



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

US ambassador pays farewell visit to the Speaker

Ambassador of the United States of America Ms G. Kathleen Hill has this afternoon paid a farewell visit to Speaker Anġlu Farrugia.

Speaker Farrugia said that bilateral relations between Malta and the United States have always been strong and friendly ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations on 21st September 1964. He noted that the US was the first country with which Malta established diplomatic relations upon gaining its independence.

The Speaker added that there are excellent relations between the Maltese Parliament and the US Congress, and elaborated on the work of the Parliamentary Intelligence Forum, led by the Chairperson of Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, in which Malta has been an active member in the past years.

Speaker Farrugia also spoke about the prevailing instability in Malta's neighbourhood, particularly in Libya, stating that the situation there is of grave concern not only to Europe but to the world. He added that the instability was contributing to illegal migration from the African continent to Europe, with billions of dollars being generated from human trafficking in the region, which is then laundered to enter legally in the financial system. Both sides agreed that finding a lasting solution will require hard work.

Both sides also agreed about the need to ensure that trade relations between the US and the EU be maintained and developed further.

Ambassador Hill was accompanied by Mr Mark A. Schapiro, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Malta.