



# Press Release

---

PR201559

17.08.2020

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

### *Mr Speaker meets outgoing and incoming US Chargé d'Affaires*

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a farewell call by Mr Mark A. Shapiro, US Chargé d'Affaires a.i., and a courtesy visit by Ms Gwendolyn Green, the new US Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Speaker Farrugia expressed his gratitude to Mr Shapiro for his hard work during his posting in Malta, which enhanced the relations between the two countries, and welcomed Ms Green, who is assuming the duties as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Malta. He highlighted the strong and cordial bilateral relations between Malta and the USA, which existed even before diplomatic relations were established on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1964.

Speaker Farrugia noted that the Maltese diaspora in the USA amounts to around a quarter of a million persons, which is the third largest Maltese community in the world. He recalled his participation in the meetings of the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum, organised regularly by Mr Robert Pittinger, Chairman of the Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare.

The dignitaries discussed various topics of mutual interest, such as the situation in Libya and Belarus, Partnership for Peace, migration, security in Europe (particularly in the Mediterranean), civil society, the participation of women and youths in politics as well as COVID-19.

The relations between the European Union and the United States of America also featured in the discussion.

Mr Shapiro and Ms Green were accompanied by Ms Marji Christian, Political-Economic Officer at the USA Embassy.