



PR230416

21.03.2023

1



PRESS RELEASE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members of the Malta-Ireland Parliamentary Friendship Group hold official meeting

The Ceann Comhairle, Speaker of the Parliament of Ireland, Seán Ó Feargháil, together with his delegation, met with the Malta-Ireland Parliamentary Friendship Group on Monday afternoon at the House of Representatives. The members present discussed issues of mutual interest for both countries and initiatives necessary to enhance bilateral relations.

The dignitaries referred to past occasions where the parliamentary friendship group was invited to Ireland in 2022, and expressed that over a number of short meetings, the same moral and democratic values are shared between the two countries. They also expressed the importance of cooperation among small countries such as Malta and Ireland.

The members from the Maltese parliamentary friendship group opened the discussion by sharing good practices and initiatives with regard to climate change. They referred to the Green Agenda, whereby, in the Irish setting, wind farms are the main form of transforming energy. Other forms of energy initiatives organised by both parliaments include initiatives to encourage MPs and members of staff to shift to electric vehicles and shift from printed materials to online or electronic cloud sources. The respective members also discussed the importance of the use of parliamentary diplomacy to overcome challenges, both in the climate change arena and in international security, as well as other issues that need to be addressed.

The Maltese side was represented by MPs Carmelo Abela, Graham Bencini, Robert Cutajar, and Randolph De Battista. The Irish side was represented by Senator Rónán Mullen, Deputy Kathleen Funchion, TD and Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan, TD. The delegation was also accompanied by Ms Jill Gray, personal secretary to the Ceann Comhairle and Ms Eileen Lawlor from the Interparliamentary Unit of the Irish Parliament. Ms Caroline Whelan, Ambassador of Ireland to Malta, was also present.