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# Press Release

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## **THE SPEAKER RECEIVES A COURTESY VISIT BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO**

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Anġlu Farrugia, this morning received a courtesy visit by Ms Bukurije Gjonbalaj, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo, who is based in Rome.

The two dignitaries reiterated that the political relations between Malta and Kosovo have been excellent since 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008, when Malta extended formal recognition to the Republic of Kosovo as an independent State, while diplomatic relations were established on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.

They discussed the present situation in Kosovo following the recent general elections which were held last June. The Ambassador explained that the Parliament of Kosovo was made up of 120 seats, but 10 seats were allocated for Serbs and another 10 for other minorities. The Speaker expressed Malta's encouragement to Kosovo to fulfil all its internal processes in order to secure the installation of the new Government.

The two sides mentioned the collaboration between Malta and Kosovo in the international fora such as the Council of Europe. They also discussed other issues of mutual interest, particularly bilateral co-operation at Parliamentary level.

The Ambassador was accompanied by Ms Gjenezja Budima, Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Rome.