

Nr 13

Ġunju 2016

June 2016



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

# mill-PARLAMENT

Perjodiku maħruġ mill-Uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker

*Periodical issued by the Office of the Speaker*





Ġabra ta' ritratti li jagħtu ħarsa storika lejn il-Parlament matul is-snin. Dawn ir-ritratti jinsabu fid-daħla għall-iStrangers' Gallery.

A collection of photographs that give a historical overview of Parliament over the years. These pictures are located at the entrance to the Strangers' Gallery.

Harġa Nru 13/Issue No. 13  
Ġunju 2016/June 2016

Ippubblikat mill-Uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker  
*Published by the Office of the Speaker*

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ISSN 2308-538X  
ISSN (online) 2308-6637

**3 Daħla**

*Foreword*

**4 IL-GVERN RESPONSABBLI TAL-1921 -  
ESPERJENZA POLITIKA IMPORTANTI**

*Self-Government 1921 - An Important Political Experience*

**8 GHARIEN DWAR L-AWTIŻMU U L-EMPOWERMENT**

*Autism Awareness and Empowerment*

**10 DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO**

*Speech on the Occasion of the Sette Giugno*

**22 Attivitajiet tal-Parlament**

*Activities in Parliament*

**38 Attivitajiet Internazzjonali**

*International Activities*



**Qoxra:** Il-Binjatal-Parlament mixghula blu biex timmarka l-jum Dinji tal-Awtiżmu

**Cover:** The Parliament building lit up in blue to mark World Autism Day

**Ritratti/Photos:** Parlament ta' Malta/DOI

## DAFLA

## Foreword

Din it-13-il ħarġa ta' *mill-Parlament* tkopri diversi attivitajiet interessanti li organizza jew ħa sehem fihom il-Parlament fl-aħħar tliet xhur. Ir-ritratt li hemm fil-qoxra juri l-bini tal-Parlament mixgħul blu fl-okkażjoni tal-jum dinji ddedikat lill-awtiżmu, fit-2 ta' April. Għal din l-okkażjoni l-Parlament Malti ngħaqad ma' diversi binjiet magħrufa madwar id-dinja, li wkoll inxtegħlu b'dan il-lewn li jissimbolizza l-kundizzjoni tal-awtiżmu. Din l-inizjattiva, li saret bil-kooperazzjoni ta' diversi NGOs, fosthom il-Marigold Foundation, kienet waħda minn sensiela ta' attivitajiet li saru favur aktar għarfien dwar l-awtiżmu. F'dan il-kuntest, f'din il-ħarġa nsibu wkoll artiklu miktub mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Anzjanità Attiva u Persuni b'Diżabilità, l-Onor. Justyne Caruana, dwar il-Liġi li għadda l-Parlament reċentment dwar l-*Empowerment* tal-Persuni fuq il-Firxa Wiesgħa tal-Awtiżmu. Din il-ħarġa tinkudi wkoll id-diskors li għamlet is-Sedja fl-attività ta' tifkira li ssir kull sena quddiem il-monument li jagħti gieħ lill-vittmi ta' tal-grajjiet tas-*Sette Giugno* tal-1919. Din is-sena d-diskors enfasizza l-bidliet li jinħtieġ li jsiru fl-Ordinijiet Permanenti u fuq il-passi li jmiss fil-legiżlazzjoni dwar l-awtonomija tal-Parlament. Fil-fatt l-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar is-Servizz Parlamentari diġà għadda mill-istadju tat-Tieni Qari u allura nanticipa li fil-ġimgħat li ġejjin jiġi approvat mill-istadji finali tiegħu. Fid-diskors tas-*Sette Giugno* saret ukoll referenza għax-xogħol li qed jagħmel il-Parlament bi thejjiġa għall-Presidenza tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea fl-ewwel nofs tas-sena d-dieħla. Fil-fatt, f'din il-ħarġa nsibu rendikont tal-laqgħa li saret dan l-aħħar f'The Hague mal-Ispjakers tal-Parlament tal-Olanda, li għadha kif spiccat il-Presidenza, u ma' dak tas-Slovakkja li għadha kif bdiet il-Presidenza, fejn gie diskussa koperazzjoni aktar mill-viċin bejn it-tliet Parlamenti. Artiklu tassew interessanti li nsibu f'din il-ħarġa huwa dak miktub minn Dr George Cassar dwar l-esperjenza politika tal-ewwel Gvern responsabbli tal-1921, wara l-kisba tal-Kostituzzjoni msejha Amery-Milner. L-isforzi diplomatiki parlamentari ma naqsux u proprju f'din il-ħarġa nistgħu naqraw dwar il-pjan li ssir laqgħa bejn il-Parlament Malti, il-Parlament tal-Iżrael u l-Parlament nazzjonali tal-Awtorità Palestinjana dwar materji li mhumiex daqstant diviżivi fl-isfond tal-problemi li jħabbtu wiċċhom magħhom il-pajjiżi tal-Lvant Nofsani. Fost id-diversi attivitajiet li saru f'dan il-Parlament matul l-aħħar tliet xhur, insibu l-attività tal-ġhoti ta' premijiet mill-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin, kif ukoll diversi wirjiet, fosthom dik li saret dwar il-power station tal-Marsa, il-wirja mtellgħa minn Din l-Art Helwa u l-wirja artistika bit-tema *I Deserti Bianchi*, mill-artist magħruf Taljan Walter Coccetta. Il-Parlament ospita wkoll diversi laqgħat u konferenzi internazzjonali, bħalma kienet dik li saret fuq inizjattiva tas-Sindku tal-Kunsill Lokali tal-Birgu, John Boxall, li fiha ħadu sehem delegazzjonijiet minn diversi pajjiżi Ewropej li ddiskutew it-tema tal-Migrazzjoni u d-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem fil-Fruntieri tal-Unjoni Ewropea (Migration and Human Rights at EU Borders). Bħas-soltu, il-qoxra ta' wara tagħti indikazzjoni tal-attività parlamentari li qiegħda dejjem tiżdied. Biżżejjed insemmi li matul din il-Legiżlatura ngħataw kważi 90 Deċiżjoni tas-Sedja, saru madwar 70 Stqarrija Ministerjali, ġew ipprezentati aktar minn 42 Mozzjoni Privata primarjament min-naħa tal-Oppożizzjoni, u saru aktar minn 30,000 mistoqsija parlamentari. Il-Parlament approva wkoll għadd sostanzjali ta' liġijiet; s'issa matul din il-legiżlatura għaddew aktar minn 140 liġi.

This 13<sup>th</sup> issue of the periodical *mill-Parlament* covers several interesting activities organised by Parliament, or in which it was involved, in the last three months. The front cover photo shows the Parliament building lit up in blue on the occasion of the world autism day, which falls on 2 April. For this occasion the Maltese Parliament joined several renowned buildings around the world, lighting up in blue, being the colour also symbolising the condition of autism. This initiative, undertaken in cooperation with several NGOs, including the Marigold Foundation, was one of a series of activities conducted to raise awareness about autism. In this context, in this issue you will also find an article by the Parliamentary Secretary for Active Ageing and Disability, Hon. Justyne Caruana, on the recently enacted legislation on the Empowerment of Persons within the Autism Spectrum. This issue also includes the traditional speech as part of the annual activities organised at the foot of the monument commemorating the victims of the *Sette Giugno* events of 1919. This year the speech highlighted the changes that need to be made to the Standing Orders and the next steps in the legislation giving effect to the administrative autonomy of Parliament. In fact the Parliamentary Service Bill has already gone through its Second Reading and in the coming weeks is expected to be approved through its final stages. In the *Sette Giugno* speech I also made reference to the preparations of the Maltese Parliament ahead of the Presidency of the Council of the European in the first half of next year. In fact, this issue also covers the meeting in The Hague with the Speakers of the Parliament of the Netherlands, that has just ended its Presidency, and with that of Slovakia that just started its Presidency, in which closer cooperation between the three parliaments was discussed. In this issue you can also find an interesting article by Dr George Cassar on the experience of the first responsible Government of 1921, after the granting of the so-called Amery-Milner Constitution. Parliamentary diplomatic efforts have been sustained during this period; in this issue there is information about a meeting planned to be organised between the Maltese Parliament, the Parliament of Israel and the Parliament of the Palestinian Authority in the context of the Middle East situation on matters which are not considered to be divisive. The various activities organised by Parliament, or in which it was involved, over the last three months, includes the award ceremony of the Institute of Maltese Journalists, as well as several exhibitions, including that on the Marsa power station, the exhibition set up by Din l-Art Helwa and the exhibition *I Deserti Bianchi*, by the renowned Italian artist Walter Coccetta. Parliament also hosted several meetings and international conferences, such as the Conference organised on the initiative of the Mayor of the Local Council of Birgu, John Boxall, in which delegations from several European countries met to discuss Migration and Human Rights at EU Borders. As in previous issues, the information on the back cover indicates the fast pace of parliamentary work. During the current Legislature the Chair delivered almost 90 decisions, about 70 Ministerial Statements were made to the House, more than 42 private members' motions were presented primarily by the Opposition, and over 30,000 parliamentary questions were made. Parliament also approved a considerable number of acts of parliament, which to date amount to over 140.

## IL-GVERN RESPONSABBLI TAL-1921 - ESPERJENZA POLITIKA IMPORTANTI

Malta għaddiet minn żewġ perjodi ta' tmexxija awtonoma (1921-1936 u 1947-1958) fis-snin kolonjali ta' qabel l-indipendenza. It-tmexxija awtonoma (*self-government*) fissret li l-pajjiż beda jiġi parzjalment immexxi mill-partiti politiċi lokali. Il-Maltin kienu ilhom jaspiraw għal xi forma ta' tmexxija awtonoma sa mis-seklu dsatax iżda din ix-xewqa ħadet spinta 'l quddiem mal-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin. Il-politiċi Maltin kienu diġà bdew joħolqu l-partiti tagħhom, l-aktar minn wara l-1880. Għalkemm dawn il-partiti kellhom fehmiert diverġenti dwar il-lealtà lejn it-tmexxija Britannika, kien hemm konvinzjoni komuni li l-Maltin kien jixirqilhom li jiġu ttrattati aħjar. Bosta esponenti minn fost il-klassi politika kienu jemmnu li l-Maltin kienu fil-fatt nazzjon bl-identità tiegħu u għalhekk riedu jħarsu dak li huma kienu jqisu bħala l-kultura, il-wirt u l-karatteristiċi ta' Malta u l-Maltin. Bl-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno fl-1919, il-kwistjonijiet politiċi laħqu l-quċcata tagħhom u l-Inglizi ħassew li kellhom jikkalmaw lill-poplu. Għalhekk ingħatat kostituzzjoni għdida fl-1921 li tat tmexxija awtonoma lil Malta u gābet magħha l-ewwel elezzjoni għal parlament Malti.

### Il-Kostituzzjoni tal-1921

Din il-kostituzzjoni ta' tmexxija awtonoma, li ngħatat permezz tad-Digriet Irjali (*Letters Patent*) tal-14 ta' April 1921, insibuha bħala l-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner. Din kienet tipprovdi għal żewġ gvernijiet b'oqsma ta' kontroll separati. Il-Gvern Malti kien jieħu ħsieb l-affarijiet purament lokali filwaqt li l-Gvern Imperjali ta' Malta kienu jieħu ħsieb il-Materji Riservati (*Reserved Matters*). Il-Gvern Malti kellu leġiżlatura bikamerali. L-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva kienet magħmula minn 32 membru elett. Min-naħa l-oħra, is-Senat kien magħmul minn 10 membri speċjali (2 minn kull wieħed minn dawn is-setturi: il-kleru, in-nobbiltà, il-gradwati universitarji, il-Kamra tal-Kummerċ u t-Trade Union Council) u 7 "membri ġenerali". Kien hemm 7 ministri, inkluż il-prim ministru. Din il-kostituzzjoni kienet tipprovdi wkoll għal Kunsilli oħra (Eżekuttiv, Nominat, u Privy). Is-Senat kellu terminu massimu ta' sitt snin, filwaqt li l-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva kellha terminu massimu ta' tliet snin, u votant seta' jivvota aktar minn darba

(*plural voting*). L-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva kellha taħtar speaker u deputat speaker minn fost il-membri tagħha, u kull distrett elettorali kellu jaħtar erba' kandidati. Malta kienet maqsuma f'7 diviżjonijiet elettorali u Għawdex kien it-tmien wieħed. L-elezzjonijiet għas-Senat u l-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva kienu bbażati fuq is-sistema ta' rappreżentazzjoni proporzjonali permezz ta' vot uniku trasferibbli. Il-lingwi taż-żewġ Kmamar kienu l-Ingliz, it-Taljan u l-Malti.

Il-Leġiżlatura Maltija kellha s-setgħa li tgħaddi l-liġijiet li jikkonċernaw lil Malta iżda ma setgħetx tiddelibera fuq temi li kienu jaqgħu taħt il-Materji Riservati. Kien il-Gvern Imperjali ta' Malta, li kien jirrappreżenta n-naħa l-oħra tad-diarkija, li kien jiddeciedi b'mod esklussiv dwar dawk il-materji meqjusa bħala riservati, u dawn kienu jinkludu s-sikurezza pubblika, id-difiża tal-imperu u l-interessi ġenerali tal-persuni Britanniċi kollha barra minn pajjiżhom. Mill-1930 'il quddiem żdiedu oqsma riservati oħra. Il-lingwi uffiċjali ta' Malta kienu l-Ingliz, bħala l-lingwa uffiċjali tal-amministrazzjoni tal-Imperu Britanniku, u t-Taljan, bħala l-lingwa uffiċjali u stabbilita tal-qrati tal-ġustizzja u tad-dokumentazzjoni kollha. Iż-żewġ lingwi bdew jitqiesu fuq l-istess livell fil-qasam tal-kultura u bħala suġġetti akkademiċi fl-istituzzjonijiet edukattivi.

Din il-kostituzzjoni bdiet turi sinjali ta' falliment meta tfaċċat il-kriżi politika tal-1928. Għalhekk, fis-26 ta' Ġunju 1930, il-Malta (Temporary Government) Order in Council 1930, issospendiet il-kostituzzjoni u Malta spicċat taħt l-awtorità diretta tal-Gvernatur. Din is-sitwazzjoni serja malajr giet solvuta fuq rakkomandazzjoni tal-Kummissjoni Rjali tal-1931. Għalhekk il-Malta Constitution (Amendment) Letters Patent tal-25 ta' April 1932, emendat id-dispożizzjoni relatata mal-lingwa u reġa' ġie stabbilit gvern responsabbli. Għalkemm l-Att dwar il-Kostituzzjoni Maltija tat-12 ta' Lulju 1932 ta lura xi setgħat lill-Gvern Malti, permezz tal-Proklama Nru XIV tat-2 ta' Novembru 1933, prattikament il-Gvernatur kien imexxi hu direttament u kien jilleġiżla permezz tal-Ordinanzi. Fis-16 ta' Awwissu 1934, il-lingwa Maltija saret lingwa uffiċjali. Il-kostituzzjoni giet revokata b'mod definittiv permezz tal-Letters Patent tat-12 ta' Awwissu 1936.

## IL-GVERN RESPONSABBLI TAL-1921 - ESPERJENZA POLITIKA IMPORTANTI

### Il-Partiti Politiċi

Il-Kostituzzjoni tal-1921 kienet tinkludi elezzjonijiet għal parlament bikamerali Malti. L-elezzjonijiet saru għall-ewwel darba fl-1921 u ntrebħu mill-partit Unione Politica Maltese (UPM) li mexxa bħala gvern ta' minoranza. L-ewwel prim ministru ta' Malta kien Joseph Howard. L-elezzjoni sussegwenti saret fl-1924 u reġgħet intrebħet mill-UPM iżda din id-darba dan iggverna f'koalizzjoni mal-Partito Democratico Nazionalista.

Tliet snin wara, fl-1927, l-elezzjoni ntrebħet mill-Partit Kostituzzjonali li mexxa Malta f'koalizzjoni mal-Partit Laburista permezz ta' ftehim magħruf bħala l-Compact. Minħabba l-kriżi politikoreligjuża li qamet, l-elezzjonijiet ġew sospiżi għal xi żmien u għalhekk l-elezzjoni ta' wara saret fl-1932. Din intrebħet mill-Partito Nazionalista. Din il-legiżlatura ma kellhiex għomor twil minħabba li l-Gvernatur Sir David Campbell ħa f'idejh it-tmexxija ta' Malta f'Novembru tal-1933. Huwa ddikjara stat ta' emerġenza u l-Kostituzzjoni tal-1921 giet irtirata darba għal dejjem fl-1936.

Fis-snin ta' wara, sa qabel it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija u matul is-snin tal-gwerra, is-sitwazzjoni politika baqgħet strettament taħt il-kontroll Brittaniku u l-Maltin kellhom jistennew sal-1947 biex seta' jkollhom, mill-ġdid, xi sehem fit-tmexxija ta' pajjiżhom.



Governor Sir David Campbell



Malta stamp of 1922 with self-government overprint



Comm. Dr George Cassar huwa Senior Lecturer fl-Istitut għat-Turiżmu, l-Ivvjaġġar u l-Kultura tal-Università ta' Malta. Huwa soċjologu storiku u pedagogista 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 Gwann (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.

## SELF-GOVERNMENT 1921 - AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

Malta experienced two periods of self-government (1921-1936 and 1947-1958) in the pre-independence colonial years. Self-government, also known as self-rule or self-determination, meant that the country would be partially administered by its home-grown political parties. The Maltese had been aspiring for some form of self-rule already during the nineteenth century but this urge picked up momentum by the turn of the twentieth century. Maltese politicians had already set up parties especially from 1880 onwards. Though these parties were divided on their loyalties in favour or against British rule, yet there was a strong political will that the Maltese deserved to be treated better. Many from the political class believed that the Maltese were a nation with its own identity, and therefore strived to preserve what they considered to be the culture, heritage and character of Malta and its people. With the Sette Giugno riots of 1919, political affairs came to a peak and the British sensed that the people needed to be calmed down. Therefore a new constitution was granted in 1921 which gave self-government to Malta and thus ushered in the first election for a Maltese parliament.

### The Constitution of 1921

This self-government constitution, given by Letters Patent of 14 April 1921, was known as the Amery-Milner Constitution. It provided for two governments with separate spheres of control. The Maltese Government dealt with purely local affairs while the Maltese Imperial Government took care of 'Reserved Matters'. The Maltese Government had a bicameral legislature. The Legislative Assembly was to be formed of 32 elected members. On the other hand the Senate was to be composed of 10 special members (2 each from the clergy, the nobility, university graduates, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Trade Union Council) and 7 'general members'. There were 7 ministers including the head of ministry. This constitution also provided for other Councils (Executive, Nominated, and Privy).

