



PR221472

28.10.2022

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

***Speaker Farrugia receives the new Moroccan Ambassador***

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit from Mr Youssef Balla, the new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Malta.

Speaker Farrugia welcomed Ambassador Balla and referred to the positive relations that exist between Malta and Morocco, established diplomatically on 18 December 1974. He said that these relations were further enhanced with the opening of a Maltese Consulate in Casablanca. He noted the good number of Moroccans, who have a valid resident card in Malta. He highlighted the group of Maltese companies, operating in Morocco. He referred to his intervention in the IPU Assembly in Bali, Indonesia, namely to collectively encourage all Parliamentary efforts to explore all possible avenues, on a Parliamentary dimension, with both Russia and Ukraine, to seek a peaceful solution.

Speaker Farrugia and Ambassador Balla discussed issues of mutual interest, including Parliamentary relations, which could be strengthened through the holding of a Forum of Parliamentarians from the two countries.

Youssef Balla, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, was accompanied by Mr Mohamed Latoubi, Embassy's Interpreter.