helsinki, Finland on 29-30 June

September Hon. Joe Debono Grech participated in the Meeting of the Monitoring Committee held in Paris, France on 4 September

October Hon. Francis Agius, Hon. Joe Debono Grech and Hon. Joseph Falzon participated in the Fourth Part Session of the PACE, held in Strasbourg on 1-4 October

November Hon. Francis Agius participated in the 10th Meeting of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children, held in Moscow on 20 November

Hon. Joe Debono Grech participated in the meeting of the Monitoring Committee held in Paris on 13 November

Hon. Joseph Falzon, Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage, was invited by the Council of Europe to represent the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media in the Judging Panel, at the meeting for the Council of Europe Museum of the Year Award held in Brussels on 22-23 November

Hon. Joe Debono Grech was invited by the Council of Europe to participate in the fact-finding visit to Baku, Azerbaijan on 24-29 November

Hon. Francis Agius participated in the meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Andorra on 30 November

December Hon. Joe Debono Grech participated in the meeting of the Monitoring Committee held in Paris on 12 December.

4.2.4 Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Since the Helsinki process in 1973 - which led to the setting up of the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) - countries like Malta strongly underscored the principle of indivisibility

of security and vehemently underscored that peace, security and stability in Europe and in the Mediterranean were intrinsically and inextricably interlinked. The ‘Mediterranean dimension’, better known as the CSCM (Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean), within the Charter of Paris for a New Europe signed in November 1990, is synonymous to Malta which advocated since the very start of the Helsinki process that there cannot be security in Europe without security in the Mediterranean. To underscore the importance of this dimension and its commitment towards the region, Malta hosted four CSCE/OSCE seminars on the Mediterranean, the first one in 1979, followed by those in 1993 and in 1998 and the last meeting held in the year under review.

Following seven Inter-Parliamentary Conferences on Security and Cooperation in Europe between 1972 and 1991, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) decided on a similar process in the Mediterranean, launching the process of the CSCM under the auspices of the IPU and including all littoral states of the Mediterranean.

In April 1990, during the convening of the 83rd IPU Conference in Nicosia, a resolution entitled ‘*The Promotion of Peace and Security in the Mediterranean region in the light of developments in Europe and the new spirit prevailing internationally*’ recommended the convening of a Conference of Parliamentarians of all Mediterranean States to discuss measures addressing various fields of cooperation. The idea of an Inter-Parliamentary CSCM was met with interest among Parliamentarians around the Mediterranean who supported it. IPU decided therefore to launch an ‘inter-parliamentary’ CSCM which convened meetings in Malaga (Spain) in June 1992, in Valletta (Malta) in November 1995, and in Marseille, France, in April 2000.

The Malaga Conference confirmed the basic principles of the process and set up the general framework for cooperation between the Mediterranean partners; the Valletta Conference affirmed the need to give the CSCM process a solid institutional basis, both at governmental and parliamentary level, and further recommended, on Malta’s initiative, the setting up of an Association of Mediterranean States. The Marseilles Conference urged that ‘*concurrent action should continue to be taken to establish an inter-parliamentary cooperation structure as advocated in the Final Document of the Second Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, with a view to creating, in the long run, a Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean*’ and ‘*to establish an inter-parliamentary structure as advocated in the Valletta (1995) document*’ which enjoys a superior status, thus institutionalizing the CSCM process.

In February 2005, the Fourth and final CSCM Conference was held in Nafplion, Greece. During that meeting, representatives of national parliaments of the Mediterranean States finalized and adopted the Statutes of the Parliamentary Assembly and decided to hold the first meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in Amman, Jordan in 2006.

During PAM’s inauguration on 10-11 September 2006 in Amman, Jordan, Malta was unanimously selected to host the PAM’s Secretariat at Palazzo Spinola in St Julian’s.

In November 2007, Malta hosted the second plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. Then French Ambassador for the Union for the Mediterranean initiative, Alain Le Roy, made a presentation on the UfM. As French President Sarkozy pressed forward with the proposed UfM, Malta indicated that the Parliamentary Assembly for the Mediterranean would be the Union’s ideal parliamentary branch. However, that status was accorded to the EMPA, after the French proposal was expanded to incorporate all EU27 under the Franco-German Agreement of March 2008. Nonetheless, a Commission *Communiqué* issued on 20 May 2008 invited the PAM at the 13 July Paris Summit when the UfM was officially launched.

The Charter of the Mediterranean, launched in 2009 and unanimously approved by PAM’s members at the Monaco Plenary Session, considers the Middle East issue as an area of priority, reflected also in the establishment of an *ad hoc* Committee, which has already produced a report and a resolution on the Middle East compiled by Hon. George Vella, both endorsed and unanimously adopted in Monaco.

The aim of the Parliamentary Assembly is to provide the Mediterranean with a unique parliamentary forum of its own and to bring together, on an equal footing, the national parliaments on the Mediterranean littoral. By addressing issues of common concern to foster and enhance further confidence between Member States to ensure regional security and stability and promote peace, the Assembly works to develop cooperation among its Members in its fields of action by promoting political dialogue and understanding between parliaments concerned.

