



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker of the House of Representatives addresses the European Summit of Presidents of Parliament in Strasbourg

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addressed those present at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, which is being held in Strasbourg today and tomorrow.

In his address, delivered under ‘Theme 1: “Our Common European Home”: the next 70 years’, Speaker Farrugia stated that, as Speaker of the Parliament of Malta and a citizen in his own right, he stands firm in the belief that parliaments are central for the protection of human rights in a democratic state. He said that the Parliament of Malta is in the process of establishing a Human Rights and Equality Commission, responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights, which will only be accountable to Parliament in order to perform its functions with impartiality and independence. He emphasised that parliaments are protectors of human rights by their very nature, as they work for the good of the people they represent. He said that the Maltese Parliament welcomes and supports all bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote democratic and rule-of-law structures and independent judicial systems worldwide.

In his concluding remarks, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia remarked that whilst the conference is marking the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe, it should be noted that it is the job of parliamentarians to break down barriers between conflicting parties, to lead the way through dialogue, and address uncomfortable issues in the hope of resolving deep-rooted and long-standing disputes.

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia was accompanied by Joseph A Filletti, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe.