

Nr 5

Ġunju 2014
June 2014



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

mill-PARLAMENT

Perjodiku maħruġ mill-Uffiċċju tal-iSpeaker

Periodical issued by the Office of the Speaker





Waħda mill-kmamar tal-Kumitati tal-Parlament. Din il-Kamra kienet is-servi oriġinarjament bħala l-Kamra tas-Sodda tal-Gran Mastru u tagħti għal dik li kienet il-Kappella privata tal-Gran Mastru. Maż-żomien din il-Kamra ntuzat ukoll bħala ufficcju tal-Gvernatur u aktar tard bħala ufficcju tal-President ta' Malta.

One of the parliamentary committee rooms. This room served originally as the Grand Master's bedroom and is interconnected to the Grand Master's private chapel. Over the years the room served also as the Office of the Governor and later as the office of the President of Malta.

Harġa Nru 5/Issue No. 5
Ġunju 2014/June 2014

Ippubblikat mill-Ufficcju tal-iSpeaker
Published by the Office of the Speaker

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ISSN 2308-6637

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Qoxra: Hatra tas-Sinjura Marie Louise Coleiro Preca bħala President tar-Repubblika ta' Malta

Cover: Appointment of Ms Marie Louise Coleiro Preca as President of the Republic of Malta

Ritratti/Photos:
Parlament ta' Malta/DOI

Din il-pubblikazzjoni waslet issa fil-ħames ħarġa tagħha, ħarġa li tkopri l-perijodu bejn April u Ġunju ta' din is-sena.

Kif se jkollkom l-opportunità li taqraw f'din il-ħarġa, kienu fil-fatt tliet xhur impenjattivi ħafna għall-Kamra.

F'April seħħ tibdil fil-kompożizzjoni tal-Kamra li beda bir-riżenja tas-Sinjura Marie Louise Coleiro Preca minn Membru Parlamentari, sabiex tkun tista' taċċetta n-nomina ta' President ta' Malta. L-ċerimonja uffiċjali tal-ġurament inżammet bħala seduta speċjali tal-Kamra li saret fis-Sala tat-Tron fil-Palazz. Il-post battal li rriżulta fis-Sitt Distrett imtela min-Nutar Charles Mangion.

Fl-aħħar tliet xhur il-Parlament kellu wkoll numru ta' materji importanti fuq l-aġenda tiegħu:

- Fl-14 ta' April il-Kamra approvat it-Tielet Qari tal-abbozz ta' liġi dwar l-Unjonijiet Ċivili, li għied attenzjoni konsiderevoli mill-pubbliku u mill-midja;
- Fid-19 ta' Mejju l-Kamra approvat unanimament l-Ewwel Qari ta' abbozz ta' liġi dwar l-Istandards fil-Ħajja Pubblika, imressaq mill-Viċi Prim Ministru l-Onor. Louis Grech u ssekondat mill-Onor. Francis Zammit Dimech min-naħa tal-Oppożizzjoni. L-abbozz kien ippreparat mill-Kumitat Magħżul dwar l-istandards, l-etika u l-imġiba xierqa fil-ħajja pubblika u tressaq fil-Kamra fit-23 ta' Marzu ta' din is-sena; u
- Fl-20 ta' Mejju ressaqt rapport u abbozz ta' liġi imħejjija minn kummissjoni interna dwar l-awtonomija amministrattiva tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, ippreseduta minni. Il-pass li jmiss huwa li dan ir-rapport jiġi kkunsidrat mill-Kumitat dwar ix-Xogħol tal-Kamra.

F'Ġunju l-Parlament fakkar ukoll avvenimenti li kienu kruċjali fl-iżvilupp tad-demokrazija parlamentari ta' Malta, l-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919.

Kif se jkollkom l-opportunità li taqraw ukoll f'din il-ħarġa, il-Kamra kienet involuta f'numru kbir ta' attivitajiet fl-aħħar tliet xhur.

Din se tkun l-aħħar ħarġa qabel il-vaganzi tas-sajf, li matulhom hija ppjanata l-migrazzjoni tal-Parlament għall-bini ġdid tiegħu fid-daħla tal-Belt Valletta. Jekk kollox imur kif ippjanat, din se tkun l-aħħar ħarġa ta' dan ir-rivista mis-sede oriġinali tal-Assemblea Leġislattiva sa mill-bidu tagħha fl-1921.

Anglu Farrugia

This publication is now in its fifth issue, covering the period between April and June of this year.

As you will have the opportunity to read in this issue, it has indeed been a very busy three months for the House.

April saw changes in the composition of the House triggered by the resignation from a Member of Parliament of Ms Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, in order to accept the nomination as President of Malta. The official swearing-in ceremony took place as a special sitting of the House held in the Throne Room of the Palace. The resulting vacancy on the Sixth District was filled by Notary Charles Mangion.

In the past three months Parliament also had a number of important items on its agenda:

- On 14 April the House approved the Third Reading of the bill on Civil Unions, which bill attracted considerable public and media attention;
- On 19 May the House unanimously approved the First Reading of a bill on Standards in Public Life, moved by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Louis Grech and seconded by Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech from the Opposition side. The bill was prepared by the Select Committee on standards, ethics and proper behaviour in public life and tabled in the House on 23 March of this year; and
- On 20 May I tabled a report and a bill, prepared by an internal commission which I chaired, on the administrative autonomy of the House of Representatives. The next step is for this report to be considered by the House Business Committee.

In June Parliament also commemorated events which were crucial in the development of Malta's parliamentary democracy, the Sette Giugno uprisings of 7 June 1919.

As you will also have the opportunity to read in this issue, the House was involved in a great number of activities in the past three months.

This will be the last issue before the summer recess, during which the migration of Parliament to its new building at the entrance