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

### ***Speaker Farrugia receives farewell call from the Slovenian Ambassador***

Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Anġlu Farrugia, has received a farewell visit by the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, Tomaž Kunstelj, whose term of office is coming to an end.

Speaker Farrugia expressed his appreciation for Ambassador Kunstelj's hard work during his tenure of office whereby the excellent relations existing between Malta and Slovenia have been enhanced, which relations had been established in July 1992.

Speaker Farrugia referred to his visit to Slovenia last March when he participated in the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, which took place in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia. He noted that nine known Maltese reside in Slovenia, whereas 147 Slovenes work in Malta.

Ambassador Kunstelj mentioned the regular meetings between the respective Foreign Ministers and the importance of both Malta and Slovenia forming part of the Med-7 which has now become Med-9. He informed that Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia, will be participating in the Arraiolos meeting, which is being organised by the President of Malta in October 2022.

The two dignitaries discussed issues of mutual interest, particularly cooperation at Parliamentary level through the formation of a Parliamentary Friendship Group. The significant economic growth of Slovenia as well as the war in Ukraine, with its effect on energy and food security, also featured in the discussion.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia was accompanied by Mr Gregor Frank, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Rome.