PAM is a regional interstate organisation, an Observer at the General Assembly of the United Nations and with a specific international juridical status. Over a short period, PAM has established itself as the main actor in parliamentary diplomacy in the region, and its commitment to the founding principles and its Charter, is guaranteed by the continued support of all its member parliaments.

The detailed work of the Assembly is carried out by three Standing Committees which draw up opinions and recommendations. The committees of the PAM are:

- 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security Related Cooperation
- 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation
- 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights.

Furthermore, in early 2008, the Standing Committees of the Assembly set up a number of working groups under the form of *ad hoc* Committees and Special Task Forces.

By way of Motion 36 of 27 June 2008, amended by Motion 41 of 7 July 2008, the parliamentary delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean is composed of the following:



Hon. Jesmond Mugliett

Members

Hon. Jesmond Mugliett,
Leader of the delegation
Hon. Justyne Caruana
Hon. Franco Debono
Hon. Louis Deguara
Hon. George Vella

Substitute Members

Hon. Stephen Spiteri
Hon. Michael Falzon

Details of its participation in PAM meetings are as follows:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| April | Hon. Jesmond Mugliett, Hon. Justyne Caruana, Hon. George Vella and Hon. Michael Falzon participated in the annual meeting of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Standing Committee Task Forces held in Ankara, Turkey on 29-30 April |
| June | Hon. Jesmond Mugliett and Hon. Justyne Caruana participated in the parliamentary debate <i>Towards a Sustainable Economic Development in the Mediterranean Region</i> held in Lisbon on 29 June. |

4.2.5 Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly was officially established in Athens on 22-23 March 2004 as the parliamentary dimension of the Partnership set up by the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), formerly EMPA, consists of 280 members: 130 EU members (81 members from the twenty-seven EU national parliaments - three from each Parliament - and 49 members from the European Parliament), 10 members from new European Mediterranean partner countries (two for each delegation from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Monaco and Montenegro), 130 members from the ten countries on the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey), and 10 members from Mauritania.

There are five standing committees of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean:

- Committee on Political Affairs, Security, and Human Rights
- Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education
- Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies, and Culture
- Committee on Women's Rights in Euro-Med countries
- Committee on Energy, Environment, and Water.

The PA-UfM Bureau may establish, upon request of the Assembly, one or more working groups. The Bureau establishes the nature, duration, number of members, composition, remit and reporting obligations of such working groups.

In 2012, there were three such working groups: Working Group on the Financing of the Assembly and the Revision of the PA-UfM's Rules of Procedure, Working Group for Transferring the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) into a Euro-Mediterranean Development Bank and a Working Group on the Euro-Mediterranean University.

The PA-UfM is a consultative institution. Its resolutions and recommendations focus on the partnership's objectives and areas of cooperation and are not legally binding. At present, the PA-UfM is the main parliamentary dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean, which absorbed the Barcelona Process and was officially launched at the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of 43 countries held in Paris on 13 July 2008.

On 28 April 2010, the European Parliament adopted Motion 2009/2215(INI) on the Union for the Mediterranean, whereby, in its clause 37, '*stresses that the purpose of the EMPA is to become the parliamentary assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, which will guarantee its democratic legitimacy, and supports the proposal of the 6th plenary session of the EMPA held in Amman on 13 and 14 March 2010 that the name of the EMPA should be changed to Parliamentary Assembly – Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM)*'.

By way of Motion No. 35 of 27 June 2008, amended by Motion No. 42 of 7 July 2008, the parliamentary delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean was composed of the following Members:



Hon. Ċensu Galea

Members Hon. Ċensu Galea,
Leader of the delegation
Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia
Hon. George Vella

Substitute Members
Hon. Leo Brincat
Hon. Edwin Vassallo
Hon. Ninu Zammit

Details of the delegation's participation in PA-UfM meetings are as follows:

- March Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia participated in the 8th Plenary Session of the PA-UfM held in Rabat, Morocco on 23-25 March
- October Hon. George Vella participated in the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights held in Brussels on 3 October
- November Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia participated in the meeting of the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education, held in Abant-Bolu, Turkey, on 5-6 November.

4.2.6 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an association of Commonwealth parliamentarians united in their interests, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by the pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. The CPA works in the fields of good governance, of democracy and elections, and of human rights, while special attention is also paid to gender sensitising (thus the appointment of the branch of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians) and to promoting awareness of parliamentary democracy among the youth of the Commonwealth. It was founded in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association.

The mission of the CPA is to promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance. It seeks to build an informed parliamentary community able to deepen the democratic commitment of the Commonwealth and to further cooperation among its parliaments.

Members of the Maltese House of Representatives took part in the following CPA gatherings in 2012:

- March Hon. Louis Deguara participated in the CPA 61st Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure, held in London on 5-9 March
- Hon. Charles Mangion participated in the CPA 2nd Westminster Workshop on Public Accounts Committee held in London on 12-16 March
- April Hon. David Agius participated in the CPA Mid Year Executive Committee Meeting held in Tonga on 16-21 April
- May Hon. Joe Mizzi participated in the 23rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar held in Samoa on 24-30 May
- June Hon. David Agius, Hon. Frederick Azzopardi, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia and Hon. Silvio Parnis participated in the 42nd Conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region held in Edinburgh on the 10-14 June
- September Hon. David Agius and Hon. Joe Mizzi participated in the 58th CPA Annual Conference and the 32nd Small Branches Conference, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the 9-14 September.