The Senate had a maximum life of six years while the Legislative Assembly had a maximum life of three

years and plural voting was to be practised. The Legislative Assembly elected a speaker and a deputy speaker from among its members and each electoral district elected four candidates. Malta was divided into 7 divisions with Gozo being the eighth. Elections for the Senate and the Legislative Assembly were based on the system of proportional representation by the single transferable vote. The languages of both Houses were English, Italian, and Maltese.

The Maltese Legislature was empowered to pass laws for the benefit of Malta but could not deliberate on items included under the Reserved Matters. It was the Maltese Imperial Government, as the other part of the diarchy, that took exclusive care of the specified Reserved Matters, and these included public safety, the defence of the empire, and the general interest of all the British subjects overseas. Other reserved areas were added from 1930. The official languages of Malta were to be English as the official language of the administration of the British Empire, and Italian as the official and established language of the courts of law and record keeping. Both languages were to rank equally in the spheres of culture and in educational establishments where they were subjects of study.

This constitution began to show signs of failure with the political crisis of 1928. Thus on 26 June 1930, the Malta (Temporary Government) Order in Council 1930, suspended the constitution and Malta came under the direct authority of the Governor. This grave situation was quickly amended on the recommendation of the Royal Commission of 1931. Thus the Malta Constitution (Amendment) Letters Patent of 25 April 1932, amended the provision relating to language, and responsible government was thus restored. Though the Malta Constitution Act on 12 July 1932 gave back some power to the Maltese Government, by Proclamation No. XIV of 2 November 1933, the Governor practically exerted direct rule and legislated by Ordinance. On 16 August 1934 Maltese became an official language. The constitution was finally revoked by Letters Patent of 12 August 1936.

## SELF-GOVERNMENT 1921 - AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

### The political parties

The Constitution of 1921 included elections to the bicameral Maltese parliament. Elections were first held in 1921 and won by the Unione Politica Maltese (UPM) which administered as a minority government. The first prime minister of Malta was Joseph Howard. The next election was held in 1924 and was again won by the UPM but this time it governed in coalition with the Partito Democratico Nazionalista.

Three years later, in 1927, the election was won by the Constitutional Party who administered Malta in coalition with the Labour Party through an agreement known as the 'Compact'. Following the politico-religious crisis that ensued, elections were suspended for some time and the next election was thus held in 1932 which was won by the Partito Nazionalista. This legislature was short-lived as Governor Sir David Campbell took over the administration of Malta in November 1933. He declared a state of emergency and the Constitution of 1921 was definitely withdrawn by 1936.

In the remaining years prior to World War Two and during the war years the political situation remained firmly under full British control and the Maltese had to wait till 1947 to once again be able to have some say in the running of their own country.



*Joseph Howard -  
First Prime Minister of Malta*



*House of Representatives in 1921*



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## GĦARFIEN DWAR L-AWTIŻMU U L-EMPOWERMENT

### Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar l-Empowerment ta' persuni fuq il-firxa wiesgħa ta' Awtiżmu (Abbozz Nru 136)

Ninsabu konxji li l-awtiżmu għandu impatt qawwi fuq l-individwu u l-familja rispettiva tiegħu jew tagħha. Hija iebes li wieħed jammetti li dawn il-persuni ma jistgħux jippartecipaw b'mod sħiħ fis-soċjetà minħabba nuqqas ta' għarfien u fehim mill-ħajja ta' madwarna. Ma nistgħux nibqgħu wieqfa u siekta meta nafu li għandna persuni madwarna li huma kkundizzjonati sabiex iħossuhom iżolati jew esklużi.

Kull amministrazzjoni tista' tibqa' plaċida, f'pożizzjoni komda u tliessen kliem ħelu ta' solidarjetà, iżda l-Gvern huwa impenjat li jwettaq dak li jgħid u li mingħajr eżitazzjoni jaġixxi skont ma jiddetta d-dmir sabiex jipprovdi l-għodda neċessarja biex ngħinu lill-persuni bl-awtiżmu jakkwistaw iżjed indipendenza u jħossuhom protetti u empowered.

Huwa essenzjali li, flimkien ma' assistenza esperta, nisimghu lil-persuni li jaqgħu taħt il-firxa wiesgħa tal-awtiżmu, kif ukoll lill-familji tagħhom, biex joffru gwida f'dak li għandu jsir. Konsultazzjonijiet ma' partijiet interessati kienu essenzjali f'dan il-proċess. Dan kien li xprunana sabiex inwettqu *policies* u liġijiet, standards u strutturi.

Aħna ma nikkunsidrawx is-settur tad-diżabilità b'mod omogenju, iżda narawh fis-setturi iktar speċifiċi u jiġu indirizzati kwistjonijiet partikolari u li jikkoncernaw persuni differenti. Għal dan il-għan, inkomplu niffukaw b'mod speċifiku sabiex niżguraw li kull settur qed jiġi indirizzat.

L-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar l-Empowerment ta' persuni fuq il-firxa wiesgħa ta' Awtiżmu huwa pass sinifikanti. Il-Pjan ta' Sapport tal-Istat, previst f'din il-liġi l-għdida qed jiġi kkompilat mill-partijiet interessati u ser jinkludi persuni li jaqgħu taħt il-firxa tal-awtiżmu u l-familji tagħhom li, flimkien ma' entitajiet oħra involuti fl-awtiżmu, joħolqu Kunsill Nazzjonali. Dan jiżgura li l-pajjiż jirrispondi b'mod deċiżiv f'dak li s-settur jistħoqqlu. L-approċ ħolistiku f'dan l-abbozz ser jgħaqqad l-entitajiet kollha involuti fis-settur u dan ser jiżgura l-utilizzazzjoni massima tar-riżorsi u kura ta' matul il-ħajja individwali u approċ ta' pjan ta' sapport.

Aħna impenjati sabiex nibnu pont ħalli l-persuni fil-firxa wiesgħa tal-awtiżmu jkunu għalkollox inkluzi

u sabiex il-potenzjal tagħhom jikber bl-iżvilupp ta' abilitajiet godda.

L-idea ta' awto-determinazzjoni, kif imsemmija fl-abbozz, għandha l-għan li ttipprova li s-soċjetà tista' tkun iktar effettiva mingħajr soluzzjonijiet esaġerati. Nistgħu noħolqu lok għal soluzzjonijiet fit-tul ippilotati minn dawn il-persuni nfushom għal kontroll aħjar fuq il-ħajja tagħhom. Barra minn hekk, tiġi ssodata ċ-ċittadinanza attiva fil-komunità. Dan l-abbozz għandu l-għan li jzid il-lok ta' ħidma sabiex is-settur ikollu l-ispazju tant bżonjuż biex ikun żviluppat u kkordinat. Dan jikkumpla l-impenn tagħna sabiex nikkontribwixxu għal soċjetà iktar inklusiva u ġusta, b'izjed opportunitajiet għal ħajja ta' kwalità u partecipazzjoni attiva fis-soċjetà, kif imsemmi fil-Konvenzjoni tad-Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità tan-Nazzjonijiet Magħquda.

Il-Jum Dinji dwar l-Awtiżmu jitfakkar nhar it-2 ta' April. B'solidarjetà ma' persuni bl-awtiżmu, il-Parlament Malti ħa sehem fl-inizjattiva msejġha "Light it up Blue" nhar l-1 ta' April meta l-binja tal-Parlament inxtegħlet blu. Malta ngħaqdet mal-kumpla tad-dinja f'dan il-ġest simboliku sabiex jiżdied l-għarfien dwar din il-kondizzjoni.

l-ċerimonja kienet indirizzata mis-Sinjura Michelle Muscat, mart il-Prim Ministru u Chairperson tal-Fondazzjoni Marigold; u mill-Ispaker tal-Parlament, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, li fakkar lil dawh prezenti li nhar l-4 ta' April, il-Parlament kien ser ikompli x-xogħol siewi f'dan il-kamp billi jiddiskuti l-Abbozz Nru 136 - L-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar l-Empowerment ta' persuni fuq il-firxa wiesgħa ta' Awtiżmu. Huwa saħaq li l-poplu Malti, li hu poplu ġeneruż, għandu juri sapport għal din il-kawża, favur ħajja aħjar għal dawn l-individwi u l-familjari tagħhom.



L-Onor. Justyne Caruana,  
Segretarju Parlamentari  
għal Persuni b'Diżabilità u  
Anzjanità Attiva

## AUTISM AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT

### **The Persons within the Autism Spectrum (Empowerment) Bill (Bill No. 136)**

We are fully aware that autism impacts severely on the individual and his or her respective family. It is harsh to admit that these persons cannot fully participate in society due to lack of awareness and understanding by surrounding society. We cannot stay still when we know that we have persons around us who are conditioned to feel isolated or excluded.

Any administration can placidly stay within its comfort zone and utter the sweetest words of solidarity, but this Government walks its talk, we act as our duty dictates without any hesitation. We are committed to provide the necessary tools to help persons with autism gain more independence and feel protected and empowered.

It is imperative that, together with expert assistance, we listen to persons within the autism spectrum and also their families, to guide us further in what needs to be done. Consultation with all stakeholders has been fundamental all along. It is basically what spurs us ahead with the necessary policies and laws, standards and structures.

We do not consider the disability sector in a homogeneous manner, but we look deeper into each specific sector and address the particular issues that concern different persons. We keep zooming in to ensure that each sector is fully addressed.

The Persons within the Autism Spectrum (Empowerment) Act is indeed a landmark. The State Support Plan envisaged in this new law will be compiled by the stakeholders themselves and includes persons within the autism spectrum and their families who, together with other entities involved in autism will compose a National Council. This ensures that the country responds in a decisive manner in what this sector deserves. The holistic approach in this bill will bring all entities involved in the sector together and this will ensure the maximum utilisation of resources and an individual life-long care and support plan approach. We are committed to build bridges to have persons within the autism spectrum fully included and where their potential can be duly expanded with the required development of new skills.

The idea of self-determination, as stated in the relative Bill, proves that society can be more effective without knee-jerk solutions. We can create space for independent long-term solutions piloted by these persons themselves towards better control on their own life, while strengthening further active citizenship within their community. Far from being restrictive, the Bill aims at adding a wider breathing space so that this sector can be further developed and coordinated. It further complements our commitment to strengthen a more inclusive and fair society, with more opportunities for a quality life and active participation within society, as specified by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

World Autism Day is commemorated on the 2 April, and, in solidarity with persons with autism, the Maltese Parliament held an initiative named "Light it up Blue" on 1 April where the Parliament Building was lit up blue. Malta joined the rest of the world in this symbolic gesture, to raise awareness about this condition.

The ceremony was addressed by Mrs Michelle Muscat, the Prime Minister's wife and Chairperson of the Marigold Foundation; and by the Speaker, Hon Anġlu Farrugia, who reminded those present that on Monday 4 April, the Maltese Parliament was to continue the valuable work in this field by discussing Bill 136 – The Persons within the Autism Spectrum (Empowerment) Bill and emphasised that the Maltese, a generous people, should show support in this cause, in favour of a better life for these individuals and their families.



*Hon. Justyne Caruana,  
Parliamentary Secretary for the  
Rights of Persons with Disability  
and Active Ageing*

## DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO

*Bħal kull sena, il-Parlament ta' Malta ċelebra l-avvenimenti tas-Sette Giugno, b'ċerimonja li din is-sena nżammet nhar it-Tnejn 6 ta' Ġunju quddiem il-monument tas-Sette Giugno.*

Onorevoli Prim Ministru, Onorevoli Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Presidenti Emeriti, Speakers Emeriti, Onorevoli Membri, Membri Anzjani, Eċċellenzi, mistiedna distinti.

Għaddiet sena mindu għamilt l-aħħar diskors waqt din il k commemorazzjoni ta' Jum is-Sette Giugno, jum li bla dubju jibqa' mnaqqax bħala grajja tant importanti li tfakkarna meta fis-7 ta' Ġunju tal-1919, il-poplu kollu b'vuċi waħda għajjat għajta kbira fi għlieda għad-drittijiet tiegħu bħala Nazzjon Malti. Dan huwa appuntament li jgħinna nifhmu aktar x'inhi u x'għandna nistennew mid-demokrazija parlamentari li bdejna nħaddnu bis-saħħa ta' din il-grajja minn meta sentejn wara li seħħew dawk l-avvenimenti, ingħatajna l-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner.

Fid-diskors li għamilt is-sena l-oħra f'din l-istess okkażjoni quddiem dan il-monument, monument li jfakkar il-bidu tal-istorja tal-Parlament Malti kif nafuh illum, kont għamilt referenza għall-fatt li fit-18 ta' Marzu tas sena l-oħra l-Kumitat Festi Nazzjonali kien staqsieni kif naħsibha fuq il-proposta li dan il-monument ma jibqax imwarrab f'dan il-ġnien, imma jitqiegħed f'post ieħor. Wara kollox, dan il-post kellu jkun post temporanju. Jien mill ewwel u mingħajr tlaqliq kont esprimejt il-fehma tiegħi li naqbel mal-proposta li dan il-monument, xogħol l-Iskultura Anton Agius, għandu jiġi rilokat f'post xieraq u mhux moħbi. Dan peress li hemm rabta preċiża u intrinsika bejn dak li jirrappreżenta dan il-monument u l-Parlament Malti.

Għaddiet sena u kollox baqa' kif kien u dan minkejja li kif stajt nikkonstata jiena personalment iktar kmieni x-xahar li għadda, il-Kumitat Festi Nazzjonali huwa unanimament favur li l-monument jiċċaqlaq minn hawn. Għaldaqstant inħoss li biex inwasslu dan il-messaġġ u biex jitwassal anke l-apprezzament tal-pubbliku Malti u Għawdx i lejn dan il-monument, li fuq kollox jirrappreżenta l-mixja storika tal-

Istituzzjoni tal-Parlament, irid isir gest simboliku illum stess f'dan il-jum nazzjonali; jum nazzjonali proprju marbut mal-għlieda tal-poplu Malti li wasslet biex pajjiżna kiseb l-ewwel Kostituzzjoni tiegħu fl-1921. Għalhekk nipproponi li, wara dan id-diskors u wara li ssir iċ-ċerimonja, flimkien magħkom nimxi b'mod simboliku mit-taraġ li jwassalna proprju għall-bini tal-Parlament.

F'okkażjoni bħal din huwa dejjem importanti li wieħed jerga' jifli fid-dettall x'gara eżatt dak iż-żmien meta l-poplu Malti u Għawdx i qam kontra l-ħakma Ingliża f'rewwixta li fiha saru ħsarat f'diversi binjiet fil-Belt Valletta u f'postijiet oħra. Il-kwistjoni kollha jidher li qamet prinċipalment minħabba l-għoli fil-prezz tal-ħobż. Fir-riċerki li għamilt, kemm fi snin oħra kif ukoll din is-sena, aktar iffukajt fuq in-nies li ħadu sehem fir-rewwixta milli fuq il-vittmi jew persuni oħra li dakinhar setgħu deħru bħala għedewwa tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx i. Ir-riċerka dejjem twasslek għal riċerki oħra u għaldaqstant ħassejt li għandi nara wkoll x'ħasbu dakinhar uħud minn dawk li kellhom sehem fit-tħaddim tal-awtorità f'pajjiżna, u anke negozjanti. Wieħed minn dawn il-protagonisti kien proprju Anthony Cassar Torreggiani, li kien jirrappreżenta lill-Kamra tal-Kummerċ, jew kif kienu jsibuha dak iż-żmien u kif għadna nirreferu għaliha sal-lum, il-Borża. Fil-ktieb li jirrakkonta b'mod preċiż x'gara dakinhar miktub minn Nicholas de Piro, insibu li s-Sur Cassar Torreggiani qal hekk, u nikkwota:

*"On the day when I was to address the Assembly, I hailed a carozzin at St Julian's (I had rented a small place by the sea for my family). I was running a little late and told the cab driver to hurry to Valletta. I rehearsed my speech on representation and taxation until, suddenly, a friend making frantic gestures, stopped the cab. "Quick", he said, "hide. The millers are the target. Do not go to the Assembly - your house is ransacked - there are bodies outside your front door.*

*My first reaction was not fear but fury. Two months earlier in March of 1919 the price of wheat had soared to an all time high. The local milling industry was faced with the dilemma either to buy at a high*

## DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

*price and face the public with a rise in the price of bread to 9½d. per rotolo, or decline to import the wheat requirements of the island. My pleadings with Lord Methuen to suspend the bread tax until more favourable times, were to no avail. I was told that the current Government expenditure had risen to over £800,000. His Excellency would not give way."*

Wieħed irid jinnota li dak iż-żmien kien hemm diversi magni tad-dqiq imferrxin ma' Malta u Għawdex u fost in-negozjanti li kienu jipprovdu l-qamħ għall-ħobż ta' kuljum għall-poplu Malti u Għawdex, kien hemm proprju s-Sur Cassar Torreggiani li kien mar hu personalment jipprova jikkonvinċi lill-Gvernatur Methuen, biex jissospendi t-taxxa fuq il-ħobż, dejjem fuq il-prinċipju li ma jistax ikollok taxxa mingħajr rappreżentazzjoni; *no taxation without representation*.

Xi haġa li ma kinitx innotata għal diversi snin mir-riċerkaturi f'dan il-qasam hija li dan in-negozjant kien mar ikellem lill-Gvernatur bl-għajnuna tal-Lieutenant Governor William Robertson illi kien irrangalu appuntament mal-Gvernatur biex jipprova jipperswadih ma jibqax miexi biż-żieda fit-taxxa fuq l-importazzjoni tal-qamħ.

Fi stadju minnhom, meta l-kwistjoni tal-prezz tal-qamħ ikkumplikat ruħha mhux ħażin, proprju f'Marzu tal-1919, l-istess negozjant kien talab li talinqas ikun hemm garanzija min-naħa tal-Gvernatur biex jagħmel tajjeb għat-telf li jista' jkun hemm fl-importazzjoni tal-qamħ sakemm jitwassal f'Malta kaġun tad-diffikultajiet enormi li kienu jeżistu dak iż-żmien fil-qasam tat-tbaħħir. Kien żmien meta kienet għadha kif spiċċat l-Ewwel Gwerra, fl-1918, u kien sar diffiċli ħafna biex wieħed isib vapuri għal dawn il-vjaġġi peress li kien hemm nuqqas ta' vapuri fi stat li jbaħħru "*scarcity of ships remaining afloat*".

