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3



PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Deputy Speaker Agius receives the new Ambassador of the Republic of Panama

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives David Agius received a courtesy visit from Ms Ana María Reyes Castillo, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Panama.

Deputy Speaker Agius welcomed Reyes Castillo and said that diplomatic relations between Malta and Panama were established in January 1976. He noted that bilateral contact was very limited and hence he exhorted the Ambassador to explore new areas for further bilateral cooperation.

Ambassador Reyes Castillo said that the Panamanian Parliament was interested in strengthening relations with the European Parliament and suggested that the Maltese Parliament could act as a bridge in this regard.

Deputy Speaker Agius and Ambassador Reyes Castillo discussed various issues of mutual interest, including Oceans and the desalination of sea water into potable water, the study of English by Panamanian students, as well as migration, with the Ambassador saying that this was a regional problem, adding that in 2021 Panama had over 200,000 migrants, mainly from Haiti.

The two dignitaries spoke about the reciprocity arrangement between Malta and Panama with regard to Malta's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2023-24 and the proposed reciprocity arrangement concerning Malta's candidature for re-election to the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea.

Ambassador Ana María Reyes Castillo was accompanied by Mr Wilson Dawson Ibérico, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Panama in Rome.