4.2.7 Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is an international organisation established as a forum for political multilateral negotiations. The Maltese Parliament, together with the parliaments of 142 other countries, is a member of the IPU. The IPU has a permanent observer status at the United Nations.

One of the organs of the IPU is the Assembly which meets twice a year. The Assembly is composed of parliamentarians designated as delegates by the parliaments of the countries in the Union. It is assisted in its work by a number of standing committees which normally prepare reports and draft resolutions for the Assembly.

By way of Motion No. 34 of 27 June 2008, the Executive Committee of the National Group comprises:



Hon. Michael Frendo

President Speaker of the House of Representatives

Vice Presidents Prime Minister
Leader of the Opposition

The parliamentary delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union was made up of:

Members Hon. Michael Gonzi
Hon. George Vella

Substitute Members Hon. Philip Mifsud
Hon. Joe Mizzi

Hon. Philip Mifsud and Hon. Joe Mizzi participated in the 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Kampala, Uganda on 31 March – 5 April 2012.

4.2.8 Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Originally established in 1990 with 320 members, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) brings together parliamentarians from 56 participating states. The aim of the OSCE PA is to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue which is an important aspect of the overall effort to meet the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE area. It offers a forum for political negotiations and decision-making in the fields of early-warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and puts the political will of its participating states into practice through its unique network of field missions.

By way of Motion No. 33 of 27 June 2008, the Maltese Parliament is represented in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe as follows:



Hon. Louis Deguara

Members Hon. Louis Deguara,
Leader of the delegation
Hon. Frederick Azzopardi
Hon. Anġlu Farrugia

Members of the Maltese delegation participated in the following meetings:

- February Hon. Frederick Azzopardi and Hon. Anġlu Farrugia participated in the Winter Meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Vienna on 23-24 February
- July Hon. Frederick Azzopardi and Hon. Anġlu Farrugia participated in the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Monaco on the 5-9 July.

4.2.9 Other meetings

- May Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia participated in the Conference *European Colorectal Cancer Days – Prevention and Screening* held in Brno, Czech Republic on 4-5 May
- September Hon. Francis Agius participated in the 10th Summer Defence Conference held in Brest, France on the 10-11 September
- November Hon. Karl Gouder and Hon. Helena Dalli participated in the International Parliamentary Conference on Gender and Policies, organised under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in the House of Commons in London on 6-8 November

Hon. Franco Debono and Hon. Owen Bonnici participated in the Parliamentary Workshop on *Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review Recommendations*, organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Secretariat, held in Geneva on 12-13 November

Hon. Philip Mifsud and Hon. Joe Mizzi participated in the 12th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency of the EUFORES held in Athens on the 23-24 November.

4.3 Incoming Visits and conferences organised by the Maltese parliament

4.3.1 Visit by the President of the German Parliament (Bundestag)

Upon the invitation of Speaker Michael Frendo, an official delegation from the German Parliament (Bundestag) led by the President of the German Bundestag Prof. Dr Norbert Lammert, made a two-day visit to Malta on 16-17 April.

During this visit, Speaker Lammert and his parliamentary delegation met with the Speaker of the House, Hon. Michael Frendo; with the President of the Republic, H.E. Dr George Abela; with the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi; with the Minister for Home Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici; and with the Deputy Leader responsible for Parliamentary Affairs of the Partit Laburista, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia.

A joint meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs and the Malta-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group was also organised for the visiting delegation.

The delegation also had talks with the German Business and Cultural Community in Malta and upon their request, visited the Marsa Open Centre where they had the opportunity of listening at first hand, the experiences of the residents at the Centre.

A public lecture on *The role of parliaments in the current financial and debt crisis within the European Union* held in the Committee Room at the Parliament, concluded the two-day visit. This public lecture was well attended by Members of Parliament, former Members of Parliament and a number of academics.

4.3.2 Conference on 'Mixed Legal Systems, East and West: Newest Trends and Developments'

On 14-15 May 2012, a conference on *Mixed Legal Systems, East and West: Newest Trends and Developments* was organised by EMUNI University in conjunction with the Protection Project of the Johns Hopkins University, Tulane University, Eason Weinmann, Center for Comparative Law, and the World Society of Mixed Jurisdiction Jurists, and the Parliament of Malta.

The Conference was held in the Parliamentary Chamber and aimed to break new ground in the study of mixed jurisdictions, focussing on the intersections and interplay between Western and Eastern legal systems, including in particular the study of those countries where common and civil law interact and/or co-exist side-by-side with Islamic law; as well as an examination of the influence of religious law on statutory law.

