



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker Farrugia pays courtesy call on Italian President Sergio Mattarella

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anġlu Farrugia, paid a courtesy call on President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, who is on a State Visit to Malta.

Speaker Farrugia and President Mattarella highlighted the excellent and cordial bilateral relations that exist between Malta and Italy, which relations have been consolidated over the years through various agreements, including, in particular the five Financial Protocols and the fifteen Cultural and Educational Agreements.

The two dignitaries discussed the international situation, mainly the Mediterranean and the problem of migration. They agreed that migration has to be managed properly and that the Members States of the European Union should show active and not passive solidarity.

The importance of the parliamentary diplomacy as well as the role of national Parliaments and parliamentary cooperation in international organisations featured in the talks. In this regard, the close cooperation between the Maltese House of Representatives and the Italian Senate and Chamber of Deputies was highlighted.

President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella, was accompanied by Giovanni Umberto De Vito, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Malta; Dr Ugo Zampetti, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Italian Republic; Dr Simone Guerrini, Director of the Secretariat Office of the President of the Italian Republic; Mr Gianfranco Astori, Information Adviser to the President of the Italian Republic; Emanuela D'Alessandro, Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Italian Republic; General Roberto Corsini, Military Adviser to the President of the Italian Republic; Dr Giovanni Grasso, Press and Communication Adviser; Minister Plenipotentiary Riccardo Guariglia, Head of Protocol, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic, and Minister Plenipotentiary Francesco Di Nitto, Assistant Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Italian Republic.

Mr Ray Scicluna, Clerk of the House; Mr Ancel Farrugia Migneco, Personal Assistant to the Speaker, and Mr Giovanni Miceli, Adviser, International Relations, HoR, accompanied Mr Speaker during the meeting.