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

*Speaker Farrugia receives courtesy call from USA Ambassador Milstein*

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anglu Farrugia received a courtesy call from Ms Constance Milstein, the new ambassador of the United States of America.

Speaker Farrugia welcomed Ambassador Milstein and referred to the very strong and cordial bilateral relations between Malta and the USA, which relations had existed even before diplomatic relations were established on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1964.

Speaker Farrugia highlighted the Maltese diaspora in the USA, which is the third largest Maltese community in the world following Australia and Canada, amounting to around a quarter of a million. He also mentioned the Malta-North America Business Council Meeting – which is being organised by the Maltese Embassy in Washington and which is scheduled to meet on 15th November 2022 – and referred to his interventions in the IPU Assembly and the Conference of Speakers of the EU – namely, to collectively encourage all parliamentary efforts to explore all possible avenues, on a parliamentary dimension, with both Russia and Ukraine, which would lead to a peaceful solution.

Speaker Farrugia and Ambassador Milstein discussed various topics of mutual interest, including the Russian war against Ukraine and the energy and food crises.

Ms Constance Milstein, Ambassador of the United States of America, was accompanied by Ms Gwendolyn Green, Deputy Head of Mission.