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# Press Release

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**PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

*Speaker Farrugia receives Austrian Ambassador*

Speaker Anglu Farrugia received a courtesy visit from Mag. Andreas Stadler, the new Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Austria, who is based in Vienna.

Speaker Farrugia stated that bilateral relations between Malta and Austria, which were established diplomatically on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1966, were excellent, adding that these relations go back to the times of the Knights. He mentioned Bruno Kreisky and Heinz Fischer, former Federal Presidents of Austria, who had visited Malta in the past, and the concert by Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja in the Wiener Staatsoper. He also referred to the Maltese citizens living in Austria as well as to Austrian nationals employed in Malta.

Ambassador Stadler referred to the programme of the current Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which focuses on security and illegal migration, securing prosperity and competitiveness through digitalisation, and stability in the European neighbourhood. He noted that security was the main reason why the Austrian people opted for the present government.

The two dignitaries discussed issues of mutual interest, which included migration and Libya. Brexit and the forthcoming European Parliament elections also featured in the discussion.