

**THE HON FRANCIS AGIUS PARTICIPATES IN THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE - NEW YORK, 2-3 DECEMBER 2010.**

The Hon Francis Agius shall be forming part of the Political Affairs Sub-Committee on External Relations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe whose Members shall be going to New York on 2-3 December 2010 on the occasion of the IPU-Parliamentary Hearing which shall be taking place during the sixty-fifth session of the UN-General Assembly.

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolutions 61/6 and 63/24, the above mentioned Hearing is convened annually as a joint UN-IPU event.

Apart from meetings with UN Officials, the Sub-Committee agenda includes the taking part in the IPU Parliamentary Hearing. This year's meeting is entitled "Towards economic recovery: rethinking development, retooling global governance". The session shall be opened by Mr Joseph Deis, President of the General Assembly, Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the UN and Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, President of the IPU.

The Hearing shall be taking the form of panel discussions and inter-active exchanges with UN officials, experts and diplomatic representatives who shall be examining aspects relating to:

- Current risks to economic recovery and the continuing structural imbalances in the global economy;
- Reform of the international financial system and a critical assessment of some of the key related issues;
- Rethinking sustainable development with the current global economic and environmental framework;
- Building leadership in global economic governance, empowering the United Nations and the role of the G-20;
- Securing transparency and accountability in global governance - the role of parliaments and of the IPU.

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