Dan ikkontribwixxa mhux bi ftit għas-sitwazzjoni prekarja li kienet qed tiffaċċja l-popolazzjoni f'pajjiżna, tant li fil-ktieb ta' de Piro nsibu dan li ġej u nikkwota:

*"By 1919 the populace was in a state of exasperation*

*because of the high cost of foodstuffs and the low standard of living."*

Kellek vapuri li telqu minn Ġibiltà u oħrajn li telqu mill-Ingilterra biex igibu l-merkanzija u baqgħu ma waslux, tant li meta kien jirnexxilu jasal vapur kien ikun hemm ferħ kbir fil-Port, bin-nies jgħajtu: "Aħna issa se nsalvaw!" Dan id-dettall joħroġ ukoll mix-xogħol ta' de Piro, hawn aktar 'il fuq ċitat li jiddeskrivi kif il-vapuri li kienu jiġu mibgħuta lejn Malta kienu jipprovaw jaslu sal-Port il-Kbir b'determinazzjoni kbira, anke kultant kontra l-parir tal-awtoritajiet minħabba l-attakki tal-għadu.

Dan kollu wassal sabiex il-prezz tal-qamħ kważi rdoppja. Dan apparti ż-żieda fit-taxxa imposta mill-awtoritajiet Ingliżi dak iż-żmien taħt il-Gvernatur Lord Methuen li għall-ebda raġuni ma ried jissospendi t-taxxa fuq il-ħobż għallinqas kif kienu qed jippruvaw jikkonvinċuh numru ta' persuni, fosthom in-negozjanti tal-qamħ sakemm jaslu żmenijiet aħjar li jkunu jippermettu l-introduzzjoni ta' tali taxxa.

Minn dak ċitat aktar 'il fuq, dejjem mill-kitba ta' de Piro, jidher ukoll li l-poplu Malti ma kienx qed japprezza li kien hemm nies f'pożizzjonijiet ta' awtorità fil-pajjiż u li kienu qed jipprovaw jagħtu sehemhom biex din it-taxxa ma tiġix imposta. Kif dejjem jingħad, trid tara ż-żewġ naħat tal-munita biex tifhem aħjar dak li effettivament ġara. Dan japplika għal kwalunkwe problema li tista' tqum fil-pajjiż. Wieħed irid jipprova jifhem il-partijiet kollha biex jasal għall-konkluzjoni korretta dwar dak li jkun ġara u biex ikun ukoll korrett fid-deċiżjonijiet li jrid jieħu, speċjalment meta tkun kwistjoni li tinkwadra fid-demokrazija parlamentari.

Illum il-ġurnata l-kuncett ta' demokrazija parlamentari huwa realtà u mhux aktar aspirazzjoni. Hija sistema rikonoxxuta bħala waħda li tikkontribwixxi mhux ftit sabiex l-amministrazzjoni tal-pajjiż tkun waħda kredibbli u b'saħħitha.

Amministrazzjoni b'saħħitha teħtieġ ukoll li tkun ibbażata fuq il-kuncett ta' *good governance*, governanza tajba. Wieħed jista' jgħid li dan it-terminu jirreferi għal amministrazzjoni korretta li għandha

## DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

tiġi applikata b'mod rigoruż minn istituzzjonijiet fit-tmexxija ta' materji pubbliċi, inkluż l-użu tar riżorsi pubbliċi. Sabiex il-korrettezza fil-governanza tkun waħda kredibbli u li tagħti sodisfazzjon lill-pubbliku, huwa impliċitu li l-proċeduri kollha jsiru b'mod mill-aktar miftuħ. Mhux biżżejjed li jkun hemm il-korrettezza fit-tmexxija tal-affarijiet pubbliċi, iżda huwa importanti li ma jithalla l-ebda dubju li xi deċiżjoni ma tteħditx fl-ambitu ta' korrettezza sħiħa.

Nieħu din l-okkażjoni biex bħala President tal-Kamra nuri l-apprezzament tiegħi għall-fatt li l-ħaddiema kollha fl-Istituzzjoni li jiena mmexxi jhossuhom liberi li jinnotaw u jtkellmu dwar dak li ma jkunx sar sewwa. Dan jinħass b'mod speċjali issa li qegħdin fil-binja l-ġdida fejn għadna qegħdin niltaqgħu ma' problemi fil-binja minħabba xogħlijiet li ma sarux kif kellhom isiru. M'għadux iż-żmien li wieħed jibza' jitellem jew jipprova jistaħba għaliex jekk jitellem jista' jew jiġi iżolat jew addirittura jiġi mċanfar. Jien naħdem bil-kontra. Inħoss li għall-finijiet ta' *good governance* wieħed għandu jiġi inkoraġġit jiġbed l-attenzjoni għal proċeduri li ma jkunux jirriflettu korrettezza fl-amministrazzjoni ta' riżorsi pubbliċi. Nemmen li għandu jhossu liberu li jiġbed l-attenzjoni dwar kull kwestjoni mingħajr biża' ta' riperkussjonijiet. Jiena nilqa' u niringrazzja lil dawk il-persuni kollha li jiġu 'l-quddiem b'suġġerimenti għal titjib fil-prattiki jew fis-sistemi użati.

Bħala Istituzzjoni għamilna passi kbar 'il quddiem mid-diskors tas-sena li għaddiet. Perezempju fejn għandu x'jaqsam xandir televiżiv, insemmi li llum il-ġurnata l-Parlament Malti qed jiġi trażmess ukoll fuq frekwenza *free to air*. Dan il-pass kompli fetaħ il-Parlament għall-pubbliku għaliex issa kull min ikun irid isegwi x'inhu għaddej f'din l-Istituzzjoni m'għadx għandu l-ħtieġa ta' abbonament televiżiv bi ħlas. Din kienet talba li dan l-Uffiċċju beda jirċievi b'mod kostanti hekk kif beda x-xandir tas-seduti parlamentari bit-televiżjoni fl-4 ta' Mejju tas-sena l-oħra bil-għajjnuna tal-kumpaniji Melita u GO, li minn hawn nixtieq niringrazzjahom.

Matul is-sena li għaddiet mexxejna l-arkivju tal-Parlament minn fejn kien sitwat fil-Palazz tal-Gran

Mastri għal post temporanju fil-vicinanzi tal-binja l-ġdida. Imiss issa li nsibu fondi sabiex nittrasformaw il-mina fejn fiż-żmien kienet tidhol il-ferrovija għal post fejn ikun hemm kamra tal-Kumitati oħra, arkivju u librerija ta' riferenza, kif ukoll kafetterija żgħira tal-Parlament fejn il-Membri jkun jistgħu jiltaqgħu f'ambjent informali. Dan il-proġett, li għalih qed niprovaw insibu fondi Ewropej, se jippermettilna li nsaħħu s-servizzi ta' support lill-Membri Parlamentari u wkoll li nifthu aktar għall-pubbliku l-informazzjoni li tinsab fid-dokumenti Parlamentari, partikolarment dawk antiki li għandhom valur storiku.

L-argument li l-oġġla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż ma tista' qatt tkun ħielsa minn kull xkiel u rbit jekk amministrattivament tibqa' titqies bħala dipartiment tal-Gvern, ilna nisimgħuh għal numru ta' snin minn diversi Speakers waqt id-diskorsi tas-Sette Giugno. Huwa għalhekk li llum bi pjaċir nista' ngħid li matul din is-sena diġà ġew dedikati tliet seduti għad-diskussjoni fi stadju ta' Tieni Qari tal-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar is-Servizz Parlamentari. Nawgura li dan l-Abbozz ma jdumx ma jsir Att tal-Parlament ħalli din il-ħolma ta' numru ta' Speakers preċedenti u tiegħi ssir realtà, u għall-ewwel darba fl-istorja tiegħu l-Parlament jibda jgawdi minn awtonomija amministrattiva sħiħa.

L-istess nawgura li jseħħ mill-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar Standards fil-Ħajja Pubblika li jinsab fuq l-aġenda tal-Parlament. Din il-liġi, li tipprovdi għall-ħatra ta' Kummissarju għall-iStandards fil-Ħajja Pubblika permezz ta' rizzoluzzjoni approvata permezz ta' żewġ terzi tal-Kamra, għandha sservi ta' gwida siewja għal min qieghed fil-ħajja pubblika għaliex permezz tagħha kulħadd ikun taħt skrutinju u jekk xi ħadd ma jkunx korrett fl-aġir etiku tiegħu jew, aġar minn hekk, ikun hemm każ ta' ksir tal-liġi, il-Kummissarju jkun jista', flimkien mal-Kumitat Permanenti dwar Standards fil-Ħajja Pubblika ppresedut mis-Sedja, jaġixxi skont kif provdut bil-liġi.

Diversi drabi ssemmiet il-ħtieġa li jsir aġġornament tal-Ordinijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra. Ikun inutli li nibqgħu nitkellmu fuq din il-ħtieġa mingħajr ma jsir xejn. Fost dispożizzjonijiet oħra, l-Ordinijiet Permanenti jagħtu d-dritt li Membru Parlamentari

## DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

jista' jittellem għal 40 minuta. Insibu, saħansitra, li l Ministru li jkun qed jintroduci d-dibattitu fuq Abbozz ta' Ligi fl-istadju ta' Tieni Qari, jista' jagħmel diskors ta' siegħa u nofs. Hekk ukoll jista' jdum siegħa u nofs jittellem ix-*Shadow Minister* li jkun qed jirrispondi għal dak id diskors min-naħa tal-Oppożizzjoni. Dawn huma dispożizzjonijiet li nazzarda ngħid li ma jeżistu fl-ebda parlament Ewropew jew fil-*Commonwealth* u għaldaqstant għandhom jiġu riveduti sabiex il-ħin tal-Kamra jkun jista' jiġi użat b'mod dejjem aktar produttiv.

Naħseb li wasal iż-żmien li l-ebda persuna fil-Parlament, hi min hi, ma tingħata aktar minn 15 jew 20 minuta ta' diskors, ħlief f'każijiet eċċezzjonali. Hemm bżonn li l-kelliema kollha jiffokaw aktar fuq il-punti saljenti li jkunu jridu jindirizzaw fid-diskorsi tagħhom, u jagħmlu dan b'mod ippreparat, kif diġà qed isir f'ċerti każi. Irrid nistqarr li reċentement qed ikollna numru ta' diskorsi ppreparati u għaldaqstant irridu nkomplu naħdmu f'din id-direzzjoni sabiex naslu li nkunu kapaċi ngħidu dak li rridu ngħidu fi ftit ħin, anke f'ħames minuti jew żewġ minuti. Hemm parlamenti fl-Ewropa fejn jekk teċċedi l-ħin saħansitra tiġi applikata multa. Ma naħsibx li għandna naslu s'hawn, imma żgur li għandna naslu li mill-aktar fis nemendaw fejn hemm bżonn l-Ordinijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra. Ukoll fl-interess ta' titjib fil-livell tal-interventi fil-Kamra, min-naħa amministrattiva qed nagħmlu ħilitna sabiex inżidu l-għajjnuna li noffru lill Membri f'dan ir-rigward u anke bi preparazzjoni għall-Presidenza tal-Unjoni Ewropea s-sena d-dieħla. Għal dan il għan qed naraw kif inżidu t-*team* ta' *research analysts* b'ħamsa oħra. Nifhem ukoll li għad irid jasal żmien meta nadottaw is-sistema użata f'diversi Parlamenti oħra fejn il-Membri jingħataw forma ta' *allowance* sabiex ikunu jistgħu jimpjegaw magħhom assistenti li jgħinuhom jippreparaw għad-dibattiti.

Tibdil ieħor li ilu jinħass il-bżonn tiegħu fl-Ordinijiet Permanenti huwa f'dak li jirrigwarda l-allokkazzjoni ta' seduti għal xogħol ta' membri privati bħalma hemm fis-sistema li tithaddem fil-*House of Commons*. Għalkemm kif oriġinarjament abbozzati, l-Ordinijiet Permanenti tagħna kienu jaħsbu għal dan, tul il-medda tas-snin daħlu prattiċi minn

amministrazzjonijiet varji li naqqrū dan id-dritt tal-membri privati li, ngħiduha kif inhi, l-aktar li jaffettwa lill-minoranza fil-Parlament. Għaldaqstant, filwaqt li nagħraf il-fatt li matul din il-legiżlatura ġew allokat numru konsiderevoli ta' seduti għall-konsiderazzjoni ta' mozzjonijiet tal-Oppożizzjoni, intenni dak li ġie espress anke f'deċiżjonijiet mogħtija minn Speakers preċedenti li hemm bżonn ta' regolamentazzjoni aktar felici f'dan ir-rigward.

Aspett li fih ċertament il-Parlament Malti għamel passi kbar 'il quddiem huwa fil-kamp internazzjonali. F'Novembru li għadda l-Parlament Malti kien l-ewwel parlament nazzjonali li laqa' dibattitu bejn il-kandidati għall-kariga ta' Segretarju Ġenerali tal-*Commonwealth*. Minbarra li dan kien dibattitu tassew interessanti li ġie segwit minn bosta nies minn madwar id-dinja kollha, permezz ta' dik l-attività l-Parlament Malti ta sehmu fix-xogħol siewi li sar matul CHOGM li ltaqa' f'Malta fl-aħħar tal-2015. Ħidma oħra fuq livell interparlamentari fi ħdan il-*Commonwealth* li l-Parlament Malti kien strumentali fiha, huwa t-twaqqif tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Kumitati dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi tal-*Commonwealth*, li tagħha l-Parlament jospita s-Segretarjat.

Il-Parlament Malti illum jista' jiftaħar ukoll li mexa 'l quddiem f'dik li hija diplomazija parlamentari permezz tax-xogħol bla heda li jsir minn diversi delegazzjonijiet parlamentari f'organizzazzjonijiet internazzjonali bħalma huma l-Parlament Ewropew, il Kunsill tal-Ewropa, l-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Organizzazzjoni għas-Sigurtà u l-Koperazzjoni fl-Ewropa, l-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-*Commonwealth*, l-Unjoni Interparlamentari u oħrajn. Dan irrikjeda aktar impenn mill-Membri Parlamentari iżda wkoll iktar riżorsi mill-amministrazzjoni tal-Parlament. L-ingaġġ tar-*research analysts* ġodda fl-2015 kien pass li ppermetta illi l-Parlament joffri l-assistenza lill-Membri li jipparteċipaw b'mod dejjem aktar attiv f'dawn il-fora interparlamentari. Huwa għalhekk ċar illi jekk verament irridu li l-Membri tagħna jkunu dejjem aktar ippreparati fil-qadi tad-dmirijiet parlamentari tagħhom, irridu noffruhom l-assistenza kollha possibbli.

## DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

Ippermettuli nsemmi eżempju wieħed tal-ħidma siewja li ssir waqt żjarat bħal dawn. Reċentement is-Sedja kellha l-opportunità li tmexxi delegazzjoni parlamentari lejn il-Lvant Nofsani u wara diskussjonijiet twal u dettaljati nista' ngħid li wasalna biex għall-ewwel darba rajna t-twaqqif ta' *working group* parlamentari bejn il-Kunsill Leġislativ Palestinjan, il-Parlament Malti u l-Knesset Iżraeljan; u dan bil-barka tal-President tal-Awtorità Palestinjana, l-Eċċellenza Tiegħu Mahmoud Abbas. L-għan ewlieni ta' dan il-*working group* huwa li flimkien naħdmu biex inressqu lill partijiet dejjem aktar viċin ta' xulxin permezz ta' ideat u konċetti li jistgħu jagħtu riżultati pożittivi.

Mingħajr ħsieb li jwassal għall-valur, kollox jibqa' kif ikun. Hawnhekk mill-ewwel jiġini f'moħħi l-aħħar pubblikazzjoni tal-Professor Edward de Bono li pprezentali ftit ġimgħat ilu li ġgħib l-isem *Thinking to Create Value*. Fost l-oħrajn f'din il-pubblikazzjoni nsibu suggeriment tal-awtur għal eżerċizzju fejn "*Parliaments would have special sessions for positive value sensitivity*" li minnhom jistgħu joħorgu valuri pożittivi jew negattivi. Waqt diskussjoni li kelli mal-istess Professor de Bono qajjimt il-punt jekk jarax li wasal il-mument li l-Parlament Malti jkun l-ewwel parlament nazzjonali fid-dinja li jkollu kumitat dwar il-ħsieb. Ilkoll nafu li s-soluzzjoni għal ċerti problemi tista' tinstab biss jekk ikun hemm aktar ħsieb, ħsieb li ma jkunx neċessarjament dak konvenzjonali iżda li jkun miftuħ għal ideat, kuncetti u metodoloġiji oħra.

Dan qed ngħidu għaliex ilkoll konxji mill-fatt li mhux l-ewwel darba li l-Parlament Malti, sfortunatament, inħela f'diskussjonijiet li meta tagħsarhom issib li ma jkunx sar biżżejjed ħsieb qabel ma jingħad ċertu diskors. Dan jidher partikolarment meta fil-kritika li tkun qed issir, ikun xi jkun is-sugġett, jibdew isiru attacki saħansitra fuq membri tal-familja. Jien għalija dan huwa l-aktar livell baxx li nistgħu naslu fih. Naħseb li għandna nifhmu u niftakru li l-membri tal-familja fl-ebda mument m'għandhom jiddaħħlu fil-kontroversji li jista' jkun hemm bejn il-politiċi. Meta nagħmlu hekk naħseb li nkunu qed inbaxxu ħafna l-livell ta' kif għandha ssir il-politika u d-diskussjoni ħielsa fil-Parlament skont il-valuri tad-demokrazija parlamentari.

Irridu nirrikonoxxu li biex inħarsu l-amor proprju fil-ħidma politika tagħna, irridu nagħmlu kuraġġ bħalma kellu l-kuraġġ Dun Karm meta fl-okkażjoni tal-għoti tal-Kostituzzjoni lil Malta fl-1921, minkejja li dak iż-żmien kien kważi tabù li tikteb bil-Malti, kiteb l-innu patrijottiku *Lil Ħuti l-Maltin Nhar l-Għoti tal-Kostituzzjoni*. Dak l-innu, li kellu xebh kbir mal-Innu Malti kif nafuh illum, kien imnebbah mill-bżonn ta' għaqda nazzjonali fi żmien ta' firda partigġjana kbira. Dakinhar Dun Karm tana eżempju; permezz ta' dak li kiteb f'dak l-innu huwa ċaħad il-partigġjanizmu u wera patrijottizmu sħiħ meta tkellem fuq l-għaqda u s-sliem. Bħala qassis u poeta kien jiddejjaq ħafna li jintrabat ma' xi karru politiku imma xorta għażel li jwassal il-messaġġ tiegħu permezz ta' dik il-poezija tal-1921. Dan t'fisser tajjeb ħafna mill-Professor Friggieri fil-pubblikazzjoni tiegħu L-Istorja tal-Innu Malti, fejn jgħid hekk:

"L-elezzjoni tal-1921 madwar sena biss qabel ma huwa ħareġ fil-pubbliku bil-versi tal-Innu Malti, kienet konfront bejn dawn il-partiti: Unione Politica Maltese (UPM) tal-Monsinjur Ignazio Panzavecchia, il-Partit Laburista (PL) tal-Kurunell Willie Savona, il-Partit Demokratiku Nazzjonalista (PDN) ta' Dr Nerik Mizzi u l-Partit Kostituzzjonali (PK) tal-Konti Sir Gerald Strickland. Meta kiteb bit-Taljan, Dun Karm seta' deher bħala Mizzjan (Nazzjonalist), bħalma meta kiteb bil-Malti seta' tqies bħala Stricklandjan. Huwa ċaħad kull pozzizzjoni partigġjana biex għażel pozzizzjoni Maltija, nazzjonali, 'il fuq mill-partiti. Huwa pprova jiddeskrivi lilu nnifsu fis-sunett '*Lil Malta*' (1939), fejn mill-apprezzament għall-Italja tal-kultura, u mill-istima lejn l-Ingilterra tal-politika, huwa jgħaddi biex jippreferi lil Malta, "għax int biss ommi, int li tajtni l-isem".