The sessions were attended by academics and professionals from twenty one countries and included Mohammed Mattar, Senior Research Professor of International Law and Executive Director of the Protection Project at the Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, Washington DC, USA; Prof. Vernon Palmer, President of the World Society of Mixed Jurisdiction Jurists, Tulane Law School, New Orleans; Joseph Mifsud, President of EMUNI; and Dr Michael Frendo, Hon. Speaker of the Parliament in Malta. Prof. Ilan Chett, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, also attended the conference.

Following the successful cooperation among the organisers, with the participation of distinguished scholars, academics and scientists, a memorandum of understanding was signed where it was agreed that a seminar to be called the 'Parliamentary Forum on Human Rights' shall be organised annually by the Johns Hopkins University Protection Project in collaboration with EMUNI university and hosted by the Parliament of Malta.

4.3.3 Visit by a delegation from the People's Political Consultative Conference of China

A delegation of Members of Parliament led by Mr Chen Zongxing, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, visited Malta between 14-16 June on the invitation of the Speaker of the House, Hon. Michael Frendo, on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of

diplomatic relations between Malta and China, with the aim of strengthening cooperation and communication between the legislative bodies of the two countries.

Besides meeting with the Speaker, Hon. Michael Frendo, the delegation met with H.E. Dr George Abela, President of Malta. During the visit, Mr Chen Zongxing inaugurated the Juvenile Art Exhibition in Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of China-Malta Diplomatic Relations.

4.3.4 Visit by a delegation from the Malta-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group

A delegation comprising seven parliamentarians from the German Bundestag and two accompanying parliamentary officials, were the guests of the Parliament of Malta between 18 and 21 June.

The delegation, led by Ernst-Reinhard Beck, met with a number of local dignitaries, namely, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition.

The delegation also had talks with the Parliamentary Assistant in the Ministry for Home Affairs, which meeting was followed by a visit to the Marsa Open Centre.

A joint meeting of Members from the Foreign and European Affairs Committee and the Maltese Members on the Malta-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group was also organised for the German delegation.

The official programme also included meetings with the German-Maltese Business Council within the Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, and with the German-Maltese Circle.

During their stay in Malta, the German delegation also had the opportunity to visit German companies in Malta, namely, Lufthansa Technik, Playmobil Malta and Hotset Co. Ltd.

4.3.5 Conference of the European Public Law Organisation (EPLO), 20-21 July

The second conference of the European Public Law Organisation entitled *The New Economic Governance of Europe*, was hosted by Hon. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and held in the Parliamentary Committee Room on 20-21 July.

Hon. Michael Frendo delivered both the welcome address and the closing speech at the Conference and chaired the fourth session. The Hon. Tonio Fenech, Minister of Finance, the Economy and Investment, and the Hon. Alfred Sant, Former Prime Minister of Malta, made interventions during the session on the Economic Governance of Europe and Democratic Legitimacy. Hon. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered a welcome address.

Among the participants was Hon. Giuliano Amato, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy, who also delivered a welcome address and chaired the second session of the Conference. During this session, Prof. Amato was presented with the proceedings of a seminar on Italian Unification by Prof. Henry Frendo, Editor of the proceedings and Chairman of the Malta University Press.

Other participants included Prof. Spyridon Flogaitis, Director, European Public Law Organisation, Prof. Josef Bonnici, Governor, Central Bank of Malta, Prof. Ton van den Brink, Utrecht University, Prof. Cristos Gortsos, Panteion University, Prof. Constantine A. Stephanou, Jean Monnet Chair, Panteion University, Prof. Michael Brenner, University of Jena, Prof. Flora Goudappel, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Prof. John O'Dowd, University College Dublin, Prof. Pascale Idoux, University of Montpellier, Prof. Ian Refalo, University of Malta and Prof. Migena Leskoviku, European University of Tirana.

4.3.6 7th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

The 7th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) was held in Malta on the 12-13 October following the invitation extended by Speaker Michael Frendo during the 6th Plenary Session meeting in Palermo in October 2011. At that plenary session it was agreed that Malta will host the PAM Plenary every fourth year.

The 7th Plenary Session was inaugurated by the Assembly's President and Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, H.E. Dr Fayez Al-Tarawneh, with a strong message on PAM's role in adapting to the new and rapidly changing situations in the Mediterranean. During his address, Senator Al-Tarawneh conveyed the message by the United Nations Secretary General, H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, in which he welcomed the wide-ranging efforts in support of the United Nations and for the work for peace and security in the Mediterranean region and beyond. The UN Secretary General also expressed his appreciation for PAM's commitment to helping countries in transition by facilitating political dialogue and strengthening civil society.

Speaker Hon. Michael Frendo, in his opening address, referred to the establishment of PAM as a true victory for the skill and perseverance of parliamentary diplomacy. Hon. Frendo said that it is time that everyone starts considering a Mediterranean integration architecture based on the concept of concentric circles in which the sub-regional fits in with the regional, applying the concept of concentric circles in that it is important to keep PAM as the Parliamentary Assembly of all and of only the Mediterranean at the centre of this architecture. 'In this way, we can all work to harmonise our resources and – in the spirit of the theory of concentric circles – to complement each other for the increased benefit of the Mediterranean peoples as a whole'.

The Plenary Session was also addressed by the Head of the Malta Delegation to PAM, Hon. Jesmond Mugliett, the Chairman of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, H.E. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, H.E. Riccardo Migliori and the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly, H.E. Dr William Shija.

