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# Press Release

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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### ***Maltese Parliamentary delegation participates in the 10<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP 10)***

MPs Byron Camilleri and David Agius participated in the ASEP 10 which was held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 27-28 September 2018. ASEP is the parliamentary dimension of the Asia-Europe Meeting—it brings together parliamentarians from ASEM (the Asia-Europe Meeting) countries and the European Parliament and is normally held every two years. ASEP 10 focused on climate change and environmental challenges.

ASEP 10 was officially opened on Thursday morning with speeches from high-ranking dignitaries and parliamentarians from the parliaments of Mongolia, Bangladesh, and China, amongst others. This was followed by a plenary session on climate change and the challenge for multilateralism. In the afternoon, a session was dedicated to Asia and Europe facing climate change and increasing environmental challenges such as sustainable development and the circular economy; urban area management; water resources cooperation; waste treatment and plastic reduction; food security and clean technologies. Parliamentarians were split into three panels focused on the relationship between climate change and the environment and its impact on the economy, migration and security, respectively. The Maltese delegation participated in the first panel. Participants were given the opportunity to present their national situation, specific challenges and needs, and legislative and non-legislative actions taken recently in their respective parliaments to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

During the following day, the ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal was presented to parliamentarians by the Joint Research Centre and a debate ensued. Parliamentarians were then asked to report back on the thematic sessions held on the previous day.

The Maltese delegation also participated in the Preparatory and Drafting Committee meeting which was held before the official opening of ASEP 10. The aim was to finalise the final declaration of ASEP 10. The final declaration will be transmitted to the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit which will also take place in Brussels on 18-19 October 2018.