Ikolli nistqarr li lkoll għad baqgħalna ħafna x'nitgħallmu sakemm naslu biex verament inkunu ta' eżempju l-ħin kollu. Dejjem jifdal x'nitgħallmu imma ċertament m'għandniex naqtgħu qalbna. Irridu nkomplu nfittxu kif nistgħu nwettqu ħidmietna dejjem aħjar b'dinjità u b'rispett. Kull wieħed u waħda minna li qegħdin fil-Parlament, u kull min jaħdem f'din l-Istituzzjoni għandu d-dmir li dejjem jagħti l-kontribut tiegħu b'mod ħieles, mingħajr

## DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

kondizzjonijiet, mingħajr theddid u mingħajr biza', sabiex il-Parlament Malti jkun dejjem f'pożizzjoni aħjar li kif jixraq, jindirizza t-tamiet u l-aspettattivi dejjem akbar tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx i kollu.



L-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia jagħmel id-diskors fl-okkażjoni tat-tifkira tal-avvenimenti tas-Sette Giugno.

## SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO

*As in previous years, the Parliament of Malta celebrated the events of the Sette Giugno, in a ceremony which this year took place on Monday 6 June in front of the monument of the Sette Giugno located in Hastings Gardens.*

Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Opposition Leader, Emeritus Presidents, Emeritus Speakers, Honourable Members, Former Members, Excellencies, Distinguished guests.

A year has passed since I delivered my last speech during this commemoration on the occasion of Sette Giugno, a day that without doubt is of great importance as it reminds us of when, on the 7th of June 1919, the people raised their voices in the struggle for their own rights, the rights of the Maltese Nation. This is an occasion that helps us better understand what is and what we should expect from parliamentary democracy that we started to embrace by virtue of this event, two years after which event, we were given the Amery-Milner Constitution.

In the speech I delivered last year on the same occasion in front of this monument, a monument that commemorates the start of the history of the Maltese parliament as we know it today, I had referred to the fact that on the 18th March of last year the National Feasts Committee had asked for my views in respect of the proposal to move this monument from this garden to a more prominent place. After all, this place was meant to be temporary. From the outset and without hesitation I had expressed my view that I agree with the proposal that this monument by sculptor Anton Agius should be relocated in a more appropriate and visible place. There is an intrinsic and precise connection between what is represented by this monument and the Maltese Parliament.

A year has passed and nothing has changed in spite of the fact that as I could see for myself earlier last month, the National Feasts Committee is unanimously in favour of moving this monument. Therefore I feel that to convey this message and also to show the appreciation of the Maltese and the Gozitan people towards this monument, that

above all represents the historical journey of the Parliamentary Institution, a symbolic gesture needs to be made today on the occasion of this national day; a national day connected to the struggle of the Maltese people which led our country to attain its first Constitution in 1921. Therefore I propose that after my speech and after this ceremony, I will symbolically walk with you along the stairs that actually lead us to the Parliament building.

On an occasion such as this, it is always important that one examines in detail what happened at the time when the Maltese and Gozitan people rose up against the English rule in an uprising in which several buildings in Valletta and in other places were damaged. The main issue seems to have been caused primarily by the increase in the price of bread. In research which I myself have conducted, both in the past as well as this year, I have focused more on the people who participated in this uprising rather than on the victims or other people who on that day might have seemed to be the enemies of the Maltese and Gozitan people. Research always leads to more research and this is why I felt that I should also look into the views of some of those who exercised authority in our country, and also of traders. One of these protagonists was Anthony Cassar Torreggiani who used to represent the Chamber of Commerce, or as it was referred to at the time and as we still refer to it today, *'Il-Borża'*. In the book written by Nicholas de Piro which depicts in detail what happened on that day, we find that Mr Cassar Torreggiani said, and I quote:

“On the day when I was to address the Assembly, I hailed a carozzin at St Julian’s (I had rented a small place by the sea for my family). I was running a little late and told the cab-driver to hurry to Valletta. I rehearsed my speech on representation and taxation until, suddenly, a friend making frantic gestures, stopped the cab. “Quick”, he said, “hide. The millers are the target. Do not go to the Assembly - your house is ransacked - there are bodies outside your front door.

My first reaction was not fear but fury. Two months

## *SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)*

earlier in March of 1919 the price of wheat had soared to an all time high. The local milling industry was faced with the dilemma either to buy at a high price and face the public with a rise in the price of bread to 9½d. per rotolo, or decline to import the wheat requirements of the island. My pleadings with Lord Methuen to suspend the bread tax until more favourable times, were to no avail. I was told that the current Government expenditure had risen to over £800,000. His Excellency would not give way."

It should be noted that at the time there were several flour milling machines around Malta and Gozo and amongst the traders who used to provide the wheat for the daily bread for the Maltese and Gozitan people, there was namely Mr Cassar Torreggiani who personally had tried to convince Governor Methuen to suspend the tax on bread, always on the principle that "there could be no taxation without representation".

Something that was not noted for several years by the researchers in this area, was that this trader had spoken to the Governor with the help of Lieutenant Governor William Robertson who had fixed an appointment for him with the Governor to try to persuade him not to continue with the increase in the tax on the importation of wheat.

At one stage, when the issue on the price of wheat became quite complicated, in March 1919, the same trader had asked that at least there should be a guarantee by the Governor that would cover the losses that might occur in the importation of wheat as it was being transported to Malta, due to the great difficulties that existed at the time in the shipping trade. At the time, in 1918, the First World War had just ended and it was getting very difficult to find ships for these voyages since there was a "scarcity of ships remaining afloat".

This contributed significantly to the precarious situation that the population in our country was facing, so much so that in de Piro's book we find the following and I quote:

"By 1919 the populace was in a state of exasperation because of the high cost of foodstuffs and the low standard of living."

There were ships that left from Gibraltar and others that left from England to bring the merchandise to Malta but failed to arrive, so much so that when a ship managed to arrive, there used to be great elation in the Harbour with people shouting: "We are saved!" This detail also emerges from the aforementioned De Piro's work which describes how the ships that used to be sent to Malta tried to make it to the Grand Harbour with great determination, at times even against the advice of the authorities due to attacks from the enemy.

All this led to a situation where the price of wheat almost doubled. This, besides the increase in the tax imposed by the English authorities at the time under Governor Lord Methuen, who for no reason wanted to relieve the tax on bread, at least – as a number of persons were trying to persuade him, amongst which the traders of wheat – until better times came around which would allow for the introduction of the said tax.

From what is quoted above, always from De Piro's writings, it transpires that the Maltese people were not appreciating that there were people in the country in positions of authority that were doing their utmost so that the tax would not be imposed. As always, both sides of the story need to be considered to better understand what occurred. This applies to any problem that a country might face. One needs to try to understand all the parties to draw the right conclusion in respect of what has happened and in respect of the decisions that need to be taken, especially when the issue is seen in light of parliamentary democracy.

Nowadays, the concept of parliamentary democracy is a reality and no longer an aspiration. It is a system which is acknowledged as one that contributes significantly so that the administration of the country is credible and healthy.

*SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)*

A healthy administration also needs to be based on the concept of good governance. This term could be said to refer to the correct administration which should be applied rigorously by the institutions in the administration of public affairs, including the use of public resources. For correct governance to be credible and to give satisfaction to the people, it is implicit that all procedures should be carried out in the most transparent manner. It is not enough to have correct administration of public affairs; rather, there should be no doubt that any decision was not taken within the full scope of correctness.

I take this opportunity in my capacity of Speaker of the House to show my appreciation for the fact that all the employees in the Institution that I lead feel free to remark and discuss all that which was not done correctly. This is especially felt now that we are in a new building where we are still encountering problems in the building due to works which were not carried out as they were meant to. Gone are the days when one was afraid of speaking up or tried to hide for fear of being isolated or even scolded. My actions go against this. I feel that for the purposes of good governance one should be encouraged to draw attention to the procedures that do not reflect correctness in the administration of public resources. I believe that one should feel free to draw attention to every issue without being afraid of repercussions. I accept and thank all those persons who come forward with suggestions for the improvement of the practices or of the systems that are used.

As an Institution we have made great strides from last year's speech. For example in respect to television broadcasting, nowadays, the Maltese Parliament is being transmitted also on free-to-air frequencies. This step has opened Parliament further to the public since now whoever would like to follow what is going on in this Institution no longer needs to pay a television subscription. This was a request that this Office was receiving constantly once the parliamentary sittings started being broadcasted on television on the 4th of May of last year with the help of GO and Melita, whom from here I would like to thank.

During the past year we have moved the Parliament archives from where they were situated in the Grand Master's Palace to a temporary place in the proximity of the new building. We now need to find funding to transform the tunnel from where the train used to enter in the old days, into a place where there will be another committee room, an archive and a reference library, as well as a small cafeteria where Members can meet in an informal environment. This project, for which we are trying to tap European funds, will enable us to strengthen the support services extended to Members of Parliament and will enable us to better disseminate to the public the information that is found in the Parliamentary documents, in particular the old ones which have a historical value.

The argument that the highest institution of the country can never be free from every obstacle and tie if administratively it will continue being considered as a Government department, has been expressed over a number of years by several Speakers during the Sette Giugno speeches. It is therefore with pleasure that today I can say that during this past year three sittings have already been dedicated to the discussion at Second Reading stage of the Parliamentary Service Bill. I hope that this Bill will not take long to become a Parliamentary Act so that this dream of a number of Speakers before me, as well as my own, will come true, and for the first time in its history, Parliament will start enjoying full administrative autonomy.

I augur that the same will occur with the Bill on Standards in Public Life that is on the Parliament's agenda. This law, which provides for the appointment of a Commissioner for Standards in Public Life by means of a resolution approved by two-thirds of the House, should serve as useful guide for those who are in public life, whereby everyone will be under scrutiny and if anyone is not correct in his ethical conduct, or worse, there is a breach of law, the Commissioner, together with the Standing Committee on Standards in Public Life, chaired by the Speaker, will be in a position to act in accordance with the law.

The need to update the Standing Orders of the House has been mentioned several times. It would be

## *SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)*

useless to keep on talking about this need without doing anything about it. Amongst other provisions, the Standing Orders provide for Members of Parliament the right to speak for 40 minutes. Our Standing Orders provide that the Minister who is introducing the debate on a Bill at Second Reading stage, may speak for one hour and a half. The Shadow Minister may also speak for one hour and a half when replying to that speech on behalf of the Opposition. These are provisions that I dare say do not exist in any European or Commonwealth Parliament and therefore should be reviewed so that the time of the House may be used in a more productive manner.

I believe it is time that nobody in Parliament, whoever it may be, should be assigned more than 15 or 20 minutes to speak, except in exceptional cases. Speakers need to focus more on the salient points that they want to address in their speeches, and should do this fully prepared, as is already happening in some cases. I have to say that recently we are hearing a number of speeches that are duly prepared. We need to keep on working in this direction so that we will manage to say what we have to say in a short time, even in five or two minutes. There are even parliaments in Europe where a fine may be applied if one exceeds the allocated time. I do not think that we should arrive to this point, but we should amend the Standing Orders of the House, where required, as soon as possible. Also, with the aim of improving the speeches delivered in the House, on the administrative side, we are striving to increase the assistance provided to Members, even in preparation for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union next year. For this purpose we shall increase our team of research analysts by another five members. I believe that there will come a time when we will have to adopt the system followed in various other Parliaments where the Members are allocated a form of allowance in order to employ assistants to help them in the preparation of their parliamentary speeches.

Another change in the Standing Orders that has long been felt as needed, is the requirement for the allocation of sittings for private Member's work on

the same lines as the system followed in the House of Commons. Even though our Standing Orders, as originally drawn up, took this in consideration, along the years various administrations introduced practices that eroded this right of private Members that mostly, let's face it, affects the minority in Parliament. Therefore, while I acknowledge the fact that during this legislature a considerable number of sittings were allocated to the consideration of motions by the Opposition, I repeat what was expressed even in Rulings delivered by preceding Speakers, that in this respect, a more effective regulation is required.

The Maltese Parliament has also made great strides in the international field. Last November the Maltese Parliament was the first national parliament that hosted a debate amongst the candidates for the office of Secretary General of the Commonwealth. This debate, apart from being very interesting and which was followed by several people from around the world, enabled the Maltese Parliament to play its part in the valuable work that was carried out during the CHOGM that was held in Malta in the last part of 2015. The Maltese Parliament was instrumental in another task at interparliamentary level within the Commonwealth, that is, the establishment of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees, whose Secretariat is hosted by the Parliament of Malta.

Today, the Parliament of Malta can also boast that it made strides in respect of parliamentary diplomacy due to the tireless work of several parliamentary delegations in international organizations such as the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Interparliamentary Union and others. This required more effort from the Members of Parliament but also more resources from the Parliament administration. The recruitment of new research analysts in 2015 was a measure that allowed Parliament to provide assistance to the Members who participated in a more active way in these interparliamentary fora. Therefore it is clear that if we really want our

## SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)

Members to be more prepared in the performance of their parliamentary duties, we need to provide them with all the possible assistance.

Allow me to mention an example of the useful work that is carried out during such visits. Recently, the Chair had the opportunity to lead a parliamentary delegation to the Middle East and after long and detailed discussions I can say that for the first time we attained the establishment of a parliamentary working group between the Palestinian Legislative Council, the Maltese Parliament and the Israeli Knesset; and this with the blessing of the President of the Palestinian Authority, His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas. The main scope of this working group is to work together to get the parties ever closer to each other through ideas and concepts that may give positive results.

The lack of thinking that creates value, would leave you at a standstill. Here, the first thing that comes to mind is the most recent publication by Professor Edward de Bono that bears the title *Thinking to Create Value* which he presented to me a few weeks ago. Amongst other things in this publication we find a suggestion by the author for an exercise where “Parliaments would have special sessions for positive value sensitivity” from which one can derive positive or negative values. During a discussion that I had with the same Professor de Bono I raised the point as to whether he believes or not that at this point in time, the Maltese Parliament should be the first national parliament in the world to have a committee on ‘thinking’. We all know that the solution for certain problems will only be found if there is more ‘thinking’ which is not necessarily conventional but open to other ideas, concepts and methodologies.

I am saying this because we are all aware of the fact that it is not the first time that the Maltese Parliament, unfortunately, got carried away in lengthy debates due mainly to lack of preparedness prior to the delivery of certain speeches. This is particularly evident when the criticism that is made, whatever the subject, includes attacks even on

family members. I consider this the lowest level we could fall into. I think that we should understand and remember that the family members at no point should feature in the controversies that could emerge between politicians. When we do this we would be lowering the level of politics and of free discussion as it should be according to the values of a parliamentary democracy.

We need to acknowledge that to safeguard self-respect in our political work, we need to have courage, the kind of courage Dun Karm displayed when on the occasion of the granting of the Constitution to Malta in 1921, even though at the time writing in Maltese was a taboo, he wrote the patriotic anthem *Lil Ħuti l-Maltin Nhar l-Għoti tal-Kostituzzjoni* (To my brothers and sisters on the granting of the Constitution). That anthem, that closely resembled the Maltese National Anthem as we know it today, was inspired by the need for national unity in a period which was characterized by a strong partisan divide. On that day, Dun Karm was an example; through what he wrote in that anthem he rejected partisanship and showed great patriotism when he spoke on unity and peace. As a priest and as a poet he used to be very upset when he used to be linked to a political side but he still chose to deliver his message through that poem in 1921. This was very well explained by Professor Friggieri in his publication *L-Istorja tal-Innu Malti* (The history of the Maltese Anthem), where he says the following:

“The 1921 election, approximately a year only before he made public the verses of the Maltese Anthem, was a confrontation between these parties Unione Politica Maltese (UPM) of Monsignore Ignazio Panzavecchia, the Labour Party (PL) of Colonel Willie Savona, the Nationalist Democratic (PDN) of Dr Nerik Mizzi and the Constitutional Party (PK) of Count Sir Gerald Strickland. When he wrote in Italian, Dun Karm could have been perceived as a follower of Mizzi (Nationalist), just as when he wrote in Maltese he could be considered a follower of Strickland. He rejected every partisan position to choose a Maltese position, a national position, above partisan politics. He tried to describe himself in the sonnet ‘*Lil Malta*’

## SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)

(To Malta) (1939), where from his appreciation for the cultural Italy and the appreciation for the political England, he moves on to prefer Malta, “because only you are my mother, you that gave me a name”.

I have to say that there is a lot that we all need to learn until we really manage to be exemplary at all times. There is always something left to be learnt but certainly we should not give up. We have to keep on striving to see how we can carry out our work with more dignity and respect. Each and every one of us in Parliament, and whoever works in this Institution, has the duty to do his part freely and at all times, without conditions, without threats and without fear, so that the Maltese Parliament will always be in a better position, as it should be, to address the ever increasing aspirations and expectations of all the people of Malta and Gozo.



The Police Corps Band marches from the Parliaments building to the *Sette Giugno* Monument at Hastings Gardens.

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT

### Imħabbra l-finalisti tal-Premju għall-Ġurnalisti ta' Malta

Fil-5 ta' April, l-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin ħabbar il-finalisti tal-Premju tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin waqt attività li saret fil-Parlament. L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra awgura lill-Istitut għax-xogħol li għamel fit-tiżni tal-professjoni ġurnalistika f'Malta. Hu tkellem fuq il-possibbiltà li l-pubbliku jkun jista' jissieħeb f'dan l-Istitut kif ukoll li l-libertà tal-espressjoni tibda titqies bħala wieħed mid-drittijiet fundamentali tal-bniedem. Huwa enfasizza li l-ħarsien ta' dawn id-drittijiet fundamentali huwa essenzjali sabiex tiġi ssalvagwardjata d-dinjità tal-bniedem. L-Ispeaker Farrugia elabora fuq il-fatt li l-Kostituzzjoni Maltija u l-Konvenzjoni Ewropea tad-drittijiet u l-libertajiet fundamentali tal-bniedem tal-1951 huma bażi legali li jggarantixxu l-oġġla protezzjoni li individwu jista' jfittex u għandi aċċess għalihom f'demokrazija. L-Ispeaker Farrugia rrimarka li l-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin għandu struttura organizzattiva li għandha l-għan li tindirizza l-imġiba etika tal-ġurnalisti in ġenerali. Il-ġurnalisti għandhom ikunu ffukati fuq il-fatti, filwaqt li jstinkaw biex janalizzaw u jeżaminaw kull sitwazzjoni. Huwa kkonkluda billi qal li fil-missjoni u l-professjoni tagħhom, il-ġurnalisti għandhom jeżaminaw l-imġiba morali u jgibu rispett lid-dinjità ta' kull individwu.

