



Press Release

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Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addresses the 3rd Summit of Speakers of Central and Eastern European Parliaments

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addressed the 3rd Summit of Speakers of Central and Eastern European Parliaments in the Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

Speaker Farrugia took the floor in Part II of the Summit under the heading, 'Parliaments in international politics' under the item 'Regional cooperation projects: the Parliamentary Assembly of Central and Eastern Europe'.

Speaker Farrugia said that while, "inter-parliamentary assemblies are crucial to promote an environment of mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace, regional parliamentary assemblies are even more important as they are more conscious to the daily challenges faced by countries in the region and are also in tune with opportunities and joint ventures in the economic, social, and cultural fields".

He elaborated on the role, structure, and activities of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) whose secretariat has been hosted in Malta since 2007 following a unanimous decision taken during its first meeting in Amman, Jordan (2006).

Speaker Farrugia noted that throughout the years PAM has been transformed into a centre of excellence for regional parliamentary diplomacy and a unique forum where members are represented and participate on equal footing. Other than its member states PAM has also a number of associate members and observers and has embarked on various initiatives including the PAM Prize and the commemoration of Mediterranean Day.

He augured that Central and Eastern European Parliaments continue in their efforts to establish an inter-parliamentary assembly to provide regional members of parliament a solid platform that promotes continuous communication, cooperation, and exchange of best practices for a fruitful and peaceful development of the region.

On the margins of the summit, the Speaker had a bilateral meeting with Talat Xhaferi, Speaker of the Assembly of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Both dignitaries spoke about issues of mutual interest particularly the importance of enhancing the parliamentary relationship between the two countries.

The 3rd Summit of Central and Eastern European Parliaments was also attended, *inter alia*, by the speakers of Albania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Serbia, Slovenia, and the FYRO Macedonia.