The delegates adopted the reports and resolutions by the three standing committees, namely the report prepared by Hon. George Vella on the Middle East Peace Process and Events in the Arab World.

One of the highlights of the Session was the live video conference from Jerusalem where participants had the opportunity of exchanging views and putting questions to H.E. Ambassador Robert H. Serry, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the UN Secretary General's Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority.

During the concluding session of the 7th PAM Plenary Session, Italian Senator Francesco Amoruso was unanimously elected PAM President for the biennium 2013-2014. Senator Amoruso takes over from Senator Dr Fayez Al-Tarawneh who was also the Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. According to the PAM Statute, the Presidency alternates between the Southern and Northern countries.

The PAM Secretary General, Ambassador Sergio Piazzi, together with Speaker Michael Frendo, presented the candidates for the PAM Prize 2012 with a commemorative plaque. Amongst the candidates in receipt of such a plaque was Mr Anton Tabone, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives.

4.3.7 Colloquy of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe

On 1-2 November 2012, the Parliament of Malta, in collaboration with the Malta Branch of Former Members of Parliament, hosted the biennial Colloquy of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe.

Some 45 delegates from the 13 member states of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe, together with representatives of the Former Members' Association of the European Parliament, participated at this biennial Colloquy which was themed *Support of Democratic Transition Processes in the Southern Mediterranean and in the Middle East*.

The Speaker, Hon. Michael Frendo, made his address at the opening session which was attended by a number of Ambassadors resident in Malta.

The Declaration prepared by Mr J. D. Blaauw, from the Netherlands, was unanimously approved by the participants at the end of the meeting. Participants supported the processes of democratic transition emerging in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East and expressed their hope that the developments would usher in a new era of freedom, prosperity, justice and peace for the peoples in the region. The Maltese delegation representing the Malta Association of Former Members of Parliament, took active part in the proceedings.

Furthermore, with regard to the dramatic situation in Syria and the fact that it had been decided that the Declaration would not deal with the situation in specific countries in the area, the participants also adopted, unanimously, at the suggestion of the German Association, an '*Appeal to stop violence in Syria and to work for a political solution*'.



Second conference of the European Public Law Organisation (EPLO) on 'The New Economic Governance of Europe' which was held in the Committee Room on 20-21 July 2012



Meeting with a number of local scientists during Researchers' Night – Science in the City exhibition held in the Committee Room on 28 September 2012

5. ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

The Association of Former Members of Parliament of the House of Representatives held a number of meetings during the course of 2012. The Maltese Association has been a member of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe since 2006.

The principal objective of the European Association is to promote the European ideal, based on individual and political liberties, the primacy of law and true democracy, and to contribute to the European construction. To this end, the association works to make the European institutions better known to the general public and organises meetings and colloquies aimed at examining the major problems of society.

During 2012, Mr Lino Debono and Dr Vincent Moran took part in the two meetings of the Bureau and General Assembly of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Council of Europe held on 22-25 March in Cyprus and on 8 June held in Paris.

On 1-2 November 2012, some 45 delegates from the 13 member states of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe, together with representatives of the Former Members' Association of the European Parliament, gathered in Malta to participate at the biennial Colloquy of the said European Association. The theme of the two-day Colloquy was *Support of Democratic Transition Processes in the Southern Mediterranean and in the Middle East*.

The Speaker, Hon. Michael Frendo, made his address at the opening session which was attended by a number of Ambassadors resident in Malta.

The Declaration prepared by Mr J. D. Blaauw, from the Netherlands, was unanimously approved by the participants at the end of the meeting. Participants supported the processes of democratic transition emerging in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East and expressed their hope that the developments would usher in a new era of freedom, prosperity, justice and peace for the peoples in the region. The Maltese delegation representing the Malta Association of Former Members of Parliament, took active part in the proceedings.

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Mr Speaker and Members from both sides of the House meeting the public during the Notte Bianca Event which was organised on 29 September 2012



Courtesy call on Mr Speaker by HE Vaqif Sadiqov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 23 October 2012

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

6.1 Inter-School 6th Form Debating Finals

The Inter-School 6th Form Debating Finals, organised by the European Speaking Union (ESU), were held in the Committee Room on 27 April.

The Union's objective is to raise awareness about the importance of good public speaking and debating skills by building confidence in communicating in English. By means of events such as this one, ESU Malta helps young people realize their potential in this field.

The finals of the debating competition saw two teams of students debating, with each team attempting to strengthen its own arguments and weaken the opponent's in a bid to establish whether the Internet is the greatest tool for democracy. The students were assessed on their content and their ability to provide sound reasoning and evidence, the style employed in expression and delivery, as well as overall structure and the ability to engage with the other team through listening and response skills.

Hon. Karl Gouder and Hon. Owen Bonnici both delivered introductory addresses and were also members of the jury.

6.2 Visit by Police Recruits

On 11 June a group of new police recruits from the Police Academy visited the Maltese Parliament, where they were addressed by Speaker Michael Frendo.

