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The staff of the Maltese Parliament during a fire extinguishing course given by the Civil Protection, in preparation for the entry into Parliament's new building.

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Parlament ta' Malta/DOI

Daħla

Dawn l-aħħar tliet xhur, bejn Jannar u l-aħħar ta' Marzu ta' din is-sena, kienu xhur impenjattivi ħafna għal dan il-Parlament. Biżżejjed ngħid li l-Parlament iltaqa' 41 darba fil-plenarja; saru sitt stqarrijiet ministerjali; ġew ippreżentati 28 mozzjoni, u għaddew tmien liġijiet. Il-kumitati parlamentari wkoll iltaqgħu diversi drabi. Is-Sedja kellha tagħti diversi ***rulings***, anke dwar il-proċedura fil-konfront ta' mistoqsijiet parlamentari kif ukoll dwar l-ammissibbiltà ***o meno*** ta' xhieda tal-Avukat Ġenerali f'kumitati parlamentari u anke dwar il-poteri tal-Kumitat Permanenti dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi fir-rigward tal-produzzjoni ta' kuntratti bħala prova ta' proċedura. Biżżejjed ngħid li matul dawn l-aħħar tliet xhur ġew ippreżentati u mwieġba mhux inqas minn 2,497 mistoqsija parlamentari. Din hija funzjoni sinonima max-xogħol tal-Parlament u ***ċ-checks and balances*** bejn l-Oppożizzjoni u l-Gvern.

Irrid ngħid ukoll li fost ix-xogħol li sar, kien hemm ix-xogħol prodott minn diversi kumitati parlamentari, b'mod partikolari l-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali, il-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet tal-Familja u kumitati oħrajn li kollha baqgħu għaddejjin bil-ħidma tagħhom. Fil-fatt saru 41 laqgħa tal-kumitati permanenti li fihom kienu involuti mhux biss il-Membri Parlamentari imma anke NGOs u l-pubbliku inġenerali.

Matul dawn l-aħħar tliet xhur il-Kamra fakkret żewġ eks Membri Parlamentari li ġew nieqsa f'dan il-perjodu, Dr Michael Refalo, li kien Ministru f'diversi gvernijiet preċedenti u s-Sur Victor Galea Pace li kien Membru Parlamentari bejn l-1996 u l-2003.

Proprju fit-28 ta' Marzu, sar l-irtir li issa sar tradizzjoni ta' kull sena. Għal dan l-irtir interessanti, immexxi minn Monsinjur Arċisqof Charles Scicluna, attendew madwar 20 Membru Parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra. Matulu ġew diskussi b'mod dettaljat id-diskorsi li għamel il-Papa Franġisku kemm fil-Kunsill tal-Ewropa kif ukoll fil-Parlament Ewropew fi Strażburgu f'Novembru li għadda.

Irrid ngħid ukoll li baqgħet għaddejja l-ħidma u l-preparamenti biex finalment dan il-Parlament jimxi għall-binja l-ġdida. Fil-fatt bħalissa għaddejjin l-aħħar xogħlijiet biex l-inawgurazzjoni tal-binja l-ġdida tal-Parlament, jekk jista' jkun, issir nhar it-Tnejn, 4 ta' Mejju 2015.

F'din il-ħarġa qegħdin nippreżentaw ukoll żewġ artikli interessanti, wieħed mill-Professur Ray Mangion li jittratta l-kwestjoni tar-remunerazzjoni tal-Membri Parlamentari – hawnhekk tajjeb li wieħed jgħid li l-Professur Mangion għamel studju profond u storiku f'dan ir-rigward – kif ukoll artiklu interessanti tal-ħassieb u storiku Dr George Cassar, li ta ħarsa ġenerali lejn l-iżvilupp tal-partiti politiċi f'Malta kolonjali bejn l-1800 u l-1964.

Irrid nagħlaq billi nirringrazzja lill-Membri Parlamentari kollha min-naħa tal-Gvern u min-naħa tal-Oppożizzjoni għax-xogħol li għamilna flimkien biex dejjem ipproduċejna l-aħjar f'din l-ogħla istituzzjoni demokratika tal-pajjiż. Jalla kif nidħlu lura, wara l-waqfa tal-Għid, inkomplu bir-ritmu li qbadna fil-ħidma parlamentari tagħna fl-interess nazzjonali.

Anġlu Farrugia

Foreword

These last three months, between January and the end of March of this year, were very demanding months for Parliament. Suffice to say, Parliament met 41 times in plenary; there were six ministerial statements; 28 motions were presented, and eight laws were passed. The parliamentary committees also met several times. The Chair was called upon to give several rulings, including on the procedure in respect of parliamentary questions as well as to the admissibility or otherwise of evidence by the Attorney General in parliamentary committees and even on the powers of the Public Accounts Committee regarding the production of contracts as proof of procedure. Over the last three months not less than 2,497 parliamentary questions were submitted and answered. This function is synonymous with the work of Parliament and the checks and balances between the Opposition and the Government.

I also have to mention the work of the various parliamentary committees, among them the Social Affairs Committee and the Family Affairs Committee, as well as other committees, that all continued with their work. In fact, 41 committee meetings were held which involved not only MPs but also NGOs and the general public.

Over the last three months the House commemorated the passing away of two former MPs, Dr Michael Refalo, who served as minister in several previous governments and Mr Victor Galea Pace who was a Member of Parliament between 1996 and 2003.

On 28 March, the traditional annual retreat was held. The retreat was headed by Archbishop Charles Scicluna, and was attended by about 20 Members of Parliament from both sides of the House. During the retreat the speeches made by Pope Francis at the Council of Europe and the European Parliament in Strasbourg last November were debated in detail.

I must also say that the work and preparations for this Parliament to finally move to the new building were unrelenting. In fact, the finishing touches are being done so that the inauguration of the new Parliament building, if possible, will be held on Monday, 4 May 2015.

In this issue we also present two interesting articles, one by Professor Ray Mangion dealing with the issue of the remuneration of Members of Parliament – and in this respect Professor Mangion has carried out a profound and historical study – as well as an interesting article by thinker and historian Dr George Cassar giving an overview of the development of political parties in colonial Malta between 1800 and 1964.

I want to conclude by thanking all the Government and Opposition Members for the work we have done together to always do our best in this highest democratic institution of the country. institution of our country. After the Easter break, we will hopefully keep up this momentum in our parliamentary work in the nation's best interest.

Anġlu Farrugia

L-Onorarju Tal-Membri Eletti: Għadma ta' Tilwim Minn Għanqudu

L-istorja tal-onorarju tal-membri eletti tal-Leġiżlatura f'Malta tmur lura sad-dħul tal-gvern responsabbli fil-pajjiż. Din kienet tema kontroversjali ħafna qabel rat it-twelid tagħha.

Il-membri eletti tal-Kunsill tal-Gvern fi żmien il-ħakma tal-Kuruna ma kinux jitħallsu. Mill-1835 sal-1921, huma kienu meqjusin bħala deputati tal-poplu li kellhom iwettqu xogħolhom *gratis et amore*. Il-Gvern Ingliż kien irrikonoxxa kostituzzjonalmet il-ħlas ta' membri tal-Kunsill tal-Gvern li kienu nħatru mill-Gvernatur fi żmien il-Leġiżlatura ta' "rappreżentanza" fit-termini tal-Ittri Patenti bl-isem "Knustford" tal-1887, u ssokta jikkonferma tali rikonoxximent fl-1909 bħala parti integrali mill-Ittri Patenti tal-1903 li kienu dawru l-arloġġ lura mill-ġdid għal żmien ta' Leġiżlatura "awtokratika".

L-introduzzjoni tal-ħlas tal-membri eletti tal-Leġiżlatura kien korollaju naturali tal-kisba ta' gvern responsabbli. Id-diffikultà li kienet tolqot il-prinċipju relevanti kienet iddur madwar il-fatt li l-oġġezzjonijiet, u allura d-diverġenzi, kienu ħakmu wkoll fl-erba' rkejjen tal-arena politika Maltija, tant li l-proposta leġiżlattiva kkonċernata kienet diġà inevitabbilment ħolqot kontroversja fost il-pijunieri lokali tad-demokrazija semiawtonoma f'Malta appuntu qabel l-1921. L-Assemblea Nazzjonali li kienet twaqqfet taħt il-patroċinju ta' Sir Filippo Sceberras sabiex tiġġieled għal gvern responsabbli (1919-1921) kienet maqsuma dwar jekk kellhiex tħaddan u timplimenta l-prinċipju tal-ħlas "parlamentari" skont il-massima li kull ħaddiem kien intitolat għall-ħlas, iżda fl-aħħar ma qablitx li membri eletti tal-Leġiżlatura kellhom jirċievu ħlas kemm-il darba kellha tiddaħħal sistema bikamerali li kienet tinkludi Senaturi.

Fl-1921, il-Gvern Ingliż illimita r-rikonoxximent tal-ħlas għall-membri eletti tal-Leġiżlatura fil-Kostituzzjoni 'Amery-Milner' fir-rigward tal-President tas-Senat, tal-'Ispeaker' tal-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva kif ukoll tal-Iskrivan Ewlieni taż-żewġ Kmamar tal-Leġiżlatura (Artiklu 38). Għalhekk, il-membri eletti kellhom jistennew sal-ewwel Leġiżlatura biex jassikuraw il-ħlas tagħhom. Mingħajr rieb ta' xejn, il-partiti politiċi fl-ewwel elezzjoni tal-1921 kienu maqsumin fuq il-legalizzazzjoni tal-ħlas "parlamentari" l-iktar bħala onorarju li kien japplika għall-benefiċċju tal-membri tal-Leġiżlatura kollha, taż-żewġ Kmamar, jiġifieri sew għad-Deputati u sew għas-Senaturi.

Il-Partit Kostituzzjonali ħaddan bi prominenza il-preċett favur il-ħlas "parlamentari" fil-Manifest tiegħu. L-Unione Politica Maltese kienet qisitu fil-propaganda tagħha tal-bidu iżda ramietu matul il-bqija u fl-aħħar tal-kampanja tagħha. Il-'Camera del Lavoro', jew il-Partit Laburista, u l-Partito Democratico Nazionale, li kienu għadhom kif ġew iffurmati, oġġezzjonaw għalkollox għat-twaqqif ta' Senat u tas-sistema bikamerali fi ħdan dijarkija, u allura ħaduha qatta' bla ħabel kontra l-ħlas tas-Senaturi. Huma għażlu li ma jsemmu xejn fuq il-materja fil-programmi elettorali rispettivi tagħhom. Fl-1923, l-Unione Politica Maltese, li kienet rebħet it-tmexxija tal-gvern intern fi ħdan il-kondominju b'maġġoranza relattiva u kellha tidħol f'koalizzjoni, ressqet u approvat b'ħafna saram l-'Att Dwar il-Ħlas Parlamentari', jew Att III (1923) fl-ewwel sessjoni, tant li l-Abbozz ta' Liġi nħakem minn "Kriżi Ministerjali", u l-approvazzjoni tiegħu kienet għoddha waqqgħet l-amministrazzjoni. Bla dubju, l-Att ġaladarba promulgat kien ġdid fjamant fl-essenza tiegħu u innovattiv fl-estensjoni tiegħu għall-ħlas tal-membri eletti tal-Leġiżlatura.

