GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

PRESS RELEASE

PR262021en	26.11.2026	2

PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

The Mediterranean Tourism Foundation meets the Speaker of the House of Representatives Carmelo Abela

A delegation from the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation (MTF), led by its President and President of the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association (MHRA), Tony Zahra, together with Andrew Agius Muscat, met with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Carmelo Abela, as part of the institutional engagements associated with the 11th edition of the Mediterranean Tourism Forum 2026.

The meeting was also attended by several MTF Senators, distinguished figures from various countries and professional backgrounds, including tourism, academia, public policy, business, culture and international development.

Discussions focused on the importance of tourism as a driver of international cooperation, cultural dialogue and sustainable development, as well as a means of strengthening relations between Mediterranean countries and beyond.

The Speaker highlighted the importance of peace and stability in the region to ensure the continued growth of tourism across the Mediterranean. He noted that the region attracts an estimated one-third of global tourist arrivals.

He also stressed the need to view the Mediterranean Sea as a sea that unites rather than divides. Tourism, he said, is one of the most powerful tools for bringing people and cultures together.

While Mediterranean countries compete to attract visitors to their respective destinations, Abela emphasised that cooperation and joint efforts remain essential, particularly in maintaining regional stability and developing a shared vision for the future.

The delegation also outlined the work and vision of the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation, an organisation established in Malta at the initiative of the MHRA. The Foundation aims to provide an international platform for cooperation, knowledge exchange and the promotion of tourism as a catalyst for economic and social development, mutual understanding between peoples and peace.

Its vision extends beyond the hotel and restaurant industry to encompass historical heritage, culture, gastronomy, investment, innovation and, above all, the well-being of communities.

MTF and MHRA President Tony Zahra underlined the importance of Malta continuing to strengthen its role as an international platform for Mediterranean dialogue and cooperation. He also acknowledged the vital role of national institutions in supporting initiatives that bring together culture, tourism and sustainable development.

The Mediterranean Tourism Foundation remains committed to building bridges between institutions, communities and countries, while positioning Malta at the heart of international discussions on a more responsible, inclusive and sustainable future for tourism.