### Ġurament tal-Ħatra tal-Onor. Karl Gouder

Nhar is-6 ta' April, l-Onor. Karl Gouder ħa l-ġurament tal-ħatra bħala Membru Parlamentari wara li gie *co-opted* sabiex jokkupa s-siġġu vakant mill-kirurgu tal-qalb Albert Fenech. Is-Sur Gouder kien serva bħala Membru Parlamentari fil-leġiżlatura li għaddiet, bejn l-2010 u l-2013.



## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

### Oath of Allegiance of Hon. Karl Gouder

On 6 April, Hon. Karl Gouder was sworn in as a Member of Parliament following his co-option to fill the seat vacated by cardiac surgeon Albert Fenech. Mr Gouder had served as Member of Parliament during the previous legislature, between 2010 and 2013.

### Finalists of the Malta Journalism Awards Announced

On 5 April 2016, the Institute of Maltese Journalists announced the finalists of the Malta Journalism Awards 2016, during an event at the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House congratulated the Institute for the effort they put in the strengthening of the journalism profession in Malta. He spoke about the possibility of members of the public to subscribe to the association as well as the freedom of expression as part of the fundamental human rights and freedoms. He emphasised that the safeguarding of these human rights is essential so that human dignity is also safeguarded. Speaker Farrugia elaborated further on the fact that the Maltese Constitution and the European Convention of the Human Rights and fundamental freedoms of 1951 are legal bases which guarantee the highest protection an individual can seek and are readily available in a democracy. Speaker Farrugia remarked that the Institute of Maltese Journalists has an organisational structure which aims to address ethical behaviour of journalists at large. Journalists should be focused on facts while striving to analyse and examine every situation. In their mission and profession, journalists should exercise moral behaviour and respect the dignity of every individual.



## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### I-Speaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati jiltaqa' mal-President tal-Kumitat Nazzjonali tal-Konferenza Konsultattiva Politika tal-Poplu taċ-Ċina

Fl-10 ta' April I-Speaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati kellu żjara ta' kortesija mis-Sur Yu Zhensheng, President tal-Kumitat Nazzjonali tal-Konferenza Konsultattiva Politika tal-Poplu taċ-Ċina. Waqt il-laqgħa ġew diskussi r-relazzjonijiet bilaterali eċċellenti li jeżistu bejn Malta u ċ-Ċina li ġew stabbiliti fl-1972. Iż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew kwistjonijiet ta' interess komuni, fosthom il-Medium Term Co-operation Plan kif ukoll iż-żieda fil-kollaborazzjoni bejn il-parlamenti taż-żewġ pajjiżi. F'dan ir-rigward, I-Speaker ippropona t-twaqqif ta' Grupp Interparlamentari ta' Hbiberija bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi sabiex tkompli tissaħħaħ ir-relazzjoni Sino-Maltija. Din il-proposta ntlagħġet mill-President Zhensheng, li ħa l-opportunità biex juri apprezzament għall-assistenza pprovduta minn Malta fl-espatrijazzjoni ta' numru konsiderevoli ta' ċittadini Ċiniżi waqt il-kunflitt fil-Libja. L-Speaker tal-Kamra kien akkumpanjat mill-President tal-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej l-Onor. Luciano Busuttil, l-Onor. Anthony Agius Decelis, l-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia, l-Onor. Michael Falzon u l-Onor. Tonio Fenech.



### L-NSTF tlaqqa' l-Mini European Assembly 2016 fil-Kamra tad-Deputati

Is-sessjoni finali tal-Mini European Assembly 2016 organizzata mill-NSTF, bit-tema "Ngħixu fi Żmien Diġitali, Kif se niproteġu d-Drittijiet Ċibernetiċi tagħna?" ("Living in the Digital Age, How to protect our Cyber Rights") saret fil-Kamra tad-Deputati nhar il-15 ta' April. L-Onor. id-Deputat Speaker, Ċensu Galea li kien qed jipprevedi s-sessjoni, sostna li d-diġitalizzazzjoni tal-ħajja ta' kuljum tagħna tiġġenera opportunitajiet kif ukoll sfidi. Filwaqt li bl-aċċessibilità għall-internet, jistgħu jinholqu opportunitajiet li jwasslu għal żieda fl-ekonomija u l-iżvilupp soċjali madwar id-dinja, jistgħu jirriżultaw ukoll sfidi mill-abbużi u l-attivitajiet illeċiti onlajn. Il-preservazzjoni ta' cyberspace miftuħ, bla ħlas u sigur għal kulhadd hija sfida globali li tirrikjedi mekkaniżmi globali. Id-Deputat Speaker fakkar fl-appell li għamlet Malta f'laqgħa għolja tan-Nazzjonijiet Magħquda fl-2015, għaxar snin mis-Summit Dinji tas-Soċjetà Informattiva (WSIS+10). Dakinhar Malta appellat biex il-kunċett legali tal-Wirt Komuni tal-Umanità jkun applikabbli wkoll għall-isfera diġitali u l-komunikazzjoni onlajn. Dan il-kunċett jimplika li l-internet m'għandux ikun ikkunsidrat bħala mezz iżolat, iżda bħala sfera ta' kulhadd. L-Onor. Galea kkonkluda billi rrikonoxxa li kull azzjoni li tittieħed mill-istati sabiex tiġi msaħħa s-sigurtà onlajn għandha tiegħu in konsiderazzjoni d-drittijiet u l-libertajiet fundamentali tal-bniedem. Għaldaqstant il-Gvernijiet għandhom jaraw li filwaqt li jkun hemm bilanċ tajjeb bejn il-libertà tal-espressjoni u l-aċċess għall-informazzjoni u l-privatezza, min-naħa l-oħra tkun qed tingħata protezzjoni liċ-ċittadin, lill-istituzzjonijiet tal-istat u lill-infrastrutturi minn attivitajiet kriminali.

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES ( CONT.)

### The NSTF Mini-European Assembly 2016 convenes at the House of Representatives

The Final Session of the NSTF Mini-European Assembly, entitled “Living in the Digital Age, How to protect our cyber rights?”, was organised at the House of Representatives on 15 April 2016. In his address, Deputy Speaker held that the digitalization of our daily lives generates opportunities as well as challenges. Whereas increased access to the internet could lead to opportunities for an increase in economic and social development worldwide, challenges result from abuse and the conduct of illicit activities on the web. The preservation of open, free and secure cyberspace for all is a global challenge that requires global mechanisms. The Deputy Speaker recalled Malta’s appeal at the 2015 UN High Level Meeting 10 years since the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10), that the legal concept of the Common Heritage of Mankind should also be applicable to the digital sphere and to online communication. This notion implies that the internet should not be considered as a no man’s land, but as a sphere that should be equally shared by all. Hon. Galea concluded by acknowledging that any action taken by States to enhance cyber security should take cognizance of the individual’s fundamental rights and freedoms. Therefore, on the one hand Governments need to strike the right balance between freedom of expression and access to information and privacy, whilst on the other hand offer protection to citizens, state institutions and infrastructures from criminal activities.



### Speaker meets the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference

On 10 April 2016, the Speaker of the House of Representatives received a courtesy visit by Mr Yu Zhengshen, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Committee (CPPCC) of the People’s Republic of China. The two dignitaries recalled the excellent bilateral relations between Malta and the People’s Republic of China, which were established in 1972. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest, including the Medium Term Co-operation Plan as well as increasing the collaboration between the parliaments of the two countries. In this regard the Speaker proposed the setting up of a Joint Parliamentary Friendship Group between the two countries, which would further enhance the Sino-Maltese relationship. This proposal was welcomed by the Chairman of the CPPCC who took the opportunity to express his gratitude for the assistance provided by Malta in the expatriation of a considerable number of Chinese citizens during the Libyan conflict. The Speaker was accompanied by the Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee Hon. Luciano Busuttil, Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis, Hon. Godfrey Farrugia, Hon. Michael Falzon and Hon. Tonio Fenech.

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### L-Ispeaker jilqa' delegazzjoni mill-MCAST

Fis-27 ta' April, l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati Anġlu Farrugia laqa' delegazzjoni għolja mill-Kulleġġ Malti tal-Arti, Xjenza u Teknoloġija mmexxija minn Dr Silvio De Bono, President tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi. Id-delegazzjoni tal-MCAST kienet tinkludi wkoll lis-Sur Victor Satariano, Viċi President tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi, lis-Sur Stephen Cachia, Prinċipal u Chief Executive Officer tal-MCAST, lill-Inġinier Vincent Maione, Viċi Prinċipal tal-MCAST, kif ukoll studenti żgħażaġh, rappreżentanti ta' għaqdiet u movimenti tal-istudenti fl-MCAST. L-Ispeaker stieden lill-Kulleġġ sabiex, flimkien mal-Parlament Malti, iniedi programm edukattiv bl-għan li l-istudenti jingħataw l-opportunità li jiddiskutu fil-Parlament, anke fil-preżenza ta' Membri Parlamentari, affarijiet li jolqtuhom direttament kemm mil-lat akkademiku kif ukoll vokazzjonali. Matul il-laqgħa, Dr De Bono, f'isem l-MCAST, qal li apprezza ħafna l-istedina sabiex hu, flimkien ma' uffiċjali għolja u studenti tal-MCAST, iżuru l-Parlament ta' Malta. Din iż-żjara segwiet iżjara uffiċjali li l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati kien għamel fl-MCAST fi Frar li għadda. Dakinhar, il-Bord tal-Gvernaturi tal-MCAST kien ippreżenta r-Rapport Annwali tal-MCAST 2014/2015 lill-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, liema rapport kien tqiegħed fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra.



### Wirja b'konnessjoni mal-Premju Din l-Art Ħelwa Wirt Arkitettoniku 2005-2015

Fit-3 ta' Mejju, l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati inawgura wirja ta' ritratti bi stil retrospettiv ta' xogħlijiet li rebħu l-Premju Wirt Arkitettoniku organizzat minn Din l-Art Ħelwa fl-aħħar għaxar snin. Il-wirja, li ttelegħet fid-daħla tal-Parlament, kienet l-aħħar waħda minn sensiela ta' ċelebrazzjonijiet li kkommemoraw l-anniversarju tat-twaqqif ta' din l-għaqda volontarja f'Lulju tal-1965. Fid-diskors li għamel għal din l-okkażjoni, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia qal li Din l-Art Ħelwa dejjem kienet strumentali sabiex tippromwovi l-interess fil-preservazzjoni u l-protezzjoni ta' bini storiku u monumenti. Huwa żied jgħid li m'għandhiex tiġi mminata l-importanza tal-flora u l-fawna Maltija, kif ukoll tal-karatteristiċi tradizzjonali tal-lokalitajiet tagħna. L-Ispeaker Farrugia komplja jgħid li Din l-Art Ħelwa dejjem kienet innovattiva fl-inizjattivi li ħadet sabiex titwettaq il-missjoni ewlenija tagħha, li hija li jiġu mħarsa l-oqsma kollha tal-wirt nazzjonali ta' pajjiżna, li jinkludi kemm il-wirt storiku u kulturali kif ukoll dak ambjentali. Huwa wera apprezzament għall-impenn ta' Din l-Art Ħelwa favur it-tkabbir tal-għarfien u l-apprezzament tal-wirt nazzjonali Malti, permezz ta' inizjattivi edukattivi u informattivi, kif ukoll dikjarazzjonijiet pubbliċi favur l-infurzar tal-liġijiet u r-regolamenti li jirrigwardjaw il-protezzjoni tal-pajsaġġ Malti. Preżenti għal din l-inawgurazzjoni kienu s-Sinjura Maria Grazia Cassar, President tal-għaqda Din l-Art Ħelwa, membri oħra tal-organizzazzjoni, l-Onor. Karl Gouder, Kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni għall-Kultura, kif ukoll mistednin distinti oħrajn.

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Din I-Art Ħelwa Architectural Heritage Awards 2005 – 2015 Photographic Exhibition

On 3 May, the Speaker of the House of Representatives inaugurated a retrospective photographic exhibition of all past winners of the Din I-Art Ħelwa Awards for Architectural Heritage for the period 2005-2015. The exhibition, held in the Parliament foyer, brought to a close a year of celebrations to commemorate the anniversary of the inauguration of the voluntary organisation which started in July 1965. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia stated that Din I-Art Ħelwa has always been instrumental in bringing the interest of the preservation and protection of historical buildings and monuments to the forefront. He went on to say that the importance of the Maltese flora and fauna as well as the traditional characteristics of our towns and villages should not be undermined. He said that Din I-Art Ħelwa has been innovative in its initiatives to achieve its mission, which is that of protecting the national heritage of our country in its broader sense, including the historical, cultural, as well as the environmental heritage. Speaker Farrugia lauded the commitment of Din I-Art Ħelwa to enhance the knowledge and appreciation of the Maltese National Heritage, paired with educational and informative initiatives and public declarations in favour of the enforcement of laws and regulations regarding the protection of our countryside. Present for this inauguration were Mrs Maria Grazia Cassar, President of Din I-Art Ħelwa, other members of the organisation, as well as Hon. Karl Gouder, Opposition Spokesman for Culture, and other distinguished guests.



### The Speaker Receives a delegation from MCAST

On 27 April 2016, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit from the Malta College of Art, Science and Technology (MCAST) led by Dr Silvio Debono, President of the Board of Governors. The delegation also consisted of Mr Victor Satariano, Vice President of the Board of Governors, Mr Stephen Cachia, Principal and Chief Executive Officer of MCAST, and Engineer Vincent Maione, Vice Principal of MCAST, as well as a number of students who represent organisations within MCAST. Speaker Farrugia invited the College to embark on an educational programme together with Parliament aimed at holding discussions between students and Members of Parliament. Subjects tackled can include issues experienced by students, both from the vocational and the academic spectrum. Dr Debono thanked the Speaker for the invitation to visit the Parliament building. This courtesy visit followed an official visit by the Speaker at MCAST in February this year when the MCAST Annual Report covering the year 2014/2015 was presented to him by the Board of Governors. The Report was subsequently laid on the table of the House.

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### Dibattitu fil-Parlament bis-sehem ta' studenti mill-iskola Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary

Fl-ewwel anniversarju mill-ftuħ uffiċjali tal-Parlament il-ġdid, fl-4 ta' Mejju, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia ppreseda dibattitu fil-Parlament li fih ħadu sehem 150 student mill-iskola Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary. L-Ispeaker spjega aspetti importanti tal-Kostituzzjoni u tal-ħarsien tad-demokrazija f'Malta mill-1964, meta Malta kisbet l-Indipendenza, sal-lum. Huwa għamel referenza għad-diskussjonijiet li għaddejjin fil-pajjiż dwar it-tieni Kostituzzjoni u x-xogħol li qed isir mill-Kumitat għall-Għarfien tal-Kostituzzjoni. L-Ispeaker Farrugia tkellem ukoll dwar is-sugġett sensitiv tal-immigrazzjoni u aċċenna għall-fatt li għandna nifhmu u nagħrfu li dawn l-individwi jitolqu lil pajjiżhom u darhom sabiex ifittxu futur iżjed sigur. L-istudenti, taħt it-tmexxija tal-għalliema tas-sugġett Systems of Knowledge, kellhom l-opportunità jiddiskutu diversi temi u jivvotaw fuq kull waħda. Is-sessjoni kienet indirizzata wkoll mill-Ministru tal-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol l-Onor. Evarist Bartolo, kif ukoll mill-Onor. David Agius, l-Onor. Anthony Agius Decelis u l-Onor. Francis Zammit Dimech.



### L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati jindirizza l-Konferenza Welcome Project

Fid-9 ta' Mejju, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia indirizza lill-parteciċipanti tal-Konferenza Welcome Project: "L-Immigrazzjoni u d-drittijiet umani fil-fruntieri tal-UE" li kienu ġejjin minn diversi pajjiżi Ewropej, fosthom l-Italja, Franza, Spanja, il-Bulgarija, Ċipru, l-Estonja, il-Greċja, l-Ungerija, is-Slovakja, il-Latvja u Malta. Fid-diskors tiegħu, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rrefera għall-fatt li fl-ewwel sena mindu ġie inawgurat il-Parlament il-ġdid, laqa' fih numru ta' dinjitarji, u saru għadd ta' wirjiet u konferenzi li kellhom x'jaqsmu mal-immigrazzjoni. Wirja minnhom kienet dik li kkommemorat il-ġurnata ddedikata lin-nisa f'Marzu li għadda. Din it-tema kienet diskussa wkoll fil-laqgħa li saret bejn is-Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Commonwealth u l-kandidati għal dik l-istess kariga, flimkien mas-soċjetà ċivili. L-istess sugġett kien diskuss ukoll fid-dibattitu li sar fil-Parlament Malti bejn il-Membri Parlamentari Maltin u l-Presidenti tal-Kunsill Ewropew u tal-Parlament Ewropew, Donald Tusk u Martin Schulz. L-Ispeaker għamel referenza wkoll għall-konferenza li kienet saret reċentement f'Firenze, l-Italja, bejn il-Prim Ministru ta' Malta u l-Prim Ministru Taljan u li fiha kienu ddiskutew il-Migration Compact li kien jinsab fuq l-aġenda Ewropea. L-Ispeaker saħaq li r-responsabilitajiet għas-salvagwardja tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem ma jaqgħux fuq istituzzjoni waħda jew pajjiż wieħed biss, imma huma kwistjoni ta' kompetenza maqsuma bejn l-UE u l-Membri Stati.

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### The Speaker of the House of Representatives addresses the Welcome Project Conference

On 9 May, the Speaker of the House of Representatives addressed participants of the Welcome Project Conference: "Migration and Human Rights at EU Borders", hailing from various European countries namely Italy, France, Spain, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Slovakia, Latvia and Malta. During his address, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia referred to the fact that in the course of the year it has been opened, the new Parliament building welcomed a number of dignitaries, and hosted exhibitions and conferences that dealt with the theme of migration. One such exhibition was that held on Women's Day last March. The issue was debated in the meeting between the Commonwealth Secretary General and Civil Society, as well as when Parliament hosted EU Council and European Parliament Presidents Donald Tusk, and Martin Schulz who debated migration alongside Maltese members of Parliament. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia also made reference to the recent conference held in Florence – Italy, where both the Prime Minister of Malta and the Prime Minister of Italy discussed the Migration Compact which is currently on the European Agenda. The Speaker stressed that the responsibility of safeguarding human rights does not lie within one institution or one country, but it is an issue of shared competence between the EU and its Member States.



### Students from Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School hold a debate in Parliament

On the first anniversary of the inauguration of the new Parliament building, on 4 May, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia chaired a debate held among 150 students from the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School. The Speaker explained important aspects of the Constitution and the safeguarding of democracy since Malta gained Independence in 1964. He also made reference to the ongoing discussions regarding a "second Constitution" and the work of the Constitutional Awareness Committee. Speaker Farrugia also referred to the sensitive subject of immigration and he underlined that one must understand that migrants leave their unstable home-country in search of a better future. The students, accompanied by Systems of Knowledge lecturers, held a discussion on a number of issues and eventually voted on each theme. The session was also addressed by the Minister for Education and Employment, Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Hon. David Agius, Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis and Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech.

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### L-Ispeaker jinawgura wirja ta' ritratti dwar il-Power Station tal-Marsa

Fid-daħla tal-Parlament ittellgħet wirja mill-Enemalta plc, bl-isem "Id-Dawl tal-Istazzjon, Il-Marsa Power Station mil-Lenti tal-Fotografu". Il-ftuħ tal-wirja sar mill-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia fis-16 ta' Mejju, li f'kelmtejn tal-okkażjoni qal li jqis din il-wirja bħala tifikira sabiha tal-power station tal-Marsa, li mit-twaqqif tagħha fl-1954 sal-għeluq tagħha fid-9 ta' Marzu 2015, għenet bil-bosta fl-iżvilupp ta' pajjiżna. Għal żmien twil din il-power station kienet l-uniku sors ta' produzzjoni tal-enerġija elettrika f'Malta. L-Ispeaker Farrugia sellem lill-ħaddiema tal-Enemalta tal-lum u tal-imghoddi u wera apprezzament għall-bżulija u l-għaql tagħhom fl-isfidi godda li għabu magħhom matul is-snin l-iżviluppi fil-makkinarju u t-teknoloġija. Fi tmiem il-ftuħ uffiċjali tal-wirja, l-Ispeaker qassam il-premijiet lir-rebbieha tal-kompetizzjoni fotografika. Fost mistednin oħra, preżenti għal din l-okkażjoni kien hemm l-Inġinier Fredrick Azzopardi, Chairman Eżekuttiv ta' Enemalta plc, u s-Sur Kevin Casha, President tal-Malta Institute of Professional Photography.



### Laqgħa pubblika tal-Aġenzija tal-Unjoni Ewropea għad-Drittijiet Fundamentali

Nhar it-30 ta' Ġunju, il-Parlament Malti organizza laqgħa pubblika li ttrattat is-sugġett tal-migrazzjoni, it-tfal u l-isfidi tad-drittijiet fundamentali li qed jiġu affaċċjati mill-Unjoni Ewropea f'dan il-mument kritiku fil-kuntest tal-Presidenza ta' Malta tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Din l-attività giet organizzata mill-Parlament Malti u kienet ippreseduta mid-Deputat Speaker l-Onor. Ċensu Galea u l-Professor Michael O'Flaherty, Direttur tal-Aġenzija tal-Unjoni Ewropea għad-Drittijiet Fundamentali, li kien il-kelliem ewlieni f'din l-attività. L-attività inkludiet ukoll sessjoni ta' mistoqsijiet u tweġibiet mad-Direttur tal-Aġenzija tad-Drittijiet Fundamentali.

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Public event of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency

On 30 June the House of Representatives hosted a public event dealing with the topic of migration, children and the fundamental rights challenges facing the European Union at this critical juncture in the context of Malta's upcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The event was organised at the Parliament of Malta was chaired by the Deputy Speaker Hon. Ċensu Galea and Professor Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, who delivered a keynote speech. The event also included a question and answer session with the Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency.



### The Speaker inaugurates a photographic exhibition on the Marsa Power Station

On 16 May Speaker Anġlu Farrugia inaugurated an exhibition put together by Enemalta plc, entitled "The light of the Station, The Marsa Power Station from the Photographer's Lens." In his address, the Speaker stated that this exhibition is a fitting memory to the Marsa Power Station, which, since its opening in 1954 to its closing down on 9 March 2015, provided a leap forward for our country, particularly when for a number of years it was the only producer of electrical energy in Malta. The Speaker showed gratitude to all Enemalta employees for their hard work throughout the numerous developments and shortcomings the Corporation had to undergo along the years. Since this exhibition was being held as part of a competition, the Speaker distributed the prizes to the winners. Other executive members present were Engineer Frederick Azzopardi, Executive Chairman of Enemalta plc, and Mr Kevin Casha, President of the Malta Institute of Professional Photography.

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### Il-Kampanja NoWeMove – Ġurnata mingħajr l-użu tal-Lift

“No Elevators Day” hi inizjattiva pan-Ewropea, u tiffirma parti mill-Kampanja NoWeMove, mibdija mill-Assoċjazzjoni Internazzjonali tal-Isport u l-Kultura (ISCA) u turi sapport lill-Ġimgħa Ewropea ddedikata għall-Isport. Din is-sena, *No Elevators Day* inżammet il-Ġimgħa 13 ta’ Mejju 2016. Il-Parlament ta’ Malta organizzat *No Elevators Day* nhar it-Tnejn 9 ta’ Mejju u l-Ġimgħa 13 ta’ Mejju. L-aħħar data hi dik fejn ingħaqadna mal-bqija tal-Ewropa u istituzzjonijiet madwar l-Ewropa. Fiz-żewġ granet, il-Parlament għalaq numru ta’ lifts u heġġeġ Membri Parlamentari, impjegati u vizitaturi sabiex jagħmlu użu mit-taraġ. Dawn ingħataw informazzjoni bil-benefiċċji tal-eżerċizzju. Fl-2014, rapport li nħareġ mill-EuroBarometer wera li kważi 60% tal-popolazzjoni Ewropea qatt jew rarament għamlet eżerċizzju fiżiku jew ipprattikat xi sport. Skont l-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tas-Saħħa (WHO), in-nuqqas ta’ attività fiżika huwa iktar ta’ ħsara għalina mit-tipjip. L-inattività fiżika hija r-raba’ fattur ta’ riskju għall-mortalità globali. Kull sena, 600,000 persuna fl-Ewropa tmut minħabba inattività fiżika. Hekk kif l-istil ta’ ħajja sedentarja irriżulta f’wieħed mill-iktar vizzji perikolużi fil-ħajja tal-lum, huwa ċar li l-mod ta’ kif inqattgħu inqattgħu l-ġranet tagħna għandu bżonn jinbidel. Stil ta’ ħajja ġdida u attiva hi l-aħjar deċiżjoni jekk għandna nippromwovu bidla fl-istil ta’ ħajjitna.

Ftit fatti dwar l-użu tat-taraġ għall-eżerċizzju fiżiku:

- (a) It-tlugħ tat-taraġ jaħraq darbtejn jew tlett darbiet iktar kaloriji mill-mixi.
- (b) Persuna li tiżen 70 kilo tista taħraq mat-30 kalorija kuljum jekk titla’ żewġ sulari taraġ (tnax-il targa), tliet darbiet kuljum.
- (c) It-tlugħ tat-taraġ huwa assoċjat ma’ livelli ta’ “kolesterol tajjeb,” densità tal-għadam aħjar f’nisa li kellhom il-menopawsa, zieda fil-qawwa tar-rigiel, u jista’ wkoll jirriżulta f’riskju inqas ta’ ħsara minn waqgħat fost l-anzjani.
- (d) It-tlugħ tat-taraġ m’għandu bżonn l-ebda tagħmir speċjali jew preparazzjoni, u hija kkunsidrata bħala attività *green*, li ma tagħmilx użu minn enerġija prodotta esternament.
- (e) Barra minn dan kollu, it-tlugħ tat-taraġ jista’ jiġi akkumulat matul il-ġurnata, li tista’ tkun kontribuzzjoni sinifikanti għar-rakkomandazzjoni ta’ minimu ta’ 20 minuta eżerċizzju kuljum.

L-attivitajiet kollha li jaqgħu taħt No Elevators Day kienu volontarji u ngħatat konsiderazzjoni dovuta għar-rekwiżiti tal-aċċessibilità għall-anzjani, persuni b’diżabilità u kundizzjonijiet mediċi.

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### No Elevators Day - part of NoWeMove Campaign

No Elevators Day is a pan-European initiative, part of NoWeMove Campaign initiated by the International Sports and Culture Association (ISCA) and supporting the European Week of Sport. This year, No Elevators Day was held on Friday, 13 May 2016. The Parliament of Malta held No Elevators Day on Monday, 9 May and Friday, 13 May 2016. Whereas Monday, 9 May 2016, was a day when Parliament convenes, on Friday 13 May 2016, the Maltese Parliament joined other institutions throughout Europe to hold No Elevators Day. On both days, Parliament sealed off some of the elevators and encouraged Members of Parliament, employees and visitors to take the stairs. They were also informed about the benefits of movement. In 2014, Eurobarometer reported that almost 60 per cent of the European population never or rarely exercise or play sport. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), a lack of physical activity is even more dangerous to our health than smoking. Physical inactivity is the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality. Every year, some 600,000 persons in Europe die due to insufficient physical inactivity. As sedentary lifestyle emerged as one of the most dangerous habits of modern society, it has become clear that the way we spend our days needs to change. A new active way of living is the way forward if we are to support and promote change in our lifestyle.

Few facts about climbing the stairs:

- (a) Walking up the stairs burns two to three times more calories than walking.
- (b) A 70 kg person can burn 30 calories per day if they climb two flights of stairs (approximately 12 steps each), three times a day.
- (c) Stair climbing is also associated with “good cholesterol” levels, better bone density of post-menopausal women, increased leg power, and may even lead to reduced risk of injury from falls among the elderly.
- (d) Stair climbing does not require any special equipment or preparation, and it is also a “green” activity as it does not use any externally produced energy.
- (e) In addition, stair climbing can be accumulated over the course of the day, making it a significant contribution to the recommended minimum of 20 minutes of daily activity.

All activities under No Elevators Day were voluntary and due consideration was taken as to the accessibility requirements for the elderly, and people with disabilities and medical conditions.



**No time for activity? Your opportunity is now.  
Now We Take The Stairs.**

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### It-12-il Edizzjoni tal-EkoSkola

Fit-2 ta' Ġunju l-Kamra tad-Deputati laqgħet 84 student minn 42 skola għall-okkażjoni tat-12-il sessjoni tal-EkoSkola. Waqt din is-seduta speċjali, l-istudenti kellhom l-opportunità li jiltaqgħu ma' dawk li jfasslu l-politika sabiex jipproponulhom azzjonijiet konkreti biex jiġi miġġieled il-fenomeni tat-tibdil fil-klima. Is-Sessjoni tikkomplimenta s-sitt edizzjoni tal-EkoSkola Young People's Summit - We Care about Our Future, li ttelegħet nhar is-26 ta' April 2016 flimkien mal-MEUSAC, mar-rappreżentanza tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea f'Malta u mal-Bord ta' Azzjoni dwar il-Klima, fejn giet imfassla dikjarazzjoni dwar it-tibdil fil-klima. Dan l-avveniment kien organizzat minn Nature Trust (Malta) u mir-rappreżentanti lokali tal-Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) li jmexxu l-programm EkoSkola, u nżammet taħt l-awspiċi tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker.

L-għażla tat-tema ta' din is-sena kienet xprunata mill-ftehim approvat mill-196 firmatarju tal-United Nations Framework Convention of the Climate Change (UNFCCC) fil-COP21 f'Parigi lejn l-aħħar tal-2015. Grazzi għal dan il-ftehim, il-pajjiżi kollha kkommettew li jaħdmu biex jillimitaw iż-żieda fit-temperatura globali għal mhux aktar minn żewġ gradi Celsius, iżda qed jimmiraw li jiksbu żieda fit-temperatura ta' inqas minn grad u nofs Celsius.

Fil-bidu tas-sessjoni, l-istudenti qraw il-mozzjoni li titlob lill-Membri Parlamentari li japprovaw u jaħdmu fuq ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet tagħha. Matul is-seduta, numru ta' parteċipanti intervjenew, u pprezentaw l-argumenti tagħhom lill-Membri Parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra li kienu preżenti għal din l-attività. It-12-il seduta Parlamentari tal-EkoSkola kienet ippreseduta mill-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, li, fir-rimarki tiegħu, innota kif il-binja tal-Parlament hi mibnija b'tali mod li hija effiċjenti u favur l-ambjent fl-użu tal-enerġija u spjega fil-qosor l-oġġettivi tal-COP21. Huwa hegġeġ lill-Membri u lill-istudenti preżenti sabiex jikkommettu ruħhom li jissalvagwardjaw l-aħjar interess tal-ambjent tagħna.

Għas-seduta attendew il-Prim Ministru, l-Onor. Joseph Muscat, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Simon Busuttil, il-Ministru tal-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli, l-Ambjent u t-Tibdil fil-Klima l-Onor. José Herrera, is-Segretarju Parlamentari għar-Riċerka, Innovazzjoni Żgħażaġh u Sport l-Onor. Stefan Buontempo, l-Onor. David Agius, l-Onor. Robert Cutajar, l-Onor. Kristy Debono, l-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia, l-Onor. Mario Galea, l-Onor. Marthese Portelli u l-Onor. George Pullicino.



## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of the EkoSkola Parliament

On 2 June the House of Representatives welcomed 84 students from 42 schools during the 2016 session of the EkoSkola Parliament, which marked its 12th edition. During the session, the young students had the opportunity to meet with the country's policy makers to propose concrete actions to combat climate change. The session was a follow up to the 6th *EkoSkola Young People's Summit - We Care about Our Future*, held on 26 April 2016 in collaboration with MEUSAC, the European Commission Representation in Malta and the Climate Action Board whereby a declaration on Climate Change was drawn up. The event was organized by Nature Trust (Malta), the local representatives of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) who run the EkoSkola programme, and was held under the auspices of the Office of the Speaker.

This year's theme choice was spurred by the agreement approved by the 196 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention of the Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the COP21 in Paris late last year. By way of this agreement, all countries pledged to work to limit the temperature rise overall below two degrees Celsius, but are aiming to achieve a temperature rise below one and a half degrees Celsius.

At the start of the session, the students read out a motion calling on MPs to endorse and act upon the recommendations which were set out in the motion. During the session a number of interventions were made by the young participants, as well as MPs from both sides of the House who were present for the event.

The 12th EkoSkola parliamentary sitting was chaired by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia, who, in his opening remarks, pointed out how the Parliament building is built in such a way to be energy efficient and eco-friendly and gave an overview of the objectives of the COP21. He encouraged all members and students present to commit to safeguard the best interests of our environment.

The sitting also included the participation of the Prime Minister Hon. Joseph Muscat, the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Simon Busuttil, the Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change Hon. Josè Herrera, Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport Hon. Stefan Buontempo, Hon. David Agius, Hon. Robert Cutajar, Hon. Kristy Debono, Hon. Godfrey Farrugia, Hon. Mario Galea, Hon. Marthese Portelli and Hon. George Pullicino.

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### Laqgħa pubblika mad-Direttur tal-Aġenzija tal-Unjoni Ewropea għad-Drittijiet Fundamentali

Fit-30 ta' Ġunju l-Parlament laqa' lill-Prof. Michael O' Flaherty, Direttur tal-Aġenzija tal-Unjoni Ewropea għad-Drittijiet Fundamentali (FRA), għal avveniment pubbliku li ttratta s-suġġett tal-isfidi tad-drittijiet fundamentali li qed jiġu ffaċċjati mill-Unjoni Ewropea f'dan il-mument kritiku u fil-kuntest tal-Presidenza ta' Malta fil-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Il-Prof. O' Flaherty kellu laqgħa ta' korteżija mad-Deputy Speaker Ċensu Galea fejn tkellmu dwar ix-xogħol tal-FRA fil-qasam tad-drittijiet fundamentali tal-bniedem. Iż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew ukoll il-kontribut li din l-aġenzija hi lesta li toffri lil Malta fl-ewwel Presidenza tagħha tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea, kif ukoll dwar kif jista' jiġi stabbilit kuntatt mal-kumitati tal-Parlament Malti partikolarment fl-oqsma tar-refuġjati u tal-inklużjoni soċjali. Wara din il-laqgħa nżammet laqgħa pubblika fis-sala tal-Parlament, ippreseduta mid-Deputy Speaker Ċensu Galea li fid-diskors tal-ftuħ tiegħu tkellem dwar il-fenomeni tal-immigrazzjoni lejn l-Ewropa u l-progress li għamlet Malta fil-protezzjoni tad-drittijiet ta' dawk il-persuni li jfittxu l-ażil f'pajjiżna, speċjalment dawk tat-tfal. Fid-diskors tiegħu l-Prof. O' Flaherty faħħar lil Malta għall-progress li għamlet fil-qasam tal-protezzjoni tad-drittijiet tal-persuni LGBT u fir-ratifika tal-Konvenzjoni tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti dwar il-Persuni b'Diżabilità, u żied li f'dawn l-oqsma Malta għandha sservi ta' preċedent għal pajjiżi oħra. Huwa tkellem ukoll dwar il-Fundamental Rights Forum li ġie organizzat mill-FRA fi Vjenna f'Ġunju ta' din is-sena, li fiha ngħaqdu rappreżentanti mill-istati membri, esperti mill-istituzzjonijiet tal-Unjoni Ewropea, membri tal-komunità kummerċjali u dik akkademika sabiex jiddiskutu l-isfidi tad-drittijiet fundamentali u jaqsmu esperjenzi tagħhom. Dwar ir-relazzjoni bejn il-FRA u l-parlamenti nazzjonali, il-Prof. O' Flaherty qal li l-parlamenti għandhom rwol doppju fil-ħarsien tad-drittijiet fundamentali: fil-leġiżlazzjoni li jgħaddu kif ukoll ta' skrutinju tal-implimentazzjoni tal-istess liġijiet permezz tal-kumitati tagħhom. F'dan il-kuntest tkellem dwar in-network ta' *focal points* li qiegħed jiġi organizzat bejn il-parlamenti tal-Unjoni Ewropea, sabiex iservi ta' punt ta' kuntatt bejn il-membri parlamentari u l-FRA. L-attività inkludiet ukoll sessjoni ta' mistoqsijiet u tweġibiet mad-Direttur tal-Aġenzija tad-Drittijiet Fundamentali u li fiha ħadu sehem Membri Parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat, rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili, uffiċjali pubbliċi u għaqdiet nongovernattivi.