L-Unione Politica Maltese, f'alleanza mal-Partit Laburista, ressqu vot favur il-ħlas tas-Senaturi bħala parti mill-ewwel Estmi Supplimentari għas-sena 1922 u għaddew il-vot minkejja li l-Partit Kostituzzjonali ngħaqad sfiq mal-Partito Democratico Nazionale biex oppona b'mod totali l-vot f'Kamra li tfawret b'atmosfera mimlija b'inċertezza u nuqqas ta' deċiżjoni sal-aħħar nett. Il-Konti Dr Alfredo Caruana Gatto (UPM) irraġuna li l-Artiklu 38 tal-Kostituzzjoni kien jirrikjedi biss Abbozz ta' Approprjazzjoni għall-approvazzjoni tal-ħlas tal-membri eletti tal-Leġiżlatura, u ma qabel xejn ma' Dr Enrico Mizzi li min-naħa tiegħu stqarr li Abbozz *ad hoc* kien neċessarju. Fit-22 ta' Frar, 1922, is-Senatur Dr William Savona, kofundatur tal-Partit Laburista, stqarr li ostilità ġenerali kontra

L-Onorarju Tal-Membri Eletti: Għadma ta' Tilwim Minn Għanqudu (Kont.)

l-ħlas "parlamentari" kienet qiegħda taħkem fi ħdan il-moviment tiegħu. Is-Senatur Monsinjur Galea, li kien nominat mill-Arċisqof fis-Senat, ivvota ma' Dr Savona b'mod favorevoli għaliex huwa kien tal-fehma li l-ħlas Senatorjali seta' jservi ta' inċentiv għal kull membru li kien jirnexxielu jikseb siġġu fil-Kamra ta' Fuq tal-Kamra bilaterali tal-Leġiżlatura.

L-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva ressqet il-vot fl-Estmi Ġenerali u l-Abbozz ta' Approprjazzjoni relevanti, it-tielet miżura tas-sena. Il-Partit Laburista xxierek mal-Partito Democratico Nazionale li ssoktaw bl-oppożizzjoni tagħhom kontra l-ħlas Senatorjali. L-Oppożizzjoni rnexxielha tittorpedina l-ħlas u kważi wasslet sabiex tinħoloq rewwixta fost is-Senaturi. L-Unione Politica Maltese, li bħall-Partit Kostituzzjonali, kienet dawret il-ħsieb tagħha dwar kif kellha tħares lejn il-prinċipju, inħakmet minn "Kriżi Ministerjali" għaliex il-Ministri tagħha taw ir-riżenja tagħhom *en bloc*. Kieku l-Unione Politica Maltese fil-gvern ma rrifjutatx dik ir-riżenja, kieku l-ewwel gvern responsabbli kien jaqa' għalkollox fi ftit xhur.

Fis-26 ta' Mejju 1922, il-Ministru tal-Ġustizzja il-Konti Dr Alfredo Caruana Gatto kważi kkonvinċa lis-Senaturi biex jaqblu għalenija li jwettqu d-dmirijiet tagħhom għall-inqas mingħajr ħlas għas-sena finanzjarja 1922-23. Il-Ministru Caruana Gatto rnexxielu jikkalma s-Senaturi u ma jħallix li sseħħ dissoluzzjoni kmieni tal-Leġiżlatura, minkejja l-fatt li hija kienet approvat l-Abbozz bħala Att III (1922). Il-Kamra ta' Fuq qablet basta l-Leġiżlatura tieħu l-inizjattiva malajr kemm jista' jkun biex ħlas "parlamentari" jingħata lill-membri taż-żewġ Kmamar, u b'hekk jieqaf għalkollox il-maltemp li kien ħakem sa minn żmien l-Assemblea Nazzjonali.

L-onorarju tal-membri eletti kellu jkun ikkaratterizzat minn nuqqas ta' qbil sa mill-bidu nett tiegħu. Anzi, huwa kellu jkun il-veru għadma ta' tilwim sa mill-ġuf, jekk mhux minn għanqudu.

Il-Professur Raymond Mangion twieled il-Ħamrun, Malta, u studja fl-Università ta' Malta (M.A., History, LL.D.) u fl-Università ta' Oxford (D.Phil.). Huwa ilu jgħallem l-istorja legali u leġiżlattiva fil-Fakultà tal-Liġi tal-Università ta' Malta sa mill-1993. L-ewwel ktieb tiegħu bl-isem Minutes of the Council of Government of Malta, 29 December 1935 to 13 August 1849, kien ippubblikat mill-Malta University Press fl-2010 bħala parti minn serje ta' 'Documentary Sources of Maltese History, Part VI - Constitutional and Legislative Documents.' His other publication in two volumes entitled Speakers' Rulings in the Parliament of Malta, The Legislative Assembly 1921-1924, First Volume, Part One, kien ippubblikat b'mod konġunt mill-Malta University Press u l-Parlament ta' Malta u rebaħ l-ewwel premju fil-kategorija ta' kotba ta' riċerka ġenerali tal-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb 2013 organizzat mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb. Il-Professur Mangion ilu għal numru ta' snin jagħmel riċerka dwar 'il fuq minn 850 avukat li ggradwaw fil-liġi mill-Università ta' Malta mill-1840 sal-1965.

The Honorarium Of The Elected Members: A Veritable Bone of Contention From The Womb

The story of the honorarium of the elected members of the Legislature in Malta is as old as the introduction of responsible government in the country. It was one of controversial ordeal long before it had its baptism of fire.

The elected members of the old Council of Government under Crown Colony rule did not receive payment. From 1835 down to 1921, they had been expected to carry out their duties as deputies of the people *gratis et amore*. The British Government had constitutionally acknowledged the pegging of payment only for Governor-appointed members of the Council of Government under the "representative" 'Knustford' Letters Patent 1887, and proceeded with confirming the *status quo* in 1909 as an integral part of the "autocratic" 'Chamberlain' Letters Patent of 1903.

The establishment of payment to elected members of the Legislature was a natural corollary of the achievement of self-government. The problem that assailed the relevant principle turned around the fact that opposition and, hence, divergences, cropped up within the Maltese political arena too, so much so that the legislative proposal concerned had already constituted, unavoidably, an issue amid the local pioneers and masterminds of semi-autonomous democracy in Malta prior to 1921. The National Assembly that had been formed under the aegis of Sir Filippo Sceberras to clamour for responsible government (1919-1921) was divided on whether it ought to acknowledge the "parliamentary" payment principle on the strength of the maxim that every worker was entitled to payment, *omnis labor optat praemium*, but it ultimately declined the principle, in the event a bicameral system that included Senators, was set up. In 1921, the British government limited the recognition of the tenet in the 'Amery-Milner' Constitution to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the chief Clerk of both Chambers of Parliament (Article 38). Therefore, the elected members had to wait till the first Legislature to ensure payment for themselves. Indeed, political parties in the first general elections of 1921 were split on the legalisation of "parliamentary" payment especially as one applicable to the benefit of all members of the whole Legislature, the two Houses, whether deputies or senators.

The Constitutional Party adhered with prominence to the precept in its manifesto. The Unione Politica Maltese originally considered it a plank for its platform, but ditched it at the eleventh hour of its electioneering propaganda and campaign. The newly formed 'Camera del Lavoro', or Labour Party, and Partito Democratico Nazionale, adamantly objected to the constitution of a Senate as part of a bicameral Legislature within a condominium, and thus to payment of Senators, so did not make a mention of it in their respective programmes. In 1923, the Unione Politica Maltese that was voted into government with a relative majority and had to secure a coalition, moved and passed a 'Parliamentary Allowances Act' or Act III (1923) in the first session not without hassle, so much so that a 'Ministerial crisis' was to surround the germane bill, and its enactment almost subverted the administration. No doubt, the Act once promulgated was novel in essence and innovative in its extension to the payment of elected members of the Legislature.

The Unione Politica Maltese with the Labour Party leaders in alliance, moved a vote in favour of payment to Senators as part of the first Supplementary estimates for 1922 and passed the vote despite outright opposition from a rare Constitutional Party-Partito Democratico Nazionale axis was opposed outright in a Chamber packed with an atmosphere fuelled with indecision. Count Dr Alfredo Caruana Gatto (UPM) argued that Article 38 of the Constitution only required an 'Appropriation Bill' for the approval of payment of members of the Legislature, and discorded with Dr Enrico Mizzi that *an ad hoc* bill was necessary. On 22 February 1922 Senator Colonel William Savona, co-founder of the Labour Party, said that general hostility to "parliamentary" payment prevailed within his party. The Archbishop-nominated Senator Monsignor Galea voted with Dr Savona as Senatorial payment would serve as an incentive for more or better commitment within and outside the Upper House. The Legislative Assembly moved the vote in the General Estimates and the relevant 'Appropriation Bill', the third legislative measure

The Honorarium Of The Elected Members: A Veritable Bone of Contention From The Womb. (Cont.)

of the year. The Labour Party joined the Partito Democratico Nazionale that continued to oppose Senatorial payment. The Opposition managed to outvote the payment, almost sparking a rebellion among Senators. The Unione Politica Maltese that, like the Constitutional Party, had inverted its electoral position on the matter, was overtaken by a 'Ministerial crisis', because the Ministers tendered their resignation *en bloc*. If the Unione Politica Maltese government did not refuse such resignation, the first self-government would have toppled after a few months.

On 26 May 1922, the Minister for Justice, Count Dr Alfredo Caruana Gatto also convinced the Senators to condescend to the carrying out of their duties at least without payment for the financial year 1922-23. Minister Caruana Gatto managed to soothe the Senators and prevent an early dissolution of Legislature, notwithstanding the fact that it had enacted the bill as Act III (1922). The Upper Chamber agreed on the understanding that it would soon take initiative to legalise "parliamentary" payment for both Houses, and settle the inclement weather that had persisted over the matter from the time of the National Assembly.

In sum, the statutory and constitutional implementation of the honorarium to the elected members of the Legislature in Malta was set to be overwhelmed by dispute all along. It was a veritable bone of contention from the womb.

Professor Raymond Mangion was born in Ħamrun, Malta, and studied at the University of Malta (M.A., History, LL.D.) and at the University of Oxford (D.Phil.). He has been lecturing in legal and legislative history in the Faculty of Laws, University of Malta, since 1993. His first book entitled 'Minutes of the Council of Government of Malta, 29 December 1935 to 13 August 1849', was published by the Malta University Press in 2010 as part of a series in 'Documentary Sources of Maltese History, Part VI - Constitutional and Legislative Documents.' His other publication in two volumes entitled 'Speakers' Rulings in the Parliament of Malta, The Legislative Assembly 1921-1924, First Volume, Part One', was co-published by the Malta University Press and the Parliament of Malta and received first prize in the category of books on general research during the National Book Awards 2013 held by the National Book Council. Professor Mangion has been researching for a number of years on over 850 advocates who graduated LL.D. from the University of Malta from 1840 to 1965.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament

ŻJARA TA' KORTESIJA MILL-ARĊISQOF ELETT

L-Arċisqof elett, Monsinjur Charles J. Scicluna, għamel żjara ta' kortesija lill-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia. Waqt din il-laqgħa, l-Ispeaker awgura lill-Arċisqof elett ħidma fejjieda, mimlija ġid spiritwali għall-poplu Malti. Waqt l-istess laqgħa l-Ispeaker enfasizza l-importanza tal-korrettezza morali u l-etika minn dawk il-persuni li jiġu eletti sabiex jirrappreżentaw lill-poplu u f'dan ir-rigward għamel ukoll referenza għall-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar Standards fil-Ħajja Pubblika. Min-naħa tiegħu, l-Arċisqof elett awgura lill-Ispeaker fit-tmexxija tax-xogħol tal-Kamra tad-Deputati.
Wara din il-laqgħa, l-Arċisqof elett kien akkumpanjat mill-Ispeaker u mill-Iskrivan ta-Kamra għal żjara madwar l-Uffiċċju tal-Parlament fejn ħa l-opportunità li jiltaqa' u jitkellem mal-uffiċjali tal-Parlament.

