



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Deputy Speaker receives Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress

Deputy Speaker Claudette Buttigieg received a courtesy visit by a delegation from the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress, led by its Vice-Chairman Ye Zhuang.

Deputy Speaker Buttigieg recalled the excellent relations existing between Malta and the People's Republic of China, which relations were established diplomatically in January 1972 and which are manifested in several agreements and MoUs. She referred to the courtesy visits by various Chinese Parliamentary delegations and the high-level visits by Prime Minister Muscat and Ministers Carmelo Abela, Edward Scicluna, and Owen Bonnici.

Deputy Speaker Buttigieg mentioned the good number of Chinese who are employed in Malta, the Chinese students who graduated from University courses at MEDAC and IMLI, as well as the Maltese residing in China, mainly in Beijing and Hong Kong. She highlighted the importance of cultural relations, the twinning between Santa Luċija and Jin Chang, and the people-to-people contact. She also made reference to EU-China relations, particularly the 21st EU-China Summit held last April.

Mr Ye Zhuang concurred with the Deputy Speaker regarding the long stable relations between the two countries, which though far away, have many similarities. He expanded on the importance of the Province of Sichuan and mentioned the assistance donated by Malta to his province following the 2008 earthquake. He said that his delegation was in Malta to promote further cultural relations and exchanges at Parliamentary level. He expressed his hope that people from his Province visit Malta and that Maltese people reciprocate by visiting Sichuan.

Deputy Speaker Buttigieg was accompanied by Mr Ray Scicluna, Clerk of the House, Mr Ancel Farrugia Migneco, Private Secretary to the Speaker, Miss Eleanor Scerri, Director International Relations, and Mr Giovanni Miceli, Adviser International Relations.

Mr YE Zhuang, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress, was accompanied by Ms Lv Hua, Deputy Secretary General and Director of the General Office, Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress; Ms Wang Qiong, Deputy Director of Sichuan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism; Ms Tang Jilan, Executive Vice President of Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and Mr Dong Guohua, Staff of Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Mr Reno Calleja, President of the Malta-China Friendship Society, and Ms Wang Zhaofeng, Counsellor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malta were also present.

Attachments: photos

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