### *I Deserti Bianchi* – Wirja mill-Artist Walter Coccetta

Fis-16 ta' Ġunju l-Speaker Anġlu Farrugia inawgura wirja artistika li għib l-isem ta' *I Deserti Bianchi* mill-artist Walter Coccetta. L-Onor. Farrugia qal li, bis-saħħa tal-arti tagħhom, l-artisti jaqsmu ħsibijietom mas-soċjetà. Din l-interazzjoni mil-lenti artistika twassal biex il-persuni jaqsmu l-esperjenzi individwali tagħhom, mument ta' ferħ u ta' niket, traġedji, u tamiet għal għejxien aħjar. Dawn l-esperjenzi tal-ħajja jstgħu jiġu identifikati sew fix-xogħlijiet tal-Maestro Coccetta fil-kollezzjonijiet tiegħu *Sarajevo*, *I Cecchini (Snipers)*, *I Campi Minati (The Minefields)*, *Le Ricostruzioni (Ir-Rikostruzzjoni – Bidu Ġdid)* u *I Deserti Bianchi (Migranti)*. L-Onor. Farrugia tkellem dwar id-diffikultajiet li jgħaddu minnhom il-migranti li jfittxu ħajja aħjar fl-Ewropa minħabba l-fatt li jkunu spostati mill-pajjiż oriġinali tagħhom minħabba kunflitti. Huwa appella lill-gvernijiet sabiex jestendu s-solidarjetà tagħhom lejn il-fqar u l-vulnerabbli. Huwa żied jgħid li l-kunflitti jipproduċu l-mibegħda, u l-paċi u r-rikonċiljazzjoni biss jistgħu jegħlbu d-differenzi u jressqu l-popli lejn xulxin.



## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### ***I Deserti Bianchi* - art exhibition by Walter Coccetta**

On 16 June Speaker Anġlu Farrugia inaugurated an art exhibition entitled *I Deserti Bianchi* by renowned Italian artist Maestro Walter Coccetta. Hon. Farrugia said that, through their works, artists share their thoughts with society. This interaction through art leads people to share together the individual life experiences humans go through, moments of happiness and sorrow, tragedies, and hopes for a better livelihood. These human experiences can be identified in the artworks of Maestro Coccetta, notably in his series entitled *Sarajevo*, *I Cecchini* (Snipers), *I Campi Minati* (The Minefields), *Le Ricostruzioni* (The Reconstruction - A New Beginning) and *I Deserti Bianchi* (Migrants). Hon. Farrugia spoke about the plight of migrants who are seeking a better livelihood in Europe as they are displaced from their homeland because of conflicts. He called on governments to extend solidarity towards the poor and the meek, and displaced people. He also said that conflicts breed further hatred, and that it is only peace and reconciliation that can help to overcome differences and bring people together.

### **The Public lecture by the Director of FRA**

On 30 June Parliament hosted Professor Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) for a public event dealing with the topic of the fundamental rights challenges facing the European Union at this critical juncture in the context of Malta's upcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Prof. O'Flaherty paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Speaker Ċensu Galea where they spoke about the work of the FRA in the field of fundamental rights. They also discussed the contribution the Agency is ready to offer Malta during the run up to the first Presidency of the Council of the European Union, as to establish contact with standing committees of the Maltese Parliament particularly with those dealing with fundamental rights issues. This meeting was followed by a public lecture chaired by Deputy Speaker Galea, who in his opening remarks spoke about the immigration phenomenon in Europe and the progress Malta has made in the safeguarding of rights of those persons who seek asylum in our country, with particular reference to children. In his remarks, Prof. O'Flaherty remarked positively about the progress made by Malta in the field of the protection of the rights of LGBT individuals and in the ratification of the United Nations Convention concerning Persons with Disability, adding that in this field Malta should serve as a precedent for other countries. He also spoke about the outcome of the Fundamental Rights Forum organised by FRA in Vienna in June this year, where representatives from the EU Member States, experts from the EU institutions, members of civil society and academics came together to discuss fundamental rights issues and share experiences. With regard to the relationship between FRA and national parliaments, Prof. O'Flaherty noted that national parliaments have a twofold role in ensuring the safeguard of fundamental rights: by way of legislation adopted, as well as scrutiny of the implementation of the same laws by the relevant standing committees. In the same context, he spoke about the importance of the network of the parliamentary focal points which is being organised to serve as a point of contact between Members of Parliament and the FRA. The event also included a question and answers session with the Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency and was attended by Members of Parliament from both sides of the House as well as representatives from civil society, public officers as well as non-governmental organisations.

## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI

### Delegazzjoni Parlamentari mmexxija mill-Ispeaker iżur l-Iżrael u l-Palestina

Fuq stedina tal-Ispeaker tal-Knesset, M.K. Yuli Yael Edelstein, l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati ta' Malta l-Onor Anġlu Farrugia, mexxa delegazzjoni Parlamentari magħmula mill-Onor. Michael Falzon u l-Onor. Silvio Parnis fl-Iżrael. F'laqgħa mal-Onor. Yuli Yoel Edelstein, l-Ispeaker Iżraeljan tal-Knesset, l-Onor. Farrugia qal li kien onorat li huwa l-ewwel Speaker minn Malta li qed iżur l-Iżrael. Hu irrimarka li ż-żewġ pajjiżi huma pajjiżi demokratiċi b'saħħithom fil-Mediterran u tnejn għandhom rwol importanti fir-reġjun. F'laqgħa separata ma' parlamentari Palestinjani, l-Onor. Farrugia tkellem dwar ir-rwol ta' Malta fil-kwistjoni Palestinjana mis-snin sebgħin. Għamel ukoll referenza għall-isforz ta' Malta biex jinkludur reġjun tal-Mediterran fid-dikjarazzjoni ta' Helsinki CSCM tal-1975. L-Ispeaker enfasizza wkoll il-qbil bejn il-partiti f'Malta dwar il-kwistjoni tal-Palestina.

### Il-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-CAPAC

Fit-12 ta' April l-Onor. Tonio Fenech, President tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Commonwealth tal-Kumitati tal-Kontijiet Pubbliċi (CAPAC Ex-Co), ippresieda laqgħa tal-Ex-Co f'Londra. Matul din il-laqgħa l-Onor. Tonio Fenech ipprezenta draft ta' dokument dwar il-Prinċipji tal-Kumitati tal-Kontijiet Pubbliċi li jirrigwardaw l-Istandards tal-Prattika Tajba għall-funzjoni tajba tal-Kumitati tal-Kontijiet Pubbliċi, intitolat "CAPAC – PAC Principles". Dan id-dokument tnejn mill-Grupp ta' Ħidma dwar l-Istandards, li twaqqaf fil-laqgħa preċedenti tal-CAPAC Ex-Co f'Ottubru 2015. L-għan huwa li CAPAC jadotta d-dokument finali matul l-ewwel Konferenza tal-CAPAC skedata għall-2017. L-Ex-Co ltaqa' wkoll mal-President tal-PAC tar-Renju Unit u ma' delegazzjoni mid-Dipartiment tal-Iżvilupp Internazzjonali tar-Renju Unit. L-Onor. Fenech ipprezentalhom rapport dwar il-partecipazzjoni tiegħu fl-ewwel laqgħa tal-Grupp ta' Studju Globali tal-Kumitati tal-Kontijiet Pubbliċi li saret fin-Nepal f'Marzu 2016. CAPAC se tkun qed tistieden kumitati membri tagħha biex jissottomettu l-kontribuzzjonijiet tagħhom għall-proċess ta' konsultazzjoni globali.

### Il-Laqqgħa tax-Xitwa tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-OSCE

Delegazzjoni Parlamentari Maltija magħmula mill-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia, l-Onor. Emanuel Mallia u l-Onor. Frederick Azzopardi, ħadet sehem fil-Laqqgħa tax-Xitwa tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Organizzazzjoni għall-Kooperazzjoni u Sigurtà fl-Ewropa (OSCE PA), li saret fi Vjenna bejn il-25 u s-26 ta' Frar. Iż-żewġ punti ewlenin fuq l-aġenda kienu l-kriżi madwar l-Ukraina u l-kriżi tal-immigrazzjoni fl-Ewropa. Matul id-dibattitu l-Onor. Farrugia tkellem dwar il-kriżi tal-immigrazzjoni. Huwa sostna li l-immigranti li marru joqogħdu f'Malta kellhom impatt minimu fuq l-għadd ta' ħaddiema Maltin jaħdmu għaliex dawn l-immigranti qed jagħmlu xogħol li l-Maltin m'għadhomx interessati li jagħmlu, u b'hekk qed jikkontribwixxu għall-produttività tal-ekonomija. Barra minn hekk, huwa qal li Malta hija lesta li tipparteċipa fis-sistema ta' rilokazzjoni tal-UE li permezz tiegħha numru ta' dawk li jfittxu ažił digà ntbagħtu f'Malta mill-Italja. L-Onor. Azzopardi wkoll tkellem dwar il-kriżi tal-immigrazzjoni u saħaq fuq l-importanza tal-istat tad-dritt li jitlob li l-Istati jospitaw persuni vulnerabbli li huma intitolati għal-ažił fi stati aktar sikuri. Huwa importanti li t-talba tagħhom għall-ažił tkun ittrattata b'heffa u effiċjenza. L-Onor. Azzopardi sostna li l-azzjoni esterna tal-UE għandha tiġi ddeterminata mill-istess prinċipji bħal dawk tal-organizzazzjoni interna tagħha, jiġifieri, l-istat tad-dritt, id-demokrazija, id-drittijiet tal-bniedem, il-libertajiet fundamentali u l-prinċipji tal-ugwaljanza u s-solidarjetà. L-Onor. Mallia intervjena fid-dibattitu dwar is-sigurtà tranżnazzjonali fejn enfasizza r-rilevanza tar-reġjun tal-Mediterran fit-tiżi tas-sigurtà tal-Ewropa. Huwa nnota li l-politiċi Maltin matul is-snin konsistentement argumentaw li ma jistax ikun hemm sigurtà fl-Ewropa jekk ma jkunx hemm paċi fil-Mediterran.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker visits Israel and Palestine

At the invitation of the Speaker of the Knesset, M.K. Yuli Yael Edelstein, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, led a parliamentary delegation, made up of Hon. Michael Falzon and Hon. Silvio Parnis, to Israel. In a meeting with the Hon. Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, the Israeli Speaker of the Knesset, Hon. Farrugia remarked that he was honoured to be the first Speaker from Malta to visit Israel. He remarked that both countries were strong democracies in the Mediterranean and both had an important role to play in the region. In a separate meeting with Palestinian parliamentarians, Hon. Farrugia spoke about Malta's role in the Palestinian issue since the 1970s. He also made reference to Malta's efforts to include the Mediterranean region in the 1975 CSCM Helsinki Declaration. The Hon. Speaker also highlighted the cross-party consensus in Malta on the issue of Palestine.

### CAPAC Executive Committee

On 12 April Hon. Tonio Fenech, Chairman of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees Executive Committee (CAPAC Ex-Co) chaired an Ex-Co meeting in London. During this meeting Hon. Tonio Fenech presented a draft document on PAC Principles dealing with Standards of Good Practice for the Good Functioning of Public Accounts Committees, entitled "CAPAC – PAC Principles". This document was compiled by the Working Group on Standards, which was set up in a previous CAPAC Ex-Co meeting in October 2015. The aim is for CAPAC to adopt the final document during the first CAPAC Conference scheduled for 2017. The Ex-Co also met with the Chair of the UK PAC and a delegation from the UK's Department of International Development to whom Hon. Fenech presented the report on his participation at the first meeting of the Global Study Group of Public Accounts Committees that took place in Nepal in March 2016. CAPAC will be inviting its member committees to submit their contributions to the global consultation process.

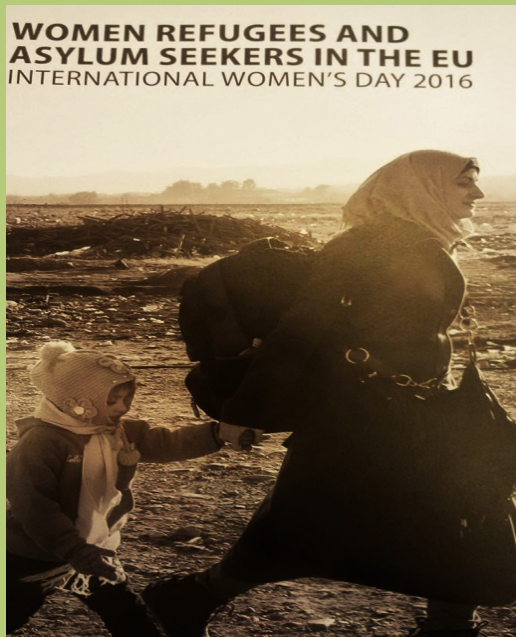
### Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

A Maltese parliamentary delegation composed of Hon. Godfrey Farrugia, Hon. Emanuel Mallia and Hon. Frederick Azzopardi took part in the Winter Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), which was held in Vienna between 25 and 26 February. The two main items on the agenda were the crisis in and around Ukraine and the migration crisis in Europe. During the debate Hon. Farrugia spoke about the migration crisis. He argued that migrants settling down in Malta have had a minimal impact on the local labour force as they have been taking up work that the locals are no longer interested in, thus contributing to the economy's productivity. Furthermore, he said that Malta is willing to participate in the EU relocation system through which a number of asylum seekers have already been sent to Malta from Italy. Hon. Azzopardi also spoke about the migration crisis and stressed on the importance of the rule of law which requires states to host vulnerable persons who are entitled to asylum in a safer state. Importantly, their asylum claim must be dealt with swiftly and efficiently. Hon. Azzopardi argued that the EU's external action must be determined by the same principles as those of its internal organisation, that is, the rule of law, democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the principles of equality and solidarity. Hon. Mallia intervened in the debate on transnational security where he highlighted the relevance of the Mediterranean region in strengthening Europe's security as a whole. He noted that Maltese politicians have throughout the years relentlessly argued that there can be no security in Europe if there is no peace in the Mediterranean.

## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

### Laqgħa Interparlamentari Organizzata mill-Parlament Ewropew

L-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg ipparteċipat f'laqgħa bit-tema 'Refuġjati Nisa li jfittxu l-Azil fl-UE' organizzata fl-okkażjoni tal-Jum Internazzjonali tal-Mara mill-Parlament Ewropew fit-3 ta' Marzu. Matul id-diskussjoni, l-Onor. Buttigieg spjegat kif Malta żviluppat minn pajjiż ta' oriġini għal pajjiż ta' tranżitu għall-immigranti u, involontarjament, għal pajjiż ta' destinazzjoni għall-immigranti li jkunu qed jaqsmu l-Baħar Mediterran. L-Onor. Buttigieg sostniet li l-Ewropa għandha bżonn titgħallmu mill-esperjenzi tal-Istati Membri tan-Nofsinhar tal-Ewropa bħal Malta, l-Italja u l-Greċja. Hi enfasizzat ukoll l-importanza li jiġu mħarsa d-drittijiet tal-bniedem speċjalment fir-rigward ta' nisa tqal li setgħu kienu vittmi ta' vjolenza.



### Laqgħa dwar it-Traffikar tal-Bnedmin fl-Era Diġitali

L-Onor. Emanuel Mallia u l-Onor. Francis Zammit Dimech ħadu sehem fil-laqgħa tal-presidenti dwar it-Traffikar tal-Bniedem fl-Era Diġitali organizzat fil-qafas tad-dimensjoni Parlamentari tal-Presidenza Olandiża tal-UE li saret fit-13 u l-14 ta' Marzu fi Vjenna. L-ewwel parti tal-laqgħa ffokat fuq forom differenti ta' traffikar tal-bnedmin u kif ir-rwol ta' komunikazzjoni online, bħall-użu tal-midja soċjali u d-dark web, qed ikompli jipprovdu gruppi tat-traffikar b'għodod godda u modi aktar speċjalizzati biex jaħbu l-identità tagħhom u jattiraw vittmi lejhom. L-Onor. Mallia ssuġġerixxa l-possibbiltà li jinkludu l-użu tat-tribunali tax-xogħol waqt il-prosekuzzjoni ta' traffikanti tal-bnedmin għall-isfruttament tax-xogħol. It-tieni parti tal-laqgħa indirizzat il-migrazzjoni u l-kriżi umanitarja li bħalissa qed tiffaċċja l-Ewropa u l-istati ġirien. Waqt din is-sessjoni, l-Onor. Francis Zammit Dimech tkellem dwar ir-rwol tar-rilokazzjoni u l-importanza li jiġu implimentati l-ftehimiet mil-ħuqa. Barra minn hekk, l-azzjoni fil-livell tal-Unjoni Ewropea għandha ttejjeb ukoll il-miżuri ta' diskussjoni u implimentazzjoni biex jindirizzaw il-kawżi fundamentali li qed iwasslu għal dawn il-kriżijiet umanitarji mingħajr preċedenti. Waqt li tkellem fuq il-Valletta Summit EU-Afrika tal-2015, l-Onor. Zammit Dimech enfasizza l-importanza li jinżamm dialogu produttiv u miftuħ ma' pajjiżi terzi. Għal dan il-għan, iż-żieda fil-kooperazzjoni bejn l-UE u t-Turkija ġiet identifikata bħala pass importanti għall-quddiem. L-Onor. Zammit Dimech tenna l-importanza li l-Istati Ewropej jirrikonoxxu l-ħtieġa li l-kooperazzjoni tingħata spinta u li jinżammu l-prinċipji ewlenin tal-Unjoni Ewropea tas-solidarjetà u ko-responsabbiltà.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Interparliamentary meeting organised by the European Parliament

Hon. Claudette Buttigieg participated in a meeting entitled 'Women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU' organised on International Women's Day by the European Parliament on 3 March. During the discussion, Hon. Buttigieg explained how Malta developed from a country of origin to a transit country for immigrants, and involuntarily a country of destination for immigrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea. Hon. Buttigieg argued that Europe needs to learn from the experiences of Southern European Member States like Malta, Italy and Greece. She also emphasized the importance of safeguarding human rights especially with regard to pregnant women who might have been the victims of violence.

