



Press Release

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Member of Parliament Glenn Bedingfield addresses the 14th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

On 29 April 2018, Head of Delegation of the Maltese Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA UfM), MP Glenn Bedingfield, addressed members of Parliament participating in the 14th Plenary Session of the PA UfM. The Plenary Session addressed the topic of counter terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Mr Bedingfield explained that Malta remains committed to its Mediterranean vocation and continues to actively promote the role of parliamentarians through various meetings and initiatives. He spoke on the number of international organizations present in Malta and highlighted that cooperation in similar fora such as the Union for the Mediterranean, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law provide the ideal viaduct for a fruitful exchange of ideas and best practices.

He noted that as legislators it is imperative to ensure that domestic legislation is in tune with international protocols and is well positioned to detect, prevent and counter terrorism within a human rights and rule of law framework. On this note, Mr Bedingfield highlighted that Malta remains committed to maintain a strong legal framework that secures national interests, but is also instrumental to promote and facilitate the exchange of intelligence and information with regional partners. The Passenger Name Record Directive, currently being debated in the House of Representatives, is in fact a clear example of a cooperative detection tool to counter terrorism.

Mr Bedingfield spoke on the role of parliamentary diplomacy to address counter terrorism and highlighted that Members of Parliament are instrumental to exchange best practices and ideas how to ensure regional security without negatively impinging on fundamental human rights and freedoms. Respect for the Rule of Law and Human Rights standards should be held at the forefront of every debate and proposed legislative framework.

Concluding, he highlighted that the region needs a coordinated and inclusive approach that transforms the region from a boiling caldron of inequalities, differences and injustice, into a kaleidoscopic sea of cultures, economic opportunities and vibrant social interactions at people to people level.

The Parliamentary Assembly - Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is an inter-parliamentary organisation bringing together the parliaments of the 28 European Union member states and of 15 countries from the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean. It provides a unique forum to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Attachments: none

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