This is an annual visit meant to familiarize prospective police constables with the component pillars of the democracy they are bound to serve. During the visit the recruits attended a parliamentary sitting, after which the Speaker briefly explained to them the role of Parliament in the democratic process.

6.3 Ekoskola Parliament

The 8th session of the Ekoskola Parliament was hosted by Parliament in the Chamber of the House of Representative on 12 June. The event provides participating students with an opportunity to meet Members of Parliament and discuss with them their environmental concerns. It helps students develop an environmental awareness and promotes active participation in finding solutions to environmental problems.

During this session, students presented a Declaration - *Caring for our Future* - intended for the Rio+20 Summit. The students raised issues about sustainable living and urged Parliament to take action with regard to the installation of solar panels at the President's Palace at San Anton.

Speaker Michael Frendo delivered the opening speech at this event. Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Hon. Owen Bonnici, Hon. Leo Brincat, Hon. Justyne Caruana, Hon. Dolores Cristina, Hon. Mario de Marco, Hon. Joseph Falzon and Hon. Philip Mifsud took part in this event.

70 students aged between 6 and 15 years of age from 35 different schools participated during this annual event.

6.4 *Sette Giugno*

The Speaker of the Parliament of Malta, Hon. Michael Frendo, delivered a speech at the annual commemoration of the 7 June 1919 events in which six Maltese men lost their lives and which led to the granting of self-government in 1921.

During his speech, the Speaker proposed the revision of the Standing Orders to promote and ensure a more just and equitable environment in Parliament. The Speaker also called for Parliament to be granted its decision making and financial autonomy as a Constitutional Institution in order to strengthen parliamentary democracy and put the Maltese Parliament on the same level as the national parliaments of other European Union Member States.

The 7 June uprising of 1919 saw the dissatisfied Maltese protesting against the inadequate economic and political life experienced at the time and was marred by many tragic incidents which culminated with the British forces opening fire on the crowd. Four Maltese lost their lives during the riots: Manwel Attard, Gużè Bajada, Wenzu Dyer and Karmenu Abela. Two others, Cikku Darmanin and Toni Caruana, died later in hospital from their wounds.

On the very same day, the National Assembly unanimously approved a motion proposed by Notary Salv Borg Olivier and put to the vote by Filippo Sceberras, whereby the British Government was asked to immediately grant political and administrative autonomy for Malta.

The commemorative ceremony was held at Hastings Garden in Valletta where the *Sette Giugno* monument is sited, with the traditional laying of wreaths at the foot of the monument by distinguished persons, including the Speaker, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

6.5 *Science in the House*

A meeting between the Speaker Hon. Michael Frendo and a number of local scientists was held during *Researchers' Night – Science in the City* on 28 September. During the event, the Speaker met scientists from different fields, including chemistry, biology, biomedicine, engineering and ICT.

The event was held in the Committee Room, which was also the venue for an exhibition showcasing recent developments in various scientific disciplines. The aim of the meeting was to foster greater dialogue and engagement between researchers and Members of Parliament.

Hon. Michael Frendo thanked all the scientists for their hard work and valuable research, emphasizing the importance of academic research and its contribution to the country's progress. He reminded everyone that Parliament, being the country's highest institution, has a very important role to play in the life of the general public and is duty bound to engage both civil and academic society. The Speaker welcomed the meeting, adding that such initiatives were necessary for keeping the Members of Parliament informed about recent developments in research, especially when considering the important role Members play in getting research funded, given that this is often financed by public funds.

Science in the City forms part of the pan-European event *Researchers' Night* held every year on the fourth Friday of September aiming to bring the public closer to science and researchers.

The *Science in the City* festival was supported by the EU 7th Framework Programme and the Malta Arts Funds, with the events being coordinated by the University of Malta, in partnership with the Valletta Local Council, MEUSAC, Malta Council for Science and Technology, Malta Council for Culture and the Arts, Where's Everybody, Malta Chamber of Scientists, *Notte Bianca*, iCreatemotion, Lily Agius Gallery, St James Cavalier, Microsoft Innovation Centre (Malta) and the University's Research, Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT).

6.6 National Youth Parliament

As in previous years, the 2012 session of the National Youth Parliament organised by the *Kunsill Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażaġh* was held in the Chamber of the House of Representatives on 14 September. This activity aims at bringing Maltese youth closer to both the parliamentary and democratic systems of our country, by discussing a number of issues of specific concern to the younger generation. This year, the discussions centred on the future of the Maltese media and cohabitation and homosexual marriage.

Every year, two sessions of the National Youth Parliament are held, one targeting junior students and another targeting senior students.

The sessions were chaired by Deputy Speaker Hon. Ċensu Galea. Members of Parliament from both political parties participated in the discussion.

6.7 Notte Bianca

For the sixth year running, the Maltese Parliament opened its doors to the public during the *Notte Bianca* activity which was held on 29 September. This year, over 8,000 people visited the Presidential Palace, including the Parliamentary Chamber and Committee Rooms. These visitors were guided by the parliamentary staff.

A number of Members of Parliament, as well as the Speaker of the House, were present to meet the public. People visiting the Parliamentary Chamber could follow a film on the history of the Parliament of Malta which was broadcast throughout the whole evening in the Chamber.