ŻJARA MIT-TASK FORCE INTERNAZZJONALI TAL-FORUM TAŻ-ŻGĦAŻAGĦ TAL-COMMONWEALTH

Fis-17 ta' Marzu l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia laqa' numru ta' delegati mit-Task Force Internazzjonali responsabbli għall-organizzazzjoni tal-Forum taż-Żgħażagħ tal-Commonwealth, li tiġi organizzata fil-marġini tal-Laqgħa tal-Kapijiet tal-Gvern tal-Commonwealth, li se tkun ospitata f'Malta mis-27 sad-29 ta' Novembru 2015. L-Ispeaker Farrugia tkellem dwar il-parteċipazzjoni tiegħu fil-Konferenza Parlamentari Internazzjonali dwar "Id-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem fil-Commonwealth tal-lum: Magna Carta għall-Karta tal-Commonwealth", li saret fi Frar ġewwa Londra, kif ukoll dwar il-Workshop tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Kumitati dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi tal-Commonwealth, li se ssir f'Malta f'Gunju 2015. Matul il-laqgħa, id-diskussjoni kienet iffukata fuq kif Membri Parlamentari żgħażagħ jistgħu jkunu involuti fil-Forum taż-Żgħażagħ tal-Commonwealth. It-Task Force kien jikkonsisti mis-Sur Layne Robinson, Kap tas-Sezzjoni Programmi taż-Żgħażagħ, Diviżjoni taż-Żgħażagħ, Segretarjat tal-Commonwealth; is-Sur Messeh Leone, Diviżjoni taż-Żgħażagħ, Segretarjat tal-Commonwealth; is-Sur Mohamed Husni, Viċi President tal-Kunsill taż-Żgħażagħ tal-Commonwealth responsabbli għall-Inklużjoni u Ingaġġ; Ms Sudharshana Lakshmi, Viċi-President tal-Kunsill taż-Żgħażagħ tal-Commonwealth responsabbli għall-Politika u l-Advocacy; is-Sur Timothy Ferdinand, President tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażagħ ta' Saint Lucia; u s-Sur Jean Paul Brice Affana Affana, Koordinatur tan-Netwerk taż-Żgħażagħ tal-Commonwealth fuq Tibdil fil-Klima. Is-Sur Christopher Formosa, Chairperson tas-Sotto kumitat Organizzattiv tal-Forum taż-Żgħażagħ tal-Commonwealth, akkumpanja t-Taskforce Internazzjonali. Is-Segretarju Parlamentari għar-Riċerka, l-Innovazzjoni, Żgħażagħ u Sport, l-Onor. Chris Agius kien ukoll preżenti għal din il-laqgħa.

COURTESY CALL BY THE ARCHBISHOP-ELECT

The Archbishop-elect, Mgr Charles J. Scicluna, paid a courtesy visit to the Speaker Anġlu Farrugia. During the meeting, the Speaker congratulated the Archbishop-elect and augured that his work be filled with spiritual wealth for the Maltese people. During the same meeting the Speaker emphasized the importance of moral and ethical correctness of the elected representatives of the people and in this regard also made reference to the Bill on standards in public life. On his part, the Archbishop-elect congratulated the Speaker on his running of the House of Representatives. After this meeting, the Archbishop-elect was accompanied by the Speaker and the Clerk of the House around the parliamentary offices where he had the opportunity to meet and talk with the Parliament officials

VISIT BY THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH FORUM INTERNATIONAL TASKFORCE

On 17 March Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a number of delegates from the International Taskforce responsible for the organisation of the Commonwealth Youth Forum, which takes place on the fringes of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, due to be hosted in Malta from 27 to 29 November 2015. Speaker Farrugia referred to his participation in the International Parliamentary Conference on "Human Rights in the modern day Commonwealth: Magna Carta to the Commonwealth Charter", which was held in February in London and to the Workshop of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees, which will be held in Malta in June 2015. During the meeting, the discussion centred on how young MPs could be involved in the Commonwealth Youth Forum. The Task Force consisted of Mr Layne Robinson, Head of Youth Programmes Section, Youth Division, Commonwealth Secretariat; Mr Messeh Leone, Commonwealth Secretariat, Youth Affairs Division; Mr Mohamed Husni, Vice Chairperson of the Commonwealth Youth Council responsible for Inclusion and Engagement; Ms Sudharshana Lakshmi, Vice-Chairperson of the Commonwealth Youth Council responsible for Policy and Advocacy; Mr Timothy Ferdinand, President of the Saint Lucia National Youth Council; and Mr Jean Paul Brice Affana Affana, Co-ordinator of the Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network. Accompanying the International Taskforce was Mr Christopher Formosa, Chairperson of the Commonwealth Youth Forum Organising Subcommittee. Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sports, Hon. Chris Agius was also present for this meeting.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

ŻJARA MINN DELEGAZZJONI PARLAMENTARI MIR-REPUBBLIKA TAL-KOREA

Fis-16 ta' Marzu l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rċieva delegazzjoni mill-Assemblea Nazzjonali tar-Repubblika tal-Korea, magħmula minn erba' Membri Parlamentari, li jiffurmaw parti mill-Grupp ta' Ħbiberija Parlamentari Konġunt bejn ir-Repubblika tal-Korea u Malta u li kienu fuq żjara uffiċjali f'Malta. Iż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew kwistjonijiet ta' interess reċiproku, inkluż inter alia t-tisħiħ tar-relazzjonijiet bilaterali u tal-attività ekonomika bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi. Issemmiet ukoll il-possibbiltà li studenti Koreani jattendu korsijiet mill-MEDAC. Iż-żewġ naħat enfasizzaw ukoll l-assistenza reċiproka li ngħatat fl-eqqel tal-kriżi Libjana tas-sena l-oħra u ddiskutew kooperazzjoni ulterjuri fil-ġlieda kontra t-terroriżmu internazzjonali. Huma rreferew għat-tħejjijiet li għaddejjin għaċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet sabiex jimmarkaw il-ħamsin anniversarju mill-istabbiliment tar-relazzjonijiet diplomatiċi bejn Malta u r-Repubblika tal-Korea fit-30 ta' April 1965. L-Ispeaker tkellem dwar il-parteċipazzjoni tiegħu fil-laqgħat ġenerali tal-Koalizzjoni Parlamentari Internazzjonali għar-Refuġjati tal-Korea ta' Fuq u d-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem xprunata mill-Membri tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali tar-Repubblika tal-Korea, li saru f'Varsavja, il-Polonja, f'Awwissu 2013 u f'Bukarest, ir-Rumanija, f'Awwissu 2014. Id-delegazzjoni Parlamentari tar-Repubblika tal-Korea kienet magħmula mis-Sinjura Myeong Sook Han, is-Sinjura Mi-Kyoung Chung, is-Sur Chul Ho Hong, is-Sur Sung Ju Kim, is-Sur Dong Chan Kim (Koordinatur tal-Programm, Assemblea Nazzjonali tar-Repubblika tal-Korea) u s-Sur Sung Hwan Moon (Kunsillier, Ambaxxata tar-Repubblika tal-Korea, Ruma). L-Onor. Silvio Parnis, l-Onor. Michael Falzon, l-Onor. David Agius, l-Onor. George Pullicino u l-Onor. Francis Zammit Dimech, li jiffurmaw parti mill-Grupp ta' Ħbiberija Parlamentari Konġunt Malta-Repubblika tal-Korea, u l-Onor. Luciano Busuttil, Chairman tal-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, ipparteċipaw fil-laqgħa. Għal-laqgħa kienu preżenti wkoll l-ET Mark Spiteri, Ambaxxatur ta' Malta għar-Repubblika tal-Korea u s-Sur Matthew E. Sullivan, Konslu Onorarju tar-Repubblika tal-Korea għal Malta.

VISIT BY A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

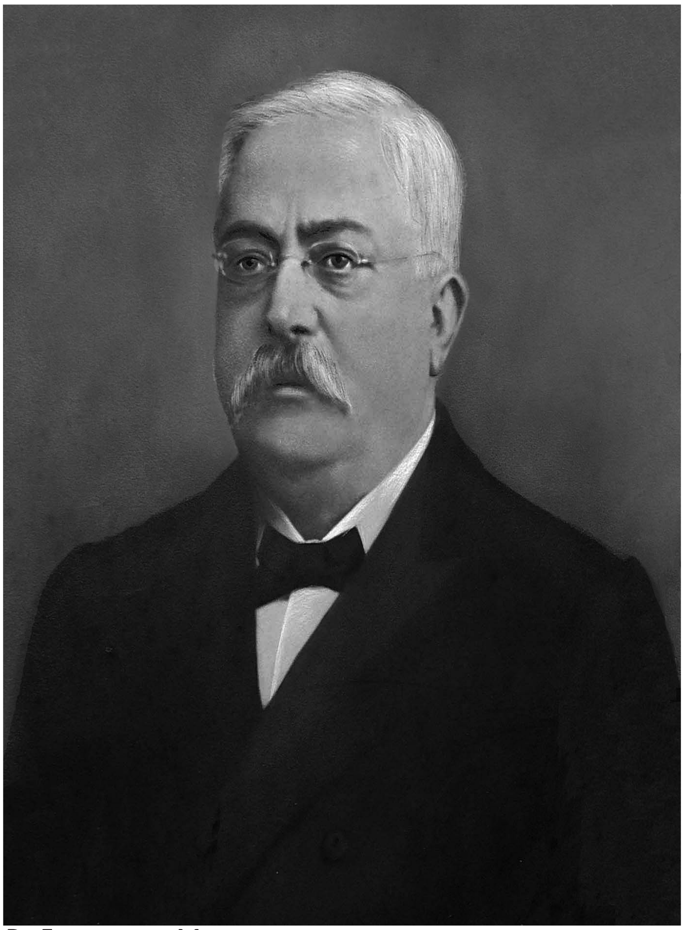
On 16 March Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a delegation from the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, consisting of four MPs, who form part of the Republic of Korea-Malta Joint Parliamentary Friendship Group and who are on an official visit to Malta.The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest, including inter alia the enhancement of bilateral relations and of the economic activity between the two countries. The possibility of Korean students studying at MEDAC was also mentioned. They also highlighted the mutual assistance which was rendered at the height of last year's Libyan crisis and discussed further co-operation in the fight against international terrorism. They referred to the ongoing preparations regarding the celebrations which are envisaged to mark the fiftieth anniversary since diplomatic relations between Malta and the Republic of Korea were established on 30 April 1965. The Speaker spoke about his participation in past general meetings of the International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights spearheaded by Members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, which meetings took place in Warsaw, Poland in August 2013 and in Bucharest, Romania in August 2014. The Parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Korea consisted of the Ms Myeong Sook Han, Ms Mi-Kyoung Chung, Mr Chul Ho Hong, Mr Sung Ju Kim, Mr Dong Chan Kim (Programme Co-ordinator, National Assembly of the Republic of Korea) and Mr Sung Hwan Moon (Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Rome). Hon. Silvio Parnis, Hon. Michael Falzon, Hon. David Agius, Hon. George Pullicino and Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech, who form part of the Malta-Republic of Korea Joint Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Hon. Luciano Busuttil, Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, participated in the meeting. Also present were HE Mark Spiteri, Malta's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and Mr Matthew E. Sullivan, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea to Malta.

