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# Press Release

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

### *Speaker Farrugia intervenes during the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation*

Speaker Anglu Farrugia intervened during the 2018 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which is meeting in Geneva.

The participants of the conference were discussing the item on the Agenda 'WTO 2030?', mainly on new and disquieting developments (including emerging trade wars, the growing trend towards unilateral measures and the looming paralysis of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body), which are putting the multilateral rules-based system at risk. They enquired on what WTO they envisage for 2030, what are the solutions ahead, and what can parliamentarians do to bolster free and fair trade generally and in the WTO in particular.

During the debate, Speaker Farrugia said that he wanted to focus on more effective parliamentary cooperation within the WTO in sharing proper and effective challenges and in sharing legislation. He said that there should be more capacity building for family businesses or small and medium enterprises (SMEs), adding that most of the small countries and the small branches of the Commonwealth, Malta included, depend a lot on the economies of SMEs. He asked about having proper legislation to address family businesses succession as it is a challenging process that family businesses must continue having economic growth in the country. He also enquired whether it was high time that all parliamentarians of the members states of the WTO should have a stronger voice and put their house in order.