6.8 Engaging with Civil Society

As part of the continuation of the Outreach Programme *Engaging with Civil Society* embarked on by Speaker Michael Frendo in 2010 with the aim of bringing Parliament and civil society closer together, various meetings and tours were arranged with different groups, public bodies and companies.

The programme informs the public of the function of Parliament in society thus contributing to enrich parliamentary democracy. To this end, a booklet was published detailing the composition of Parliament, describing the legislative process and explaining how Parliament works.

This year, the programme saw the involvement of, amongst others, the National Youth Council, Ganado Associates and the Police Cadets.

6.9 Seminar on the Democratic Process in the Mediterranean and the Middle East

The Association of Former Members of Parliament organised a Seminar on the Democratic Process in the Mediterranean and the Middle East under the auspices of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Michael Frendo, who also delivered a keynote address for the occasion.

The seminar focussed on the democratic process in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, with special consideration given to the events that shook the global political scene.

Dr Simon Busuttil MEP and Prof. Edward Scicluna MEP contributed to the discussion by respectively addressing the political and economic aspects of the tense situation in the region. Hon. George Vella also participated in the seminar.

The Seminar was held on 2 March in the Parliamentary Committee Room. A summary of the evening's proceedings was used as a working document during the European Colloquy convened by the European Association of Former Parliamentarians in Malta in November.

7. OBITUARIES

During 2012 the House expressed its grief:

- on 18 January at the death of Mrs Anne Zammit Dimech, mother of Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech, who passed away on 18 December 2011;
- on 28 March, at the death of Mrs Ġużeppa Vella, mother of Hon. Karmenu Vella, who passed away on 27 March;
- on 30 April, at the death of Mrs Giusa Frendo, mother of Speaker Michael Frendo, who passed away on 21 April;
- also on 30 April, at the death of Mr Kolin Cauchi, father of Hon. Gino Cauchi, who passed away on 10 April;
- on 28 May, at the death of Mr George Farrugia, father of Hon. Anglu Farrugia, who passed away on 20 May;
- on 5 June at the death of Dr George Borg, former Member of Parliament, who passed away on 30 April; and
- also on 1 October at the death of Mr Joseph Deguara, father of Hon. Louis Deguara, who passed away on 25 July.

On 14 and 21 March the House paid its respects to President Emeritus Dr Ċensu Tabone, former Minister and former Member of Parliament, who passed away on 14 March. The House was adjourned on 14 March as a sign of respect.

On 1 October the House also paid its respects to Mr Dom Mintoff, former Prime Minister, former Minister and former Member of Parliament, who passed away on 20 August. The House was adjourned as a sign of respect.

Furthermore, on 25 January, the House commemorated the victims of the Holocaust, victims of World War II and victims of other war crimes in recent years and observed some moments of silence.

As part of the commemoration of Members of the House, or former Members, who pass away during the year, Parliament publishes a booklet containing a reproduction of the oath of allegiance taken by the Member when first entering Parliament, as well as the reproduction of the maiden or final speech made by the Member in Parliament. The commemorative booklet is distributed to all the Members of Parliament and to the family members of the deceased who are invited to attend the commemoration in the House.



Biennial Colloquy of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe which was held on 1-2 November 2012



Meeting between the Speaker and Senator Andrei Klimov and HE Mr Boris Yu Marchuk, Ambassador of the Russian Federation, on 14 December 2012

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
11th Legislature

as on 31 December 2012

Speaker of the House of Representatives: Hon. Michael Frendo

Partit Nazzjonalista (Government)

Honourable

Agius David
Agius Francis
Arrigo Robert
Azzopardi Frederick
Azzopardi Jason
Bonnici Charlò
Borg Tonio
Cassar Joseph
Cristina Dolores
de Marco Mario
Debono Franco
Debono Giovanna
Deguara Louis
Falzon Joseph
Farrugia Jean Pierre
Fenech Tonio
Fenech Adami Beppe
Galea Ċensu
Galea Mario
Gatt Austin
Gonzi Lawrence
Gonzi Michael
Gouder Karl
Micallef Peter
Mifsud Philip
Mifsud Bonnici Carmelo
Mugliett Jesmond
Puli Clyde
Pullicino George
Pullicino Orlando Jeffrey
Said Chris
Spiteri Stephen
Vassallo Edwin
Zammit Ninu
Zammit Dimech Francis

Partit Laburista (Opposition)

Honourable

Abela Carmelo
Agius Chris
Agius Decelis Anthony
Bartolo Evarist
Bonnici Owen
Brincat Leo
Buhagiar Charles
Buontempo Stefan
Busuttil Luciano
Cardona Chris
Caruana Justyne
Cauchi Gino
Coleiro Preca Marie Louise
Dalli Helena
Debono Grech Joe
Falzon Michael
Farrugia Angelo
Farrugia Michael
Farrugia Noel
Galdes Roderick
Gulia Gavin
Herrera José
Mangion Charles
Mizzi Joe
Muscat Joseph
Parnis Silvio
Pullicino Marlene
Refalo Anton
Sammut Joseph
Sant Alfred
Vassallo Adrian
Vella George
Vella Karmenu
Zammit Anthony

