



Press Release

PR 162184

07.10.2016

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

The Speaker of the House of Representatives participates in the Bratislava Parliamentary Summit

During his address to the informal meeting of the Speakers of the EU Parliaments held in Bratislava earlier today, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malta Anglu Farrugia stated that the European Union is the driving force of the majority of economic activities in our respective countries, the main promoter of human rights, and the political machine of the continent. However, he enquired what Europe is doing to be closer to its citizens.

Speaker Anglu Farrugia continued by stating that when it comes to feeling European, the Union may be alienated and detached, as information campaigns and current programmes which aim at creating European citizens are mostly directed at specific target groups and lack a holistic approach. He added that the EU should start off by becoming more personal with its citizens, and gain trust across the board by being more available and more reachable.

“As Speakers, we must represent our Parliaments through setting the right example. We must feel European ourselves before leading our citizens to feel European themselves,” concluded the Speaker of the House of Representatives Farrugia.

Later the Presidents of the Slovakian, Maltese, and Estonian Parliaments addressed a press conference.

Farrugia stated that poverty and social exclusion will be amongst the topics to be dealt with during the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Though *Europe 2020* has given very evident priority to the issues of poverty and social exclusion, targets are still quite a long way off. Hence, due importance is to be given with the hope that people will have a better life in Europe in the years to come, concluded Speaker Farrugia.