



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Dutch ambassador pays courtesy visit to Speaker Farrugia

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Frederik Lammert Keurhorst paid a courtesy visit to Speaker Anġlu Farrugia.

Speaker Farrugia said that bilateral relations between Malta and the Kingdom of The Netherlands, which were established diplomatically in 1965, were excellent. He expressed gratitude to the government of the Netherlands for the relocation of a number of Sudanese asylum seekers following the *MV Lifeline* incident in the Mediterranean.

Speaker Farrugia mentioned the cooperation between the Maltese Parliament and the Dutch Senate and House of Representatives during the Parliamentary dimension of the Trio Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In particular, he recalled his visit to The Hague in June 2016 and the visit to Malta of the Speakers of the Staten-Generaal of The Netherlands, Ankie Broekers-Knol and Khadija Arib, which visit took place in June 2017.

Speaker Farrugia spoke about the experience of the Parliament when it moved to the new building, particularly initiatives that enhanced its visibility, such as TV broadcasts and online streaming of parliamentary debates.

Both sides discussed the political engagement of the citizens in the respective countries as well as the prospects for the future of the European Union in the light of prevailing issues such as Brexit and immigration. Both agreed that the EU is a complex project which requires all its members to work hard to survive and prosper.