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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia participates in the launching of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On Thursday January 26th, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia joined his European counterparts to digitally participate in the launching of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. This initial event will be followed by other opportunities for speakers of the EU to discuss and exchange views on matters related to parliaments.

In his intervention, the Speaker thanked his Swedish counterpart for the opportunity to discuss the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency and welcomed the focused and timely set of priorities, which include security and unity; competitiveness; green and energy transition; and democratic value and the rule of law. Dr Farrugia recalled Malta's election to serve for its second term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2023-2024. Malta's priorities during its tenure on the UNSC are similar to those set out by the Swedish Presidency. The priorities are based on the three Ss: sustainability, security, and solidarity. Thematic priority areas have also been identified, which are: Children in Armed Conflict; Climate and Oceans; Women, Peace and Security and Literacy.

Mr Speaker also noted that Sweden will be taking over the reins of the Presidency at a time when Europe and the world are facing difficult challenges. He cited the situation in Ukraine, the energy crunch, which is a combination of geopolitics, economics, and production, the spectre of inflation and its repercussions on the poverty base, and the management of water resources. Despite these challenges and external predictions, Dr Farrugia stated that he is convinced that the EU will remain solid and unified on its agenda to improve peace and security for European citizens and beyond.

Mr Speaker wished the collective efforts of the Swedish authorities the very best on their six-month journey as President of the Council of the European Union.