Ħarsa ġenerali lejn l-iżvilupp tal-partiti politiċi f'Malta kolonjali (1800-1964)

Wieħed jista' jgħid li l-Maltin, sa ċertu punt, ilhom involuti fil-politika minn mijiet ta' snin ilu, iżda dan l-involviment ħa xejra aktar konkreta matul is-snin meta l-gżejjer Maltin kienu jagħmlu parti mill-Imperu Ingliż. Il-klassi ta' dawk li tinteressahom il-politika Maltija, għalkemm għall-ewwel kienet pjuttost żgħira fin-numru, tista' tiġi identifikata tal-anqas mill-aħħar snin tat-tmexxija tal-Ordni, u definittivament mal-wasla tal-Ingliżi fl-1800. Il-persuni involuti fil-politika ma kinux jifformaw partiti politiċi formali, għalkemm wieħed seta' diġà jidentifika ċerti allinjamenti politiċi matul l-ewwel parti tas-seklu dsatax. Kien fis-sena 1880 li ġew stabbiliti l-formazzjonijiet politiċi strutturati f'partiti politiċi fil-veru sens tal-kelma. Kien fl-aħħar deċennji tas-seklu dsatax li twaqqfet l-ewwel formazzjoni magħrufa bħala Partito Anti Riformista li kellha l-għan li topponi t-tentattiv kontinwu tal-kolonizzaturi Ingliżi biex jintroduċu l-kultura u l-lingwa Ingliża fil-kolonja. Bħala forza politika ta' oppożizzjoni għall-Anti Riformisti, sostenituri akkaniti tal-kultura Taljana għal Malta, feġġ fix-xena politika lokali, bejn wieħed u ieħor fl-istess żmien, grupp favur l-Ingliżi magħruf bħala Reform Party (Partito Riformista). L-ewwel żewġ mexxejja tal-partiti politiċi kienu Dott. Fortunato Mizzi, li mexxa l-Anti Riformisti, u Sigismondo Savona, mexxej tar-Reform Party. Kull grupp politiku kellu l-gazzetti uffiċjali u alleati tiegħu li kienu jintużaw biex jitwassal il-messaġġ u l-propaganda tal-partit. Il-grupp ta' Mizzi kellu l-gazzetta Il Diritto di Malta li kienet toħroġ kull ġimgħa, filwaqt li kellu l-appoġġ tar-Risorgimento. Fl-1883, l-Anti Riformisti ppubblikaw La gazzetta di Malta li kienet toħroġ kuljum u li Fortunato Mizzi kien l-editur tagħha. Min-naħa l-oħra, il-grupp ta' Savona beda jwassal il-messaġġ tiegħu permezz tal-Malta Standard. Sigismondo Savona kien ukoll l-editur tal-gazzetta tiegħu stess, Public Opinion. Ir-Reform Party tilef il-mexxej tiegħu meta fl-1880, Savona ġie maħtur Direttur tal-Edukazzjoni u Rettur tal-Università, u għalhekk postu ttieħed minn Dott. Pasquale Mifsud.

Il-Partito Anti Riformista evolva fil-Partito Nazionale u kien taħt dan l-isem li ppreżenta lilu nnifsu għall-elezzjoni li saret f'Malta fl-1887. Il-Gazzetta di Malta saret l-ewwel ġurnal uffiċjali tal-partit. Kien imbagħad fl-aħħar snin tas-seklu dsatax li fix-xena politika Maltija tfaċċa l-Partito dell'Ordine, li kien immexxi minn Dott. Alfredo Naudi. Il-gazzetta tiegħu kienet il-Politica e Commercio. Għal xi żmien, il-Konti Gerald Strickland ifforma parti mill-Partito Anti Riformista u mill-Partito dell'Ordine.

Sigismondo Savona waqqaf il-Partito Unionista ma' Evaristo Castaldi meta r-Reform Party u l-Partito Nazionale ngħaqdu flimkien fl-1891. Mill-1883, iż-żewġ partiti reġgħu saru għal darb'oħra żewġ entitajiet separati. Aktar tard, fl-1895, Savona ngħaqad mal-Partito Popolare li kien immexxi mill-Mons. Ignazio Panzavecchia, u li l-gazzetti tiegħu kienu l-Public Opinion u Malta Tagħna. Kien imbagħad fl-1899 meta grupp ta' politiċi lokali waqqfu partit taħt l-isem ta' Associazione Politica Maltese. Membri importanti tiegħu kienu Dott. Fortunato Mizzi, Mons. Ignazio Panzavecchia, Dott. Filippo Sciberras u Francesco Azzopardi. Il-gazzetta tal-partit kienet il-Malta. Aktar tard din il-formazzjoni politika ngħaqdet mal-Partito Nazionale, mossa li saret possibbli mal-mewt ta' Mizzi fl-1905. Azzopardi laħaq mexxej ta' dan il-grupp ġdid.



Dr Fortunato Mizzi

Bil-mod il-mod żviluppat qasma li affettwat l-unità tal-Partito Nazionale. Dott. Giuseppe Mizzi mexxa l-fazzjoni tal-Astensionisti li kienet tħaddan perspettiva Mizzjana, filwaqt li Francesco Azzopardi baqa' jmexxi l-fazzjoni l-oħra magħrufa bħala l-Anti Astensionisti. Fl-1911, il-Partito Nazionale reġa' ngħaqad, issieħeb mal-Partito Popolare, u flimkien iffurmaw il-Comitato Patriottico taħt it-tmexxija ta' Ignazio Panzavecchia. Sal-1914, żviluppat qasma ġdida li rriżultat fil-Partito Nazionale. Filwaqt li Dott. Giuseppe Mizzi u Dott. Enrico Mizzi mexxew il-grupp Anti Astensionista, Dott. A. Pullicino u Antonio Dalli kienu l-mexxejja tal-fazzjoni Astensionista. Il-Malta kien l-organu tal-ewwel grupp filwaqt li l-partit l-ieħor uża l-gazzetti Il Patriota u La Voce del Popolo. Sal-1921, Malta ngħatat kostituzzjoni li biha kellu jkollha gvern awtonomu, u li kienet tipprovdi għal sistema bikamerali. Għaldaqstant kellhom isiru

Ħarsa ġenerali lejn l-iżvilupp tal-partiti politiċi f'Malta kolonjali (1800-1964)

elezzjonijiet biex jinħolqu Assemblea Leġislattiva u Senat. Dak iż-żmien kien hemm għadd ta' partiti politiċi fix-xena lokali. L-aktar wieħed popolari kien l-Unione Politica Maltese (magħruf ukoll bħala l-Partito Popolare) immexxi minn Mons. Panzavecchia. Dan il-partit kellu għadd ta' mezzi tal-midja stampata: Il Corriere Popolare u Malta u wara tfaċċaw La Voce del Popolo u Mid-Day News. Membri prominenti f'dan il-partit kienu jinkludu lill-Monsinjuri Enrico Dandria u Francesco Ferris.

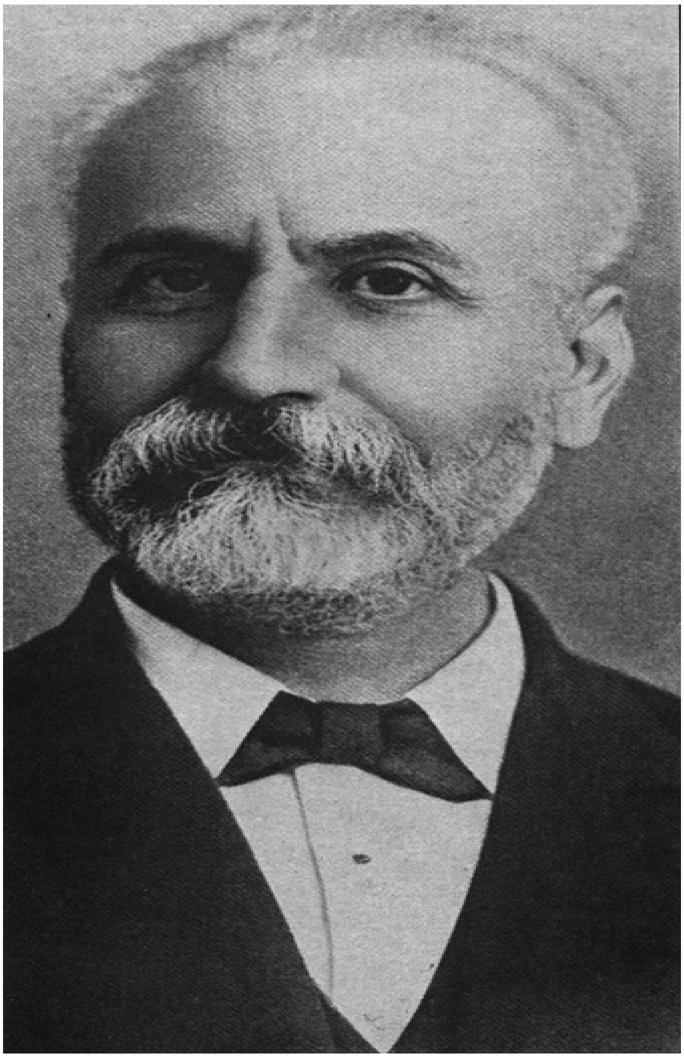
Fl-1910 deher fix-xena politika grupp bl-isem La Camera del Lavoro, li aktar tard biddel ismu għal Labour Party Club. L-ewwel President tiegħu kien Dott. Pierre G. Frendo filwaqt li l-Kurunell William Savona, li għall-bidu kien il-Viċi President, wara laħaq mexxej tal-partit. Dan il-partit kien jinkludi personalitajiet prominenti bħal Alfons Maria Galea u l-Mons. Mikiel Gonzi. Il Hmar, segwit mil-Labour Opinion, kienu l-gazzetti li rrappreżentaw il-veduti tal-partit. Sussegwentement, mill-1926, bdiet tiġi ppubblikata Il Kotra. Fl-1928 reġa' kien hemm bidla fit-tmexxija meta Dott. Paul Boffa l-ewwel okkupa l-kariga ta' Mexxej tal-Grupp Parlamentari u aktar tard laħaq mexxej tal-partit.

Partit ieħor li twaqqaf fl-1921 kien il-Partito Democratico Nazionalista mmexxi minn Dott. Enrico Mizzi. Il-gazzetti li jirrappreżentaw il-partit kienu L'Eco di Malta e Gozo u Malta. Il-membri f'din il-formazzjoni kienu jinkludu fost l-oħrajn lil Dott. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici.