ANNEX: CALLS ON THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

23 January	Courtesy call by HE Ms Refika Nihal Çevik, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey
27 January	Courtesy call by HE Ms Milagros Carina Soto Agüero, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba
27 January	Courtesy call by HE Mulugeta Alemseged Gessese, Ambassador of the Republic of Ethiopia
27 January	Courtesy call by HE Mr Rouben Karapetian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia
14 February	Courtesy call by HE Mr Oren David, Ambassador of Israel while on a working visit to Malta
15 February	Farewell call by HE Mr Zhang Keyuan, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
20 February	Presentation of the <i>Performance Audit Report: Safeguarding Malta's Groundwater</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
29 February	Courtesy call by HE Mr Tomislav Vidošević, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia ahead of the vote on 5 March 2013 on the accession of Croatia to the EU
2 March	Courtesy call by HE Ms Ana Hrustanovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia
2 March	Courtesy call by HE Mr Juan Manuel Prieto Montoya, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia
5 March	Courtesy call by HE Mr Michel Vandepoorter, Ambassador of the Republic of France
28 March	Courtesy call by HE Mr Wojciech Ponikiewski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
2 April	Courtesy call by HE Mr Cai Jinbiao New, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
10 April	Courtesy call by HE Mr Faisal Sulaiman Ali Al-Musaileem, Ambassador of Kuwait
12 April	Meeting with Mr Egemen Bagis, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Turkey
16 April	Meeting with the Speaker of the German Bundestag, Prof. Norbert Lammert and his delegation
23 April	Presentation of the Report <i>IT Audit: Heritage Malta</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara

30 April	Presentation of the <i>Performance Audit Report: Contract Management Capabilities across Local Councils</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
9 May	Courtesy call by HE Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, Ambassador of the United States of America
25 May	Presentation of the <i>Performance Audit Report: An Analysis of the Pharmacy of your Choice Scheme</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
31 May	Courtesy call by Mr Leo Bormans, author of <i>The World Book of Happiness</i>
13 June	Official visit by the President of Montenegro, Mr Filip Vujanović
14 June	Meeting with Mr Chen Zongxing, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, and accompanying delegation of Members of Parliament
18 June	Presentation of the <i>Performance Audit Report: Emissions Control Scheme – Follow-Up</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
18 June	Courtesy call by the German – Maltese Parliamentary Friendship Group
26 June	Presentation of the Report <i>PBS: Extended Public Service Obligation 2009/2010</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
2 July	Presentation of the Report <i>UOM: Concession of Parts of University House to the Kunsill Studenti Universitarji</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
9 July	Presentation of the Report <i>IT Audit: Medicines Authority</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
25 July	Courtesy call by Mr Michael Link, Minister of State at the German Foreign Office
23 August	Farewell call by HE Mr Jean-Francois Delahout, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium
27 September	Farewell call by HE Ms Louise Jane Stanton, British High Commissioner
1 October	Presentation of the <i>ARMS Ltd. Follow-Up Report and Performance Audit Report: Tackling the Drug Use Problem in Malta</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
1 October	Courtesy call by HE Ms Souad Gueblaoui, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia
8 October	Courtesy call by Ombudsman Joseph Said Pullicino
8 October	Courtesy call by the new Commissioner for Health, Mr Charles Messina Health and Commissioner for Environment and Planning Architect David Pace

23 October	Courtesy call by HE Vaqif Sadiqov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan
25 October	Courtesy call by HE Mr Guido J. Martinelli Endara, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama
25 October	Courtesy call by HE Ms Aida Luz Santos de Escobar, Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador
29 October	Presentation of the <i>Public Procurement Analysis Report</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
29 October	Courtesy call by the UK High Commissioner, HE Mr Robert Haydon Vernon Luke
29 October	Unofficial visit by Ms Rosemary Butler, Speaker of the Welsh National Assembly
5 November	Working visit by HE Mr Oren David, Ambassador of Israel
20 November	Presentation of the book <i>Security Challenges in the Euro-med Area in the 21st Century: Mare Nostrum (Routledge Advances in European Politics)</i> by Prof. Stephen Calleya
3 December	Farewell call by HE Mr Luigi Marras, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy
3 December	Presentation of the <i>Annual Audit Report 2011</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
4 December	Presentation of the <i>Performance Audit Report: Advertising Malta as a Tourist Destination – A Case Study of the Italian Market</i> by the Auditor General, Mr Anthony Mifsud, and the Deputy Auditor General, Mr Charles Deguara
4 December	Meeting with Irish Minister for EU Affairs, Ms Lucinda Creighton
4 December	Working visit Dr Mohamed M.A. Elghirani, <i>Chargé d’Affaires a.i.</i> for Libya
5 December	Farewell call by the Apostolic Nuncio, HE Mgr Tommaso Caputo
7 December	Courtesy call by HE Mr Kim Chun Guk, Ambassador of the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea
14 December	Meeting with Senator Andrei Klimov and with HE Mr Boris Yu Marchuk, Ambassador of the Russian Federation.

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