### Chairpersons' meeting on Human Trafficking in the Digital Age

Hon. Emanuel Mallia and Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech took part in the Chairpersons' meeting on Human Trafficking in the Digital Age organised within the Parliamentary dimension of the Dutch EU Presidency held on 13 and 14 March in Vienna. The first part of the meeting focused on different forms of human trafficking and how the role of online communication, such as the use of social media and the dark web, are continuing to provide trafficking groups with novel and more specialised ways to obfuscate identity and lure victims. Taking the floor, Hon. Mallia suggested the possibility of including the use of labour tribunals when prosecuting human traffickers for labour exploitation. The second part of the meeting addressed migration and the ongoing humanitarian crisis unfolding in Europe and neighbouring states. Addressing the session on migration, Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech spoke on the role of relocation and the importance to implement the agreements reached. Furthermore, action at European Union level should also enhance discussion and implementation measures to address the root causes that are leading to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Speaking on the Valletta EU-Africa Summit 2015, Hon. Zammit Dimech underlined the importance of maintaining a fruitful and open dialogue with third countries. To this end, enhanced cooperation between the EU and Turkey is identified as an important step forward. Hon. Zammit Dimech reiterated the importance for European states to recognise the necessity to boost cooperation and uphold the European Union's core principles of solidarity and co-responsibility.



## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

### IL-134 Assemblea Ġenerali tal-Unjoni Interparlamentari f'Lusaka, iż-Żambja

L-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia u l-Onor. Micheal Gonzi attendew l-Assemblea Ġenerali biennali tal-Unjoni Interparlamentari li saret fil-kapitali taż-Żambja, Lusaka, bejn id-19 u t-23 ta' Marzu. Is-sugġett ewlieni tad-dibattitu ġenerali kien 'Rejuvenating Democracy, giving voice to the Youth'. Id-dibattitu ġenerali kien introdott minn numru ta' kelliema ta' livell għoli, inkluż l-Ispeaker tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali taż-Żambja, li enfasizza l-importanza tal-partecipazzjoni taż-żgħażaġħ fit-teħid tad-deċiżjonijiet fil-livell nazzjonali. Fid-diskors tiegħu l-Onor. Farrugia sostna li l-inklużjoni taż-żgħażaġħ fid-demokrazija toffri l-opportunità li nutilizzaw l-enerġija u l-ideat taż-żgħażaġħ billi nipprovdu l-kundizzjonijiet meħtieġa għall-partecipazzjoni sħiħa tagħhom fl-iżvilupp soċjali, ekonomiku u politiku tal-pajjiż. Bl-enerġija u l-entuzjażmu tagħhom, iż-żgħażaġħ huma tipikament fuq quddiem nett tat-teknoloġiji ġodda, l-ideat u l-aspettattivi. Billi jikkontestaw l-istatus quo, huma jirnexxihom jintroduċu perspettivi ġodda fid-demokrazija.

### Konferenza Interparlamentari fuq l-Enerġija

L-Onor. Michael Falzon u l-Onor. Robert Cutajar ippartecipaw fil-Konferenza Interparlamentari dwar l-Enerġija li saret f'The Hague bejn it-3 u l-4 ta' April. Il-Konferenza kienet organizzata fil-qafas tad-dimensjoni parlamentari tal-presidenza Olandiża tal-Unjoni Ewropea. L-ewwel parti tal-laqqgħa introduċiet it-tema prinċipali tal-konferenza: 'Enerġija, Innovazzjoni u Ekonomija Ċirkolari'. Il-konferenza ffukat fuq kif nistaw nagħmlu transizzjoni affordabbli għal provvista ta' enerġija nadifa, bla periklu u nżommu l-kompetittiva fl-Ewropa. Il-kelliema elaboraw fuq ir-rwol li l-parlamenti nazzjonali għandhom li minn diskussjonijiet rigward l-enerġija jgħaddu biex japplikaw deċiżjonijiet fil-leġislazzjoni rispettiva fid-dawl tas-Summit ta' Pariġi COP21. Waqt id-diskussjoni, l-Onor. Robert Cutajar semma l-inizjattiva li ħarġet mill-'Covenant of Mayors', li baqgħet magħrufa bħala 'l-akbar inizjattiva urbana fuq il-klima u l-enerġija fid-dinja' li ġabret aktar minn 5,600 firmatarji, inkluż 24 lokalitajiet Maltin li jinvolvu l-kunsilli lokali, li kollha impenjaw ruħhom li jnaqqsu l-emissjonijiet tad-dijossidu tal-karbonju b'20% sas-sena 2020. Għall-mistoqsija tal-Onor. Cutajar lill-panel ta' kelliema jekk ħarġux xi riżultati pożittivi minn din l-inizjattiva, it-twegiba kienet waħda pożittiva; il-Kummissjoni Ewropea hija sodisfatta bil-progress li sar u qed tistenna bil-ħerqa biex tara din l-inizjattiva tkompli tiegħu forma. It-tieni parti tal-konferenza kien maqsuma f'sessjonijiet paralleli li ddiskutew: L-Infrastruttura tal-Enerġija u s-Sigurtà tal-Provvista; il-Konservazzjoni tal-Enerġija; Bliet li Jiffrankaw l-Enerġija - Sorsi ta' Enerġija Rinovabbli u l-Ekonomija Ċirkolari. Id-delegazzjoni Maltija ħadet sehem fit-tielet sessjoni, fejn l-Onor. Michael Falzon indirizza waħda mis-sessjonijiet paralleli dwar l-Ekonomija Ċirkolari u ssottolinja l-importanza tal-kuncett tal-Ekonomija Blu u l-użu tal-oċeani bħala sors ta' enerġija, bl-użu tekniku bħat-taħlita ta' melħ u ilma ħelu għall-użu tat-teknoloġija ta' kurrenti u noduli fil-baħar. Huwa staqsa lill-panel ta' kelliema jekk dawn it-tekniki humiex użati fil-prattika. It-twegiba kienet li jintużaw għadd ta' metodi għall-ħsad tal-enerġija u kumpaniji privati jagħmlu użu minn dawn it-tekniki.



## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### The 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Hon. Godfrey Farrugia and Hon. Michael Gonzi attended the bi-annual Inter-parliamentary Union General Assembly which was held in the capital of Zambia, Lusaka, between 19 and 23 March. The main subject of the general debate was 'Rejuvenating Democracy, Giving Voice to Youth'. The general debate was introduced by a number of high-level speakers, including the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, who emphasized the importance of youth participation in decision-making at the national level. During the general debate, Hon. Godfrey Farrugia delivered a speech about the roles of young people in democracy. In his address Hon. Farrugia argued that rejuvenating democracy offers the opportunity of harnessing the energy and ideas of young people by providing the necessary conditions for their full participation in the nation's social, economic and political development. With their energy and enthusiasm, young people are typically at the forefront of new technologies, ideas and expectations. By challenging the *status quo*, they infuse democracy with fresh perspectives.



### Interparliamentary Conference on Energy

Hon. Michael Falzon and Hon. Robert Cutajar participated in the Interparliamentary Conference on Energy held in The Hague between 3 and 4 April. The Conference was organised within the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Dutch presidency of the European Union. The first part of the meetings focused on setting the scene by introducing the main theme of the conference: 'Energy, Innovation and Circular Economy'. The focus of the conference was how to affordably make the transition to a clean, safe and competitive energy supply in Europe. The speakers elaborated on the role of national parliaments in the regard by shifting from discussions regarding energy to applying decisions in respective legislation in the light of the COP 21 Paris Summit. Taking the floor Hon. Robert Cutajar remarked that an initiative emerging from the 'Covenant of Mayors', heralded as 'the world's biggest urban climate and energy initiative' with over 5,600 signatories of which 24 are Maltese localities involving local councils, have committed to decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 20% by the year 2020. Hon. Cutajar asked the panel of speakers whether there are any positive results emerging from this initiative, to which the answer was a positive one, whereby the European Commission is satisfied with the progress made and is looking forward to see this initiative continue to take shape. The second part of the conference was split into parallel sessions discussing: Energy Infrastructure and Security of Supply; Energy Conservation; Energy Saving Cities - Renewable Energy Sources and the Circular Economy. The Maltese delegation participated in the third session, where Hon. Michael Falzon addressed one of the parallel sessions about the Circular Economy and underlined the importance of the concept of the Blue Economy and the use of oceans as a source of energy, using techniques such as the mix of salt and fresh water for the use of the technology of currents and sea nodules, and asked the panel of speakers whether these techniques are used in practice. The reply was that a number of methods of harvesting energy are used and private companies do make use of these techniques.

## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

### Konferenza tal-Ispeakers tal-Parlamenti tal-Unjoni Ewropea

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia attenda konferenza tal-Ispeakers tal-UE li saret fil-Lussemburgu bejn it-22 u l-24 ta' Mejju fil-qafas tad-dimensjoni parlamentari tal-Presidenza tal-Lussemburgu. Il-punti fuq l-aġenda ta' din il-laqgħa kienu l-Ġestjoni tal-Flussi Migratorji, It-tisħiħ tal-Unjoni Ewropea, ir-Rwol tal-Parlamenti Nazzjonali u Kooperazzjoni Inter-parlamentari, u Niżguraw is-Sigurtà taċ-Ċittadini filwaqt li Nirrispettaw il-Libertajiet Fundamentali tagħhom. Il-Konferenza nfetħet minn Mars Di Bartolomeo, Speaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati tal-Lussemburgu li qal li din il-laqgħa timmarka l-għeluq tas-semestru mimli attività għall-Presidenza tal-Lussemburgu u f'dan l-istadju għandha sservi biex jintbagħat messaġġ qawwi li l-Ewropa hija lesta li taġixxi biex jiġu indirizzati l-isfidi li qed tiffaċċja. L-Ispeaker Farrugia intervjena matul id-dibattitu wara d-diskussjoni tal-ftuħ. Huwa fakkar il-Valletta Summit li sar fl-2015 u kif dan l-avveniment għab mexxejja Ewropej flimkien ma' mexxejja Afrikani biex jindirizzaw l-isfida tal-immigrazzjoni. Huwa saħaq li l-inizjattiva Ewropea Fond Fiducjarju Emergenza tal-UE għall-Istabbiltà hi importanti ħafna għax hija mmirata sabiex tindirizza l-kawżi fundamentali tal-migrazzjoni fil-pajjiżi tal-origini. Fit-tieni jum tal-konferenza, l-Ispeaker enfasizza li l-problemi attwali li qed tħabbat wiċċha magħhom l-UE ma kenux se jiġu evitati permezz ta' aktar integrazzjoni Ewropea. Huwa argumenta wkoll kontra l-Unjoni Fiskali bl-argument li aktar integrazzjoni m'għandhiex neċessarjament tfisser li l-Istati Membri jitilfu s-sovranità tagħhom. Fl-aħħar ġurnata tal-konferenza, l-Ispeaker enfasizza r-rwol tal-Parlamenti nazzjonali fil-proċess tat-teħid tad-deċiżjonijiet fi ħdan l-UE skont it-Trattati Ewropej. Huwa sejjaħ għal rwol akbar għall-Membri tal-Parlament fid-deċiżjonijiet Ewropej billi, per eżempju, jipprovdu aċċess għal kmamar tal-qari fejn ikunu jistgħu jaraw id-dokumenti tan-negozjati TTIP. Matul din iż-żjara l-Ispeaker Farrugia kellu wkoll laqgħa mal-kelliema tal-Presidenza tat-Trio dwar it-tnejn għad-dimensjoni parlamentari tal-Presidenza tal-UE.



### It-Tielet Summit tal-Prezidenti tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Unjoni għall-Mediterran

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia ħa sehem fit-Tielet Laqgħa tal-Prezidenti tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Unjoni għall-Mediterran li saret fil-Marokk fit-28 ta' Mejju. Il-laqgħa ffokat fuq l-importanza tad-djalogu sostnut fil-Mediterran u l-ambizzjoni li jinbena djalogu interkulturali aħjar li jiġġenera żvilupp kondiviż f'termini ta' paċi u sigurtà. Barra minn hekk, il-partecipanti fil-laqgħa qablu wkoll li l-iżvilupp sostenibbli jeħtieġ li jikkonsidra t-tibdil fil-klima kif ukoll il-ħarsien tal-ambjent.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia attended the EU Speakers' Conference held in Luxembourg between 22 and 24 May in the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Luxembourg Presidency. The items on the agenda of this meeting were the Management of Migration Flows, Strengthening the European Union, the Role of National Parliaments and Inter-parliamentary Cooperation and Ensuring the Safety of Citizens whilst respecting their Fundamental Freedoms. The Conference was opened by Mars Di Bartolomeo, Speaker of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, who remarked that this meeting marks the close of a busy semester for the Luxembourg Presidency and at this juncture should serve to send a strong message that Europe is ready to act to address the challenges it is facing. During the debate following the opening discussion, Speaker Farrugia intervened recalling the Valletta Summit in 2015 and how this event brought together European and African leaders to address the challenge of immigration. He stressed a very important European initiative, the EU Emergence Trust Fund for Stability, which is aimed to address the root causes of migration in the countries of origin. On the second day of the conference, the Speaker emphasized that the current problems faced by the EU would not have been avoided with increased European integration. He also argued against a Fiscal Union arguing that more integration does not necessarily mean giving up the sovereignty of Member States. On the last day of the conference, the Speaker stressed the role of national Parliaments in the decision-making process within the EU in accordance with the European Treaties. He called for a greater role for Members of Parliament in European decisions by for example providing them access to reading rooms where the TTIP negotiation documents can be seen. During this visit Speaker Farrugia also held an exchange of views with the Trio Presidency Speakers concerning the preparation for the parliamentary dimension of the EU Presidency.

### Third Summit of the Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia took part in the Third Summit of the Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean which was held in Morocco on 28 May. The meeting focused on the importance of sustained Mediterranean dialogue and the ambition to build better inter-cultural anchorage that would generate shared development in terms of peace and security. Furthermore, the participants at the meeting also agreed that sustainable development needs to take into consideration climate change and the protection of the environment.



## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

### PA-UfM – Laqgħa tal-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet Poliċi

L-Onor. Michael Falzon ipparteċipa fil-laqgħa tal-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet Poliċi, is-Sigurtà u d-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem organizzat mill-Assemblea Parlamentari - Unjoni għall-Mediterran (PA-UfM) li saret fid-29 ta' Frar fi Brussell. L-aġenda ffokat fuq is-sitwazzjoni fil-Lvant Nofsani. Il-laqgħa bdiet b'workshop dwar il-kwistjoni Palestinjana u wara giet segwita minn skambju ta' fehmiet dwar is-sitwazzjoni fis-Sirja u r-rwol u l-appoġġ tal-imsieħba tal-PA-UfM fil-proċess ta' Ġinevra



### Żjara mill-Ispeaker f'The Hague

Fit-13 ta' Lulju, fuq stedina tal-Ispeaker tas-Senat Olandiż u l-Ispeaker Olandiż tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia, l-Iskrivan tal-Kamra Raymond Scicluna u d-Direttur tar-Relazzjonijiet Internazzjonali Eleanor Scerri ħadu sehem f'laqgħa tal-Ispeakers tal-Presidenza tat-Trio f'The Hague. Iż-żjara kienet organizzata fil-margħni tal-LV COSAC li kienet l-aħħar laqgħa interparlamentari organizzata fi ħdan il-qafas tad-dimensjoni parlamentari tal-Presidenza Olandiża. Id-delegazzjoni tal-Parlament Malti kellha l-opportunità li tattendi s-sessjonijiet tal-ftuħ tal-laqgħa tal-LV COSAC li saru fis-Sala tal-Kavallieri f'The Hague. Id-delegazzjoni kellha wkoll laqgħat mal-Ispeaker tas-Senat Olandiż Ankie Broekers-Knol u l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati tal-Pajjiżi l-Baxxi Khadija Arib, id-Deputat Speaker tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali tas-Slovakkja Bela Bugar u t-tim responsabbli mill-organizzazzjoni tal-laqgħat tad-dimensjoni parlamentari tal-Presidenza Olandiża. Matul iż-żjara l-Ispeaker Farrugia, flimkien mal-Onor. Luciano Busuttil u l-Onor. Frederick Azzopardi, li kienu qed jieħdu sehem fil-LV COSAC, iltaqgħu ma' Frans Timmermans, il-Viċi President tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea responsabbli għar-relazzjonijiet mal-parlamenti nazzjonali. Matul il-laqgħa ż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew il-preparamenti tal-Parlament Malti għall-Presidenza 2017 tal-Kunsill.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### PA-UfM – Meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs

Hon. Michael Falzon participated in the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights organised by the Parliamentary Assembly – Union for the Mediterranean (PA UfM) which was held on 29 February in Brussels. The agenda focused on the situation in the Middle East. The meeting started with a Working Group session on the Palestinian issue followed by an exchange of views on the situation in Syria and the role and support of PA-UfM partners in the Geneva process.

### Visit by the Speaker to The Hague

On 13 June, on the invitation of the Speakers of the Dutch Senate and the Dutch House of Representatives Speaker Anglu Farrugia, the Clerk of the House Raymond Scicluna and International Relations Director Ms Eleanor Scerri took part in a meeting of the Speakers of the Trio Presidency in The Hague. The visit was organised in the margins of the LV COSAC which was the last inter-parliamentary meeting organised within the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Dutch Presidency. The delegation from the Maltese Parliament had the opportunity to attend the opening sessions of the LV COSAC meeting taking place in the Hall of the Knights in The Hague. The delegation also had meetings with the Speaker of the Dutch Senate Ankie Broekers-Knol and the Speaker of the Dutch House of Representatives Khadija Arib, the Deputy Speaker of the Slovak National Assembly Bela Bugar and the project team responsible for the organisation of the meetings of the parliamentary dimension of the Dutch Presidency of the Council. During the visit Speaker Farrugia, together with Hon. Luciano Busuttil and Hon. Frederick Azzopardi, who were participating in the LV COSAC, met with Frans Timmermans, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for relations with national parliaments. During the meeting the two sides discussed the preparations of the Maltese Parliament for the 2017 Presidency of the Council.



## Hidma Parlamentari

April 2013 – Ġunju 2016

## Parliamentary Work

April 2013 – June 2016

Seduti fil-Plenarja	411	Plenary Sitzings
Laqgħat tal-Kumitati Permanenti	433	Meetings of Standing Committees
Stqarrijiet Ministerjali	66	Ministerial Statements
Mozzjonijiet	362	Motions
Mozzjonijiet Privati	42	Private Members' Motions
Mozzjonijiet għall-Ewwel Qari ta' Abbozzi ta' Ligi	165	Motions for First Reading of Bills
Ligijiet mgħoddija mill-Parlament	141	Acts enacted by Parliament
Ligijiet approvati b'votazzjoni	17	Acts approved upon division
Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari	26,986	Parliamentary Questions
Dokumenti mqiegħda fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra	7,452	Documents laid on the Table of the House
Diskorsi tal-Aggornament	309	Adjournment Speeches
Decizjonijiet tas-Sedja	85	Rulings by the Chair
Membri Parlamentari li siefbru fuq xogħol parlamentari	424	Members of Parliament on parliamentary duties abroad
Delegazzjonijiet parlamentari barra minn Malta	212	Parliamentary delegations abroad
Delegazzjonijiet immexxija mill-Ispeaker/Deputy Speaker	55	Delegations led by the Speaker/ Deputy Speaker