Il-Prof. Augustus Bartolo, li kien sostenitur tal-Ingliżi, waqqaf ukoll il-partit tiegħu bl-isem ta' Anglo-Maltese Party, u li kien ilu jeżisti minn Mejju 1921. Il-messaġġ tal-partit kien jitwassal permezz tal-Malta Chronicle. Bejn wieħed u ieħor fl-istess żmien, sostenitur ieħor tal-Ingliżi, Gerald Strickland, flimkien ma' bintu Mabel, beda jippjana partit għalih, li sar il-Progressive Party. Madankollu wara xi żmien, il-gruppi ta' Strickland u Bartolo daħlu f'relazzjoni politika aktar mill-qrib u f'Awwissu 1921 ingħaqdu. Il-formazzjoni l-ġdida ħadet l-isem ta' Maltese Constitutional Party. Il-gazzetta tal-partit kienet Il Progresso, li ngħaqdet ma' żewġ gazzetti oħrajn – id-Daily Malta Chronicle u l-Garrison's Gazette. Aktar tard, gazzetti oħrajn intużaw biex jitwasslu l-fehmiet politiċi tal-partit. Fl-1935, tfaċċat The Times of Malta li bil-mod il-mod ħadet post il-Malta Chronicle, b'din tal-aħħar tispiċċa miċ-ċirkulazzjoni fl-1940. Gazzetti li nħarġu wara mill-Progress Press ta' Strickland kienu Il-Berqa u The Forward - 'Il Quddiem. Il-partit biddel it-tmexxija mal-mewt ta' Gerald Strickland meta l-Kurunell Roger Strickland ħa postu.

Għall-ħabta tal-1926 ġew iffurmati żewġ alleanzi politiċi. Waħda kienet fil-kamp Nazzjonalista. L-Unione Politica Maltese u l-Partitio Democratico Nazionalista ngħaqdu flimkien biex saru l-Partito Nazionalista taħt it-tmexxija konġunta ta' Dott. Ugo Mifsud u Dott. Enrico Mizzi. Mal-mewt ta' Mifsud fl-1942, Mizzi laħaq kap tal-partit. Madankollu, peress li Mizzi kien wieħed minn dawk internati mill-Gvern Kolonjali Ingliż u kien ġie eżiljat fl-Uganda sakemm damet għaddejja t-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, postu ħadu Dott. Giorgio Borg Olivier sal-1945. Meta Mizzi rritorna lura Malta, huwa reġa' ħa taħt idejh it-tmexxija tal-P.N. sakemm miet fl-1950. Wara mewtu, Giorgio Borg Olivier intgħażel bħala l-mexxej il-ġdid.

L-alleanza l-oħra kienet dik bejn il-Constitutional Party u l-Labour Party. Din ġiet issiġillata fl-1927 permezz ta' dak li kien magħruf bħala l-'Compact', ftehim li ffaċilita l-appoġġ tad-deputati Laburisti fl-Assemblea Leġislattiva għall-Constitutional Party li kien il-partit fil-gvern.



Sigismondo Savona

Ħarsa ġenerali lejn l-iżvilupp tal-partiti politiċi f'Malta kolonjali (1800-1964)

Dr ENRICO MIZZI

Fl-1927, twaqqaf partit politiku ġdid taħt l-isem ta' Partit Nazzionalista Malti mmexxi minn Dott. Pierre G. Frendo. Partit żgħir ieħor kien l-Independent Labour Party ta' Michael Caruana li l-ġurnal uffiċjali tiegħu kien Id-Dawl. Dan il-partit twaqqaf fl-1930. Wara t-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, formazzjonijiet politiċi komplew jinbidlu, oħrajn saru aktar stabbiliti, filwaqt li nħolqu oħrajn ġodda. Il-Maltese Constitutional Party ġie xolt fl-1946 u minfloku twieled il-People's Party. Madankollu, dan ma kellux ħajja twila. Fl-1947, il-Prof. Giuseppe Hyzler waqqaf id-Democratic Action Party. Il-gazzetta tiegħu kienet In-Nazzjon. Partiti oħrajn fl-1947 kienu l-Gozo Party immexxi minn Dott. Francesco Masini u l-Jones Party taħt it-tmexxija ta' Henry Jones. It-tnejn kellhom il-gazzetta uffiċjali tagħhom. Tal-ewwel kien jippubblika Leħen Għawdex filwaqt li tal-aħħar kellu l-gazzetta Il-Partit ta' Jones.

Fl-1949, il-Moviment Laburista esperjenza qasma li rriżultat f'żewġ partiti. Permezz ta' votazzjoni f'Konferenza Ġenerali, Dott. Paul Boffa, Mexxej tal-Partit Laburista, tneħħa mill-kariga tiegħu u postu ħadu d-Deputat tiegħu, Dom Mintoff. Boffa waqqaf partit għalih taħt l-isem ta' Malta Workers' Party. Il-Constitutional Party reġa' ġie stabbilit fl-1950 permezz tal-isforzi konġunti tal-Prof. Robert V. Galea u s-Sinjorina Mabel Strickland. Sal-1953, il-partit biddel ismu għal Progressive Constitutional Party u kien immexxi minn Mabel Strickland. Is-sena 1958 rat it-twaqqif tal-Partit Demokratiku Nazzjonalista taħt it-tmexxija ta' Dott. Herbert Ganado. Il-ġurnal uffiċjali kien il-Malta Tagħna. Fl-1961, dan il-partit żgħir segwewh tnejn oħra. Il-Partit tal-Ħaddiema Nsara twaqqaf minn Toni Pellegrini bil-gazzetta uffiċjali tiegħu msejħa It-Tarka. Min-naħa l-oħra, il-Kavallier George Ransley ħoloq il-Partit Demokratiku Nisrani. Dawn l-aħħar tliet partiti temmew lista estensiva ta' formazzjonijiet politiċi li operaw f'Malta sal-kisba tal-indipendenza politika tagħha fl-1964.

Minn dawn il-partiti kollha, illum il-ġurnata għad fadal tnejn. Dawn huma l-Partit Nazzjonalista u l-Malta Labour Party (li fl-2008 ħa l-isem ta' Partit Laburista). Il-formazzjonijiet politiċi l-oħrajn, f'xi punt jew ieħor, kollha spiċċaw, bil-Progressive Constitutional Party jibqa' jeżisti l-aktar, tal-anqas sal-Elezzjoni Ġenerali tal-1971.

Comm. Dr George Cassar huwa Senior Lecturer fl-Istitut għat-Turiżmu, l-Ivvjaġġar u l-Kultura tal-Università ta' Malta. Huwa soċjologu storiku u pedagoġista b'interessi ta' riċerka fl-Istorja u s-Soċjoloġija tal-Edukazzjoni; il-Pedagoġija tal-Patrimonju Kulturali, l-Istorja u l-Istudji Soċjali; l-Istorja tat-Tagħlim tal-Istorja; l-Istudju tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann (SMOM); l-Istorja u l-Kultura ta' Malta; il-Patrimonju u l-Kultura; it-Turiżmu Kulturali; u s-Soċjoloġija tal-Ikel. Huwa l-awtur jew l-editur ta' kotba u rivisti akkademiċi, u ppubblika għadd ta' studji fil-ġurnali u kapitli f'kotba relatati mal-oqsma ta' interess tiegħu.

An Overview of the development of political parties in colonial Malta (1800-1964)

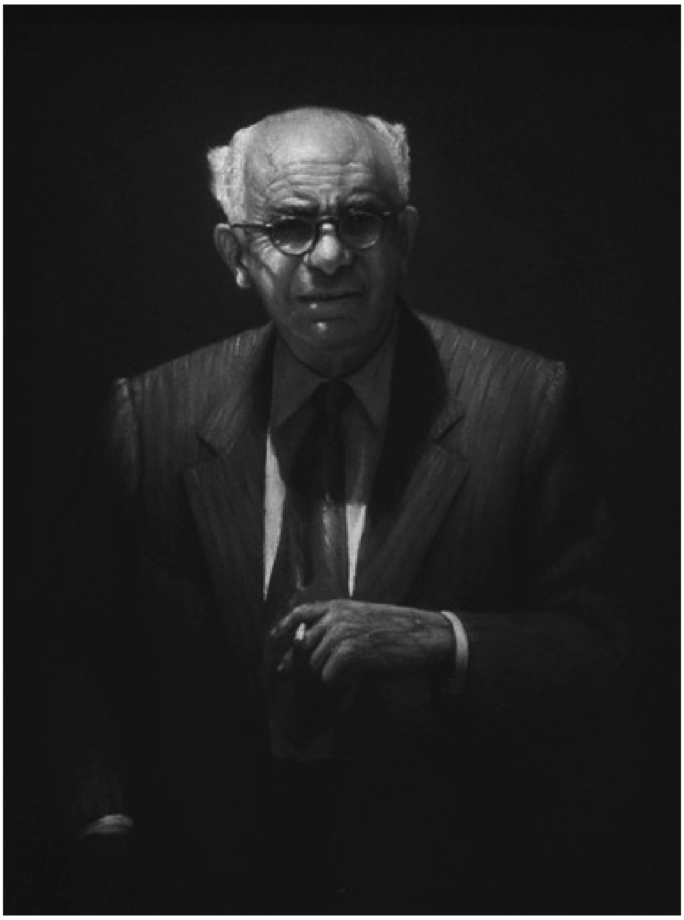
It can be said that the Maltese have, to an extent, been politically conscious for centuries, but this awareness became decisively concrete during the years in which the Maltese islands formed part of the British Empire. Malta's politically conscious class, though at first rather small, can be identified at least from the last years of the Order's rule, and definitely with the coming of the British in 1800. The politically aware were not formally grouped into political parties even though certain political alignments could already be identified during the first part of the nineteenth century. It was essentially in 1880 that political formations became established and structured into proper political parties. It was in the last decades of the nineteenth century that the first formation known as the Partito Anti Riformista was set up to oppose a sustained attempt by the British colonisers to introduce the English culture and language into the colony. As an opposing political force to the staunch Anti Riformisti who supported an Italian culture for Malta, there emerged on the local political scene at about the same time a pro-British group known as the Reform Party (Partito Riformista). The first two political party leaders were Dr Fortunato Mizzi, who led the Anti Riformisti, and Sigismondo Savona, leader of the Reform Party. Each political group had its official and allied newspapers used to deliver the party's message and propaganda. Mizzi's group had the weekly Il Diritto di Malta while he had the support of the Risorgimento. In 1883, the Anti Riformisti established the daily La gazzetta di Malta edited by Fortunato Mizzi. Savona's group on the other hand put over its political message through the Malta Standard. Sigismondo Savona also edited his own Public Opinion. The Reform Party lost its leader when Savona was appointed Director of Education and Rector of the University in 1880 and was succeeded by Dr Pasquale Mifsud.

The Partito Anti Riformista evolved into the Partito Nazionale and it was under this name that it presented itself for the Maltese election of 1887. The Gazzetta di Malta became the official organ of the party. It was then in the closing years of the nineteenth century that the Partito dell'Ordine appeared on the Maltese political scene, with this party being led by Dr Alfredo Naudi. Its newspaper was the Politica e Commercio. For some time Count Gerald Strickland formed part of the Partito Anti Riformista and of the Partito dell'Ordine.

Sigismondo Savona set up the Partito Unionista with Evaristo Castaldi when the Reform Party and the Partito Nazionale joined forces in 1891. From 1883 the two parties became once again two separate entities. Later on, in 1895, Savona joined the Partito Popolare, which was led by Mgr Iganzio Panzavecchia, and whose newspapers were the Public Opinion and Malta Taghna. It was then in 1899 when a group of local politicians set up a political party under the name of Associazione Politica Maltese. Important members were Dr Fortunato Mizzi, Mgr Ignazio Panzavecchia, Dr Filippo Sciberras and Francesco Azzopardi. The Malta was the party's newspaper. Later on this formation merged with the Partito Nazionale, a move that became possible with Mizzi's death in 1905. Azzopardi became the leader of this new formation.

Gradually a schism developed which affected the unity of the Partito Nazionale. Dr Giuseppe Mizzi led the Astensionisti faction that was Mizzian in perspective, while Francesco Azzopardi continued to head the other faction known as the Anti Astensionisti. In 1911 the Partito Nazionale reunited, joined forces with the Partito Popolare, and together formed the Comitato Patriottico under the leadership of Ignazio Panzavecchia. By 1914 a new rift emerged which led to the Partito Nazionale. While Dr Giuseppe Mizzi and Dr Enrico Mizzi led the Anti Astensionista group, Dr A. Pullicino and Antonio Dalli headed the Astensionista faction. The Malta was the organ of the former while the latter used Il Patriota and La Voce del Popolo.

By 1921 Malta had been granted a self-government constitution which provided for a bicameral set up. Elections were thus to be held to create a Legislative Assembly as well as a Senate. A number of political parties were on the scene at that time. The most popular was the Unione Politica Maltese (also known as Partito Popolare) headed by Mgr Panzavecchia. This party had a number of printed media: Il Corriere Popolare and the Malta followed later by La Voce del Popolo and Mid-Day News. Prominent members in this party included Mgr Enrico Dandria and Mgr Francesco Ferris.



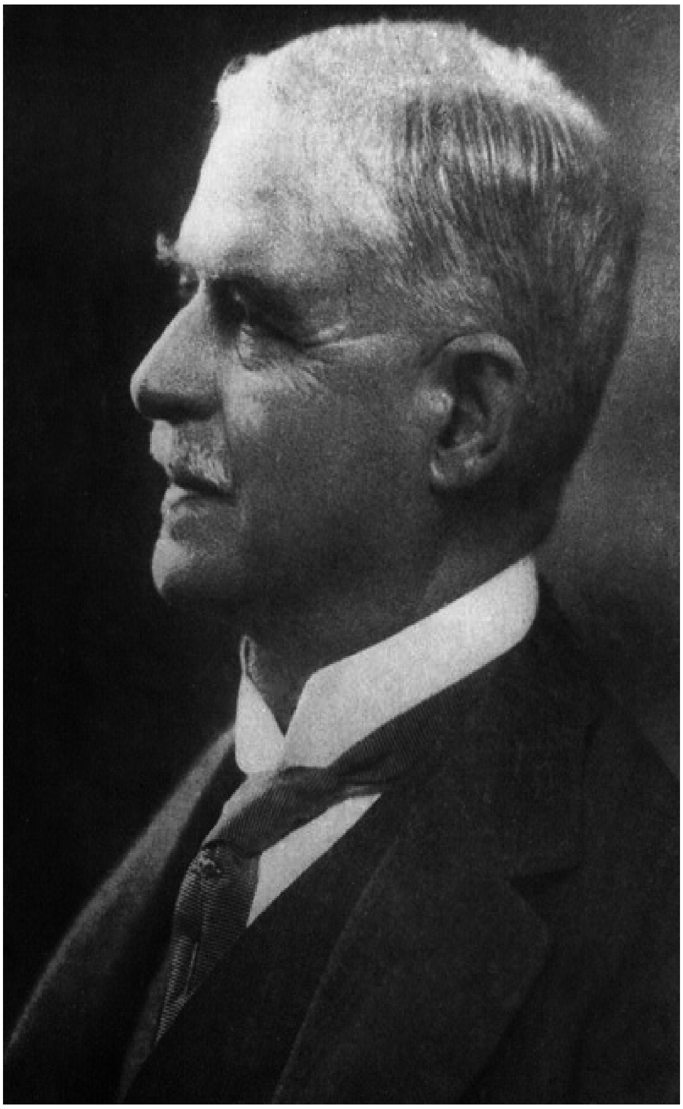
Dr Paul Boffa

An Overview of the development of political parties in colonial Malta (1800-1964)

In 1910 La Camera del Lavoro appeared on the political scene, which later on changed its name to Labour Party Club. Its first President was Dr Pierre G. Frendo while Col. William Savona, who at first was Vice President, in due time became its leader. This party included prominent personalities such as Alfons Maria Galea and Mgr Mikiel Gonzi. Il Hmar followed by Labour Opinion were the newspapers representing the party. From 1926, then, Il Kotra began to be published. The leadership changed again when in 1928 Dr Paul Boffa first occupied the post of Leader of the Parliamentary Group and later became the leader of the party.

Another party set up in 1921 was the Partito Democratico Nazionalista led by Dr Enrico Mizzi. The newspapers representing the party were L'Eco di Malta e Gozo and the Malta. Members in this formation included Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici amongst others.

Dr Giorgio Borg Olivier



Lord Gerald Strickland

The pro-British Prof. Augustus Bartolo also created his own party. This was the Anglo-Maltese Party, which had been in existence since May 1921. The party's message was delivered through the Malta Chronicle. At about the same time another Anglophile, Gerald Strickland, together with his daughter Mabel, was planning his own party, which became the Progressive Party. Yet after some time Strickland's and Bartolo's groups entered into a closer political relationship and merged in August 1921. The new formation took the name of Maltese Constitutional Party. Its paper was Il Progresso, which joined another two newspapers – Daily Malta Chronicle and Garrison's Gazette. Later on, other papers were used to deliver the party's political views. In 1935 there appeared The Times of Malta which slowly replaced the Malta Chronicle, the latter going out of circulation in 1940. Later papers from Strickland's Progress Press were Il-Berqa and The Forward - 'Il Quddiem. The party changed leadership on the death of Gerald Strickland with Col. Roger Strickland taking over. Around 1926 two political alliances took shape. One

was in the Nationalist camp. Unione Politica Maltese and Partitio Democratico Nazionalista merged to become the Partito Nazionalista under the joined leadership of Dr Ugo Mifsud and Dr Enrico Mizzi. The leadership went to Mizzi when Mifsud died in 1942. However, as Mizzi was one of those interned by the British Colonial Government and sent to Uganda for the duration of World War Two, his place was taken by Dr Giorgio Borg Olivier until 1945. On Mizzi's return to Malta he resumed the leadership of the P.N. until his demise in 1950. Giorgio Borg Olivier was now chosen as leader. The other alliance was that between the Constitutional Party and the Labour Party. This was sealed through what was known as the 'Compact' in 1927, an agreement that facilitated the support of the Labour Party deputies in the Malta Legislative Assembly for the governing Constitutional Party.

In 1927 a new political party was founded under the name of Partit Nazzionalista Malti led by Dr Pierre G. Frendo. Another small party was Michael Caruana's Independent Labour Party whose official organ was Id-Dawl. It was set up in 1930. After World War Two political formations continued to change, others became more established and yet others were born. The Maltese Constitutional Party was dissolved in 1946 and instead the People's Party was born. Yet its life was quite short. In 1947 Prof. Giuseppe Hyzler set up the Democratic Action Party. Its paper was In-Nazzjon. Other parties in 1947 were the Gozo Party led by Dr Francesco Masini and the Jones Party under the leadership of Henry Jones. Both had their official newspaper. The former published Leħen Għawdex while the latter circulated the paper Il-Partit ta' Jones.

In 1949 the Labour Movement experienced a rift which resulted in two parties. By a General Conference vote Dr Paul Boffa, Leader of the Labour Party, was deposed and replaced by his Deputy, Dom Mintoff. Boffa set up his own party under the name of Malta Workers' Party. The Constitutional Party was re-established by 1950 through the joint efforts of Prof. Robert V. Galea and Miss Mabel Strickland. By 1953 the party had changed its name to Progressive Constitutional Party and was led by Mabel Strickland. The year 1958 saw the setting up of the Partit Demokratiku Nazzjonalista under the leadership of Dr Herbert Ganado. Its official printed organ was Malta Tagħna. This small party was followed in 1961 by another two. The Partit tal-Ħaddiema Nsara was set up by Toni Pellegrini with its official paper called It-Tarka. On the other hand, the Partit Demokratiku Nisrani was created by Chev. George Ransley. These last three parties completed a somewhat extensive list of political formations that operated in Malta up to its political independence in 1964.

Of all these parties, two remain to this day. These are the Partit Nazzjonalista and the Malta Labour Party (from 2008 the official name is Partit Laburista). All the other political formations ceased at some point with the Progressive Constitutional Party surviving longest at least until the General Election of 1971.

Perit DOM MINTOFF

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Attivitajiet internazzjonali

Konferenza tal-Kumitati Parlamentari dwar l-Affarijiet tal-Unjoni

Bejn it-30 ta' Novembru u t-2 ta' Diċembru 2014, l-Onor. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici pparteċipa fil-laqgħa tal-Kumitati Parlamentari għall-Affarijiet tal-Unjoni (COSAC) ġewwa Ruma. Il-Konferenza tal-COSAC iġġib flimkien il-kumitati dwar l-affarijiet Ewropej tal-parlamenti nazzjonali, kif ukoll Membri tal-Parlament Ewropew. Is-suġġetti li ġew diskussi kienu: Ir-rwol għall-Istituzzjonijiet Ewropej u l-Parlamenti Nazzjonali ħames snin wara t-Trattat ta' Lisbona; ir-Reviżjoni tal-Europe 2020 Strategy, u l-prospetti tal-Integrazzjoni Ewropea: Ir-Rwol Globali tal-Unjoni Ewropea li tinkludi l-projezzjoni u l-politiki fil-Mediterran u l-Ewropa tal-Lvant. L-Onor. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici għamel intervent qasir dwar l-integrazzjoni Ewropea billi argumenta li issa huwa ż-żmien għall-Ewropa biex tieqaf u taħseb, u tagħti prova li l-Ewropa hija kapaċi ssib soluzzjoni għall-problemi li qed tiffaċċja. Huwa żied li dawn il-laqgħat interparlamentari huma maħsuba biex iġibu l-kooperazzjoni u jinkoraġġixxu l-pożittività. L-Onor. Mifsud Bonnici kkonkluda billi kkwota lil Shimon Peres, meta dan kien qal: "The most important thing in life is to dare" – "l-aktar ħaġa importanti fid-dinja hi li tissogra" - u qal li din għandha tiġi applikata għall-Ewropa.

Kumitat tat-Tmexxija tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Kumitati dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi

Fid-19 u l-20 ta' Jannar 2015 l-Onor. Tonio Fenech, flimkien mas-Senatur Raziah Ahmed (Trinidad and Tobago), ippreseda l-Kumitat tat-Tmexxija tal-Assocjazzjoni tal-Kumitati dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi (CAPAC) li ltaqa' fil-bini tal-Parlament Ingliż, f'Londra. Fl-ewwel jum il-Membri tal-Kumitat tat-Tmexxija ngħataw iċ-ċans li jiddiskutu l-viżjoni għall-CAPAC. Id-diskussjonijiet imbagħad daru fuq il-governanza u s-sħubija tal-assoċjazzjoni, bil-ħsieb li jiġu żviluppati l-aktar strutturi importanti għall-CAPAC, biex l-Assoċjazzjoni tiġi aktar f'pożizzjoni li tilħaq l-għanijiet u l-objettivi tagħha. Wara diskussjonijiet mal-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat u mal-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia, l-Onor. Tonio Fenech offra li Malta tospita s-Segretarjat tal-CAPAC billi tipprovdi spazju adegwat għall-uffiċċju kif ukoll l-istaff.

Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees

On 19 and 20 January 2015 Hon. Tonio Fenech, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, together with Senator Raziah Ahmed (Trinidad and Tobago), co-chaired the Steering Committee organised by the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) in the Houses of Parliament, London. The first day of the meeting provided steering committee members with the space to discuss their vision for CAPAC. Discussions then delved into the governance and membership of the association, with a view of developing the most appropriate structures for CAPAC, enabling it to fulfil its aims and objectives. Following discussions with Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Speaker Anġlu Farrugia, Hon. Tonio Fenech offered that Malta hosts the CAPAC Secretariat through the provision of adequate office space and support staff.

Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs

Between 30 November and 2 December 2014, Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici participated in the LII Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) meeting in Rome. COSAC brings together the EU affairs committees of national Parliaments, as well as Members of the European Parliament. Items discussed were: The role for European institutions and national parliaments five years after the Lisbon Treaty; Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy, and European integration prospects: Global role of the European Union and projection of its policies in the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici made a short intervention on the latter, arguing that now is the time for Europe to stop and think and to prove that Europe is able to find a solution to the problems that it is facing. He added that these interparliamentary meetings are intended to bring about cooperation and encourage positivity. Hon. Mifsud Bonnici concluded by quoting Shimon Peres, saying that "The most important thing in life is to dare", which should also apply to Europe.

Attivitajiet internazzjonali (Kont.)

Kommemorazzjoni tas-70 sena anniversarju mir-rebħa fuq in-Naziżmu u l-liberazzjoni tal-kampijiet tal-mewt fl-Ewropa

Fis-26 u s-27 ta' Jannar 2014, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia pparteċipa fir-Raba' Forum Internazzjonali "Let My People Live," li sar ġewwa Praga u li kien organizzat mir-Repubblika Ċeka, il-Kungress Lhudi Ewropew u l-Parlament Ewropew. It-temi tal-konferenza ffokaw fuq "Ir-rwol li l-politiċi, il-midja u l-infurzar tal-liġi għandhom biex jitfakkar l-Olokwast". L-Ispeaker Farrugia ħa sehem fil-Konferenza "Speakers' Round Table" li kienet ippreseduta mill-President tal-Parlament Ewropew, Martin Schulz, fejn ġiet diskussa d-dikjarazzjoni Parlamentari magħrufa bħala "Id-dikjarazzjoni ta' Tereżin." Fl-intervent tiegħu, l-Ispeaker qal li għalkemm iċ-ċerimonja kienet maħsuba biex tikkommemora s-70 sena anniversarju ta' l-Olokawst, wieħed għandu jirrifleti fuq reati oħrajn, bħal Iżlamofobija, l-anti-Kristjaneżmu u l-anti-Roma. Huwa ssuġġerixxa li għandhom jittieħdu passi leġiżlattivi sabiex jiġu introdotti s-suġġetti tat-tolleranza u r-rispett reċiproku fis-sistema edukattiva. Matul iż-żjara, l-Ispeaker Farrugia kellu laqgħa bilaterali mal-President tas Senat tal-Parlament tar-Repubblika Ċeka, l-Onor. Milan Stech.

L-Ewwel Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-2015 tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa

L-Ewwel Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-2015 tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa ltaqgħet fi Strasburgu bejn is-26 u t-30 ta' Jannar 2015. Delegazzjoni parlamentari mmexxija mill-Onor. Joe Debono Grech, u komposta mill-Onor. Charlò Bonnici u l-Onor. Deborah Schembri attendiet u ħadet sehem f'din il-laqgħa. L-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropea tlaqqa' flimkien 318-il rappreżentant parlamentari mis-47 stat membru tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. Minkejja li dan il-forum jirrappreżenta għadd ta' opinjonijiet different minn madwar l-Ewropa, l-għan ta' dawn il-laqgħat hu li jiġu enfasizzati l-valuri kondiviżi tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem, id-demokrazija u l-istat tad-dritt li huma "wirt komuni" tal-popli Ewropej. L-aġenda ta' din is-sessjoni kienet tinkludi suġġetti bħal: is-sitwazzjoni umanitarja tar-refuġjati Ukraini; li l-Montenegro tonora l-obbligi u l-impenji tagħha kontra l-korruzzjoni u d-diskriminazzjoni; l-attakki terroristiċi f'Pariġi; l-isfida tal-kredenzjali li għadhom ma ġewx ratifikati tad-delegazzjoni tal-Federazzjoni Russa; il-protezzjoni tal-libertà tal-midja fl-Ewropa, l-intolleranza u d-diskriminazzjoni b'attenzjoni speċjali fuq il-Kristjani; il-protezzjoni tax-xhieda bħala għodda fil-ġlieda kontra l-kriminalità organizzata u t-terroriżmu, u l-inklużjoni għal nies b'diżabilità. Minbarra l-laqgħat tal-plenarja, il-Membri tad-delegazzjoni Maltija ħadu sehem ukoll f'diversi laqgħat tal-kumitati li huma wkoll membri tagħhom.

First Part of the 2015 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The First Part of the 2015 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was held in Strasbourg between the 26 and 30 January 2015. A parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Joe Debono Grech and composed of Hon. Charlò Bonnici and Hon. Deborah Schembri participated in this meeting. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe brings together 318 parliament representatives of the Council of Europe's 47 member states. Despite the fact that the session contains many voices, reflecting political opinion across the continent, its mission is to uphold the shared values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law that are the "common heritage" of the peoples of Europe. Items on the agenda of this session included: the humanitarian situation of Ukrainian refugees; the honouring of obligations and commitments by Montenegro to fight corruption and discrimination; the Paris terrorist attacks; the challenge of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation; protection of media freedom in Europe; intolerance and discrimination with special focus on Christians, witness protection as a tool in the fight against organised crime and terrorism, and equality and inclusion for people with disabilities. In addition to the plenary debates, the members of the Maltese delegation also took part in the meetings of the various committees of which they are members.

Commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the victory over Nazism and the liberation of the death camps in Europe

On 26 and 27 January 2014, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participated in the Fourth International Forum "Let My People Live" held in Prague organised by the Czech Republic, the European Jewish Congress and the European Parliament. Themes discussed centred round "The roles politicians, the media and law enforcement have in remembering the Holocaust". Speaker Farrugia participated in the Speakers' Round Table Conference chaired by the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, where the Inter-Parliamentary declaration known as the "Terezin Declaration" was discussed. In his intervention Speaker Farrugia said that although the ceremony was meant to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust, one should reflect on other crimes such as Islamophobia, anti-Christianism and anti-Roma. He also referred to the ISIS threat as well as to the attack on the Corinthia hotel in Tripoli which had occurred that very morning. He also suggested that legislative steps should be taken to introduce the subjects of tolerance and mutual respect in the educational system. During his visit, Speaker Farrugia held a bilateral meeting with the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Hon. Milan Stech.

Attivitajiet internazzjonali (Kont.)

Konferenza Parlamentari Internazzjonali dwar id-Drittijiet tal-bniedem fil-Commonwealth

Delegazzjoni mill-Parlament Malti mmexxija mill-Ispeaker, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, u li kienet tinkludi lill-Onor. Anthony Aġius Decelis u l-Onor Toni Bezzina, ħadet sehem fil-konferenza bit-tema "Id-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem fil-Commonwealth tal-llum: Mill-Magna Carta għall-Commonwealth Charter," li saret fil-bini tal-Parlament Ingliż bejn l-4 u s-6 ta' Frar 2015. Il-Konferenza kienet organizzata mill-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari Ingliża tal-Commonwealth sabiex jiġi diskuss l-iżvilupp tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem f'dawn iż-żminijiet fil-Commonwealth. Il-programm laqqa' flimkien kważi 50 parlamentari mill-pajjiżi tal-Commonwealth għal dibattitu dwar l-importanza fundamentali tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem u l-iżvilupp tal-protezzjoni ta' dawn id-drittijiet fil-liġi mill-1215 sal-2015. L-Ispeaker Farrugia indirizza s-sessjoni ppreseduta minn Sir Alan Haselhurst, bit-tema "Il-Commonwealth – Potenza Globali għal dejjem?" u tkellem dwar il-kumplessitajiet demografiċi li jeżistu fil-Commonwealth u r-rwoli li l-organizzazzjoni jista' jkollha fil-ġejjieni. Huwa semma wkoll il-potenzjal li l-organizzazzjoni għandha fil-qasam politiku u ekonomiku li jista' jservi biex il-Commonwealth tkun strumentali ħalli jiġu indirizzati ċerti problemi li jeżistu bħal dawk fl-oqsma ambjentali u soċjali. L-Ispeaker Farrugia ħa sehem ukoll fid-dibattitu: "Tista' tilleġisla dwar kwistjoni morali?", li kien ippresedut mill-Ispeaker u d-Deputat Speaker tal-House of Lords, Baroness D'Souza u Baroness Hooper rispettivament.

Il-Ġimgħa Parlamentari Ewropea 2015

Fit-3 u l-4 ta' Frar l-Onor. Antoine Borg ipparteċipa fil-Ġimgħa Parlamentari Ewropea 2015 li ġiet organizzata mill-Parlament Ewropew ġewwa Brussell flimkien mal-Presidenza tal-Kunsill tal-Latvja. Il-laqgħa ġabet flimkien parlamentari minn madwar l-Unjoni Ewropea sabiex jiddiskutu kwistjonijiet ekonomiċi, soċjali u affarijiet baġitarji. Il-President tal-Parlament Ewropew Martin Schulz u l-President tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea Jean-Claude Juncker indirizzaw il-konferenza u t-tnejn qablu li l-Unjoni Ewropea hija impriża konġunta li trid tgħaddi mill-eżami tal-kontabbiltà. Il-laqgħa kkonsistiet minn żewġ avvenimenti. L-ewwel kienet il-laqgħa interparlamentari dwar iċ-Ċiklu tas-Semestru Ewropew tal-2014 u l-2015, u t-tieni avveniment kienet il-Konferenza Interparlamentari mwaqqfa taħt Artiklu 13 tat-Ttrattat ta' Stabilità, Koordinazzjoni u Governanza fl-Unjoni Ekonomika u Monetarja. Fl-intervent tiegħu fit-tieni ġurnata, l-Onor. Antoine Borg qal li minkejja ċ-ċokon tagħha, Malta għandha sehem importanti x'toffri lill-Unjoni Ewropea fl-isforzi tagħha biex toħroġ mill-kriżi ekonomika li tinstab fiha. Huwa qal ukoll li Malta dejjem emmnet fl-edukazzjoni bħala għodda importanti għall-inklużjoni soċjali u li tingħata wkoll għajnuna lis-*self employed* u lin-negozji żgħar minħabba l-importanza tagħhom għall-ekonomija ta' Malta.

European Parliamentary Week 2015

On 3 and 4 February Hon. Antoine Borg participated in the European Parliamentary Week 2015 which was organised by the European Parliament in Brussels together with the Latvian Presidency of the Council. The event brought together parliamentarians from across the EU to discuss economic, budgetary and social issues. European Parliament President Martin Schulz and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker addressed the conference and both agreed that the Union is a joint enterprise which must stand the test of accountability. The parliamentary conference consisted of two events. The first event was the Interparliamentary meeting on the European Semester Cycle 2014 and 2015, and the second event was the Interparliamentary Conference under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union. In his intervention during the second event, Hon. Antoine Borg stated that despite Malta's geographical size, the country has an important role to play in the EU to combat the current economic crisis. He also said that Malta has always used education as a tool for social inclusion and that assistance was given to self-employed persons and small businesses because of their importance to the Maltese economy.

International Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights in the Commonwealth

A parliamentary delegation from the Maltese Parliament, led by the Speaker, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, and comprising Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis and Hon. Toni Bezzina, took part in the conference entitled "Human Rights in the Modern Day Commonwealth: Magna Carta to the Commonwealth Charter," which was held in the Houses of Parliament, London, between 4 and 6 February 2015. The Conference was organised by the UK Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in order to discuss the development of human rights in the modern day Commonwealth. The programme brought together nearly 50 Commonwealth parliamentarians to discuss the fundamental importance of human rights and the development of protections for these rights in law from 1215 to 2015. Speaker Farrugia addressed the session, chaired by Sir Alan Haselhurst, where the topic under discussion was: "The Commonwealth – A global force for good?". He spoke about the demographical complexities which exist in the Commonwealth and the future role of the organisation. He also spoke about the potential the organisation has in the political and economic field, whereby the Commonwealth can be instrumental in addressing certain existing problems, such as environmental and social issues. Speaker Farrugia also intervened in the debate "Can you legislate for a Moral issue?" which was chaired by the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, Baroness D'Souza and Baroness Hooper respectively.

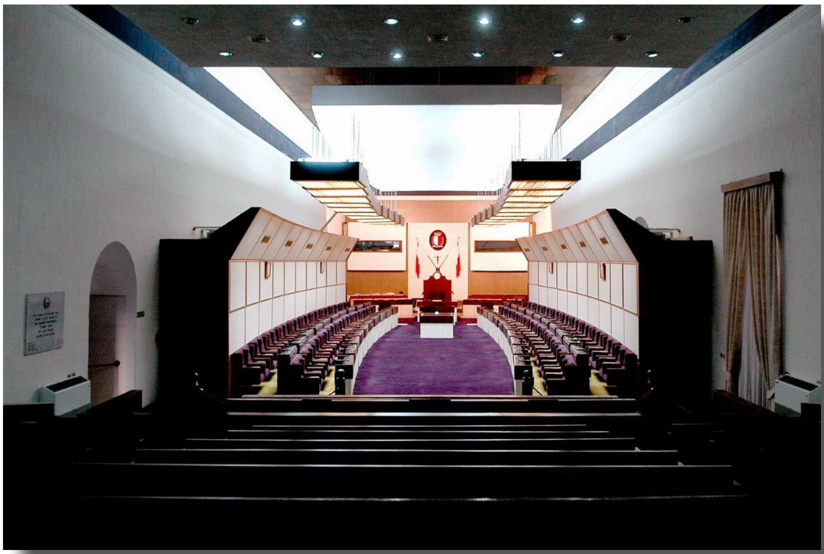
Attivitajiet internazzjonali (Kont.)

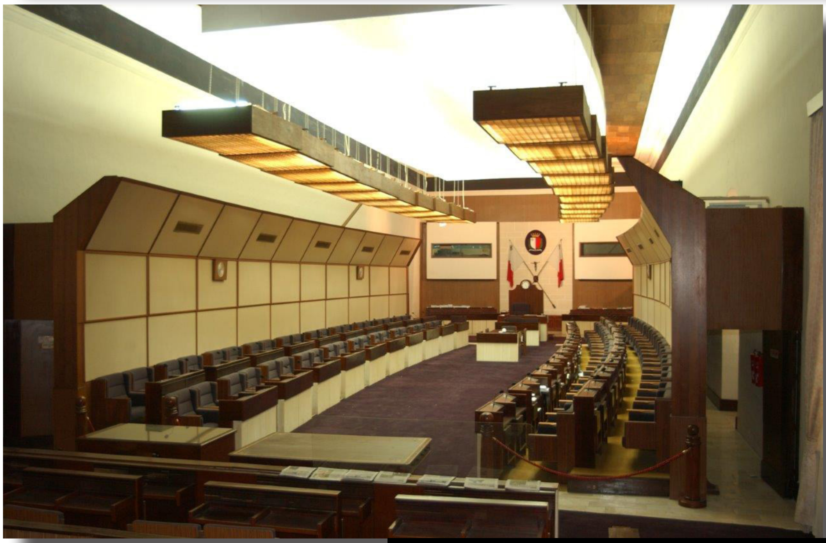
Laqgħa taċ-Chairpersons tal-COSAC

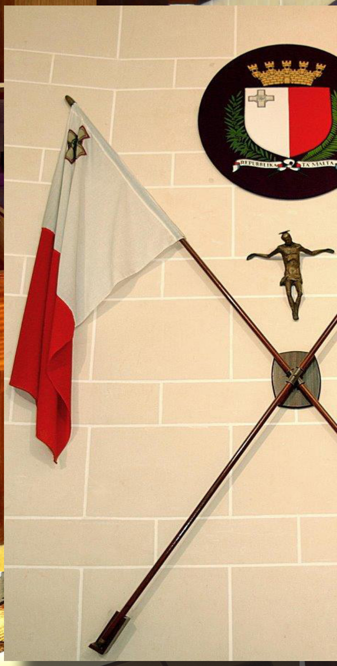
Fl-1 u t-2 ta' Frar, iċ-Chairman tal-Kumitat dwar l-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, l-Onor. Luciano Busuttil ippartećipa fil-Laqgħa tal-Presidenti tal-COSAC li ġiet organizzata mill-Parlament tal-Latvja ġewwa Riga. Din il-laqgħa tlaqqa' l-president tal-kumitati tal-affarijiet Ewropej tal-parlamenti nazzjonali, Membri tal-Parlament Ewropew, u esperti u uffiċjali għolja. Id-delegazzjonijiet iddiskutew il-prijoritajiet tal-Presidenza tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea tal-Latvja, il-prospetti tal-UE wara l-elezzjoni tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea u l-isfidi futuri għas-sħubija tal-Lvant. F'intervent qasir fuq is-suġġett tal-Prijoritajiet tal-Presidenza tal-Latvja, l-Onor. Luciano Busuttil qal li Malta tixtieq tara li jkun hemm aktar enfasi fuq il-problema tal-immigrazzjoni fil-Mediterran fid-dawl ta' avvenimenti riċenti fil-Libja fejn ġew attakkati wkoll proprjetajiet Maltin. Huwa saħaq illi għandha tkun l-Ewropa li tieħu azzjoni sabiex elementi estremisti ma jidħlux fl-Ewropa b'dan il-mod.

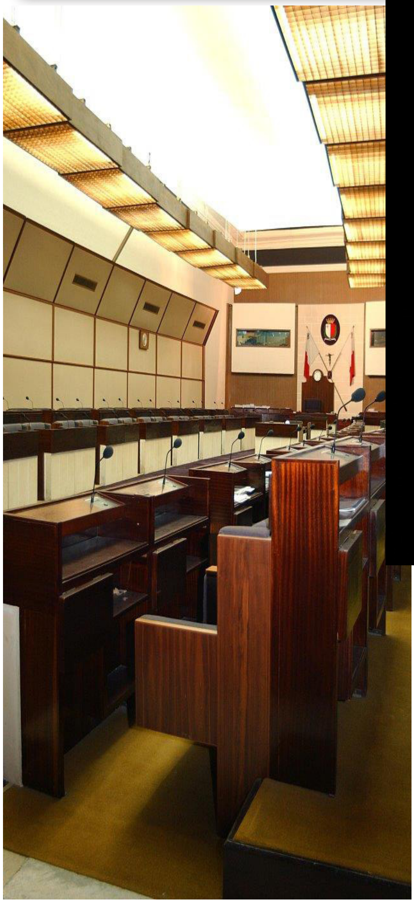
Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC

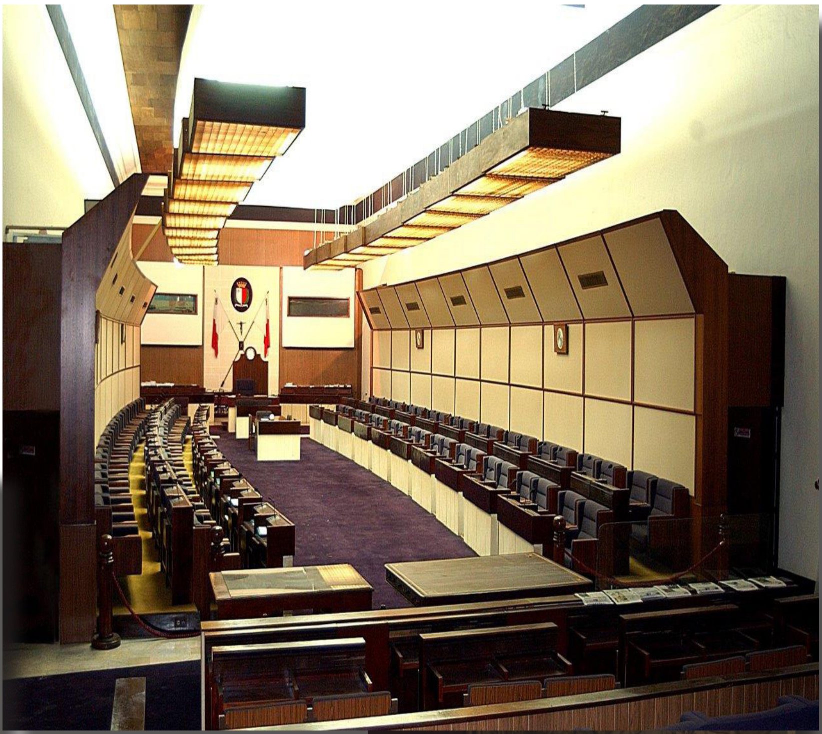
On 1 and 2 February, the Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, Hon. Luciano Busuttil participated in the Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC organised by the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Riga. This meeting brings together the chairs of the European affairs committees of the national parliaments, Members of the European Parliament, and experts and high-level officials. Delegations discussed the priorities of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the EU's prospects after the election of the new European Commission and the future challenges for the Eastern Partnership. In his short intervention on the subject regarding priorities of the Latvian Presidency, Hon. Luciano Busuttil said that Malta wants to see more focus on the immigration problem in the Mediterranean in the light of recent events in Libya, where Maltese properties had been attacked. He also stressed that it is Europe which needs to take action to prevent extremist elements from entering Europe.











Ħidma Parlamentari — Parliamentary Work

April 2013 – Marzu 2015 — April 2013 – March 2015

Seduti fil-Plenarja	255	Plenary Sittings
Laqgħat tal-Kumitati Permanenti	253	Meetings of Standing Committees
Stqarrijiet Ministerjali	36	Ministerial Statements
Mozzjonijiet	223	Motions
Mozzjonijiet Privati	22	Private Members' Motions
Mozzjonijiet għall-Ewwel Qari ta' Abbozzi ta' Liġi	95	Motions for First Reading of Bills
Liġijiet mgħoddija mill-Parlament	71	Acts enacted by Parliament
Liġijiet approvati b'votazzjoni	10	Acts approved upon division
Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari	16,052	Parliamentary Questions
Dokumenti mqiegħda fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra	4,850	Documents laid on the Table of the House
Diskorsi tal-Aġġornament	183	Adjournment Speeches
Deċiżjonijiet tas-Sedja	43	Rulings by the Chair
Membri Parlamentari li siefru fuq xogħol parlamentari	261	Members of Parliament on parliamentary duties abroad
Delegazzjonijiet parlamentari barra minn Malta	142	Parliamentary delegations abroad
Delegazzjonijiet immexxija mill-Ispeaker/Deputy Speaker	36	Delegations led by the Speaker/ Deputy Speaker