



Press Release

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Delegation of the Maltese Parliament participates in Inter-Parliamentary Committee Meeting on European Cultural Heritage

A delegation of the Maltese Parliament, composed of MPs Alexander Muscat and Therese Comodini Cachia, attended an Inter-Parliamentary Committee Meeting on European Cultural Heritage, organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education. The meeting was held at the European Parliament, in Brussels, on 19-20 November.

On the first day, the meeting was divided into three parallel working sessions on culture and identity; preservation, conservation and restoration of cultural heritage; and cultural heritage and education. The Maltese delegation participated in the second and third sessions. On the second day, participants met in plenary. Each chairperson of the three sessions held on the previous day gave a summary of the main discussions. This was then followed by brief presentations by Parliamentarians who spoke about the situation in their respective countries and provided examples of national actions in relation to each of the three topics. This was then followed by a Q&A session.

Aside from Members of national Parliaments of the EU and of the European Parliament, several representatives of other EU Institutions, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, universities, and civil society, also took part in this ICM.

Throughout the meeting, there were a number of recurrent arguments, above all, making more use of European structural funds in order to protect cultural heritage, which is constantly under threat as a result of human induced actions and natural phenomena; cultural heritage is crucial for a community's sense of identity and belonging and it can bring different communities together and create more cohesion; the importance of raising awareness and focussing on cultural heritage in education and training across all levels, including to train top quality restorers; the place of ethics in this area and when renovation stops being conservation; the importance of increasing accessibility of renovated public buildings of cultural importance in order to 'bring' them closer to the people; and the importance of completing the legal framework, especially on the European level, and in strengthening national actions to prevent and fight the problem of illicit trafficking of cultural goods and urban development, among other difficult challenges.