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

### ***Speaker Farrugia receives courtesy visit from Russian Ambassador***

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit from Andrey Georgievich Lopukhov, the new Ambassador of the Russian Federation.

Speaker Farrugia welcomed Ambassador Lopukhov and referred to the long-standing relations that exist between Malta and Russia, having been established diplomatically on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1967. These relations were strengthened through high-level meetings, the most recent being that held in May last year between the Russian Foreign Minister Sergeĭ Viktorovich Lavrov and the Maltese Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo.

Speaker Farrugia recalled his visits to St Petersburg in October 2017 (IPU Assembly) and to Moscow in July 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum ‘Development of Parliamentarism’).

The Russia-US high-level talks held in Geneva yesterday, Malta’s candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council, and cooperation at Parliamentary level also featured in the discussion between the two dignitaries.

Andrey Georgievich Lopukhov was accompanied by Mr. Aleksei Dedenkulov, Deputy Head of Mission.