



Press Release

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Delegation of the Maltese Parliament participates in inter-parliamentary committee meeting on human rights

Claudette Buttigieg attended an inter-parliamentary committee meeting on human rights and the external actions of the EU organised by the Sub-committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament. The meeting was held in the European Parliament, in Brussels, on 20 November.

This ICM was divided into the following sessions: mainstreaming human rights into external actions; business and human rights; and sustainable development and human rights. Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, was one of several dignitaries selected as panel speakers. He spoke very passionately about human dignity and the universal and indivisible applicability of human rights. He emphasised the multilateralism's commitment to human rights, which should be essentially about teaching and spreading love. Chinese dissident artist and human rights activist, Ai Weiwei, was also invited to give a keynote speech on sustainable development and human rights.

Buttigieg also participated in the high-level conference marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This week, the European Parliament is holding the Human Rights Week, from 19 to 23 November. The European Parliament's President Antonio Tajani and the Commission's Vice President and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini opened the HLC.

The HLC centred around two panel discussions: one on universality and indivisibility of human rights in today's global and digital world, and another on synergies in strengthening the global human rights architectures and mechanisms. The HLC brought together important dignitaries and human rights defenders, such as UN Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, the European Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly, and a Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court Fatou Bensouda, who spoke about human rights from their work's perspective, focussing not only on the most obvious examples of human rights violations, but also on other examples which are much less known.