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

***Meeting between the Speaker and the Special Envoy of the President of Azerbaijan***

This morning Speaker of the House of Representatives Anglu Farrugia met with the Special Envoy of the President of Azerbaijan, Elchin Amirbayov.

During the meeting both dignitaries noted the excellent bilateral relations that exist between Malta and Azerbaijan, and remarked that, amongst others, these could be further deepened by enhancing the trade relations between the two countries. Speaker Farrugia also noted that relations with Azerbaijan were strong at Parliamentary level in inter-parliamentary fora such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe.

The Special Envoy described the humanitarian situation which persists on the ground in spite of the end of the conflict in 2020 in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and recognised the contribution that the EU and other international actors were making towards providing aid in the region, and called for Malta's support including as EU and UN Security Council members.

Speaker Farrugia emphasised Malta's unwavering commitment to peace and expressed his belief that Parliamentary diplomacy and other forms of dialogue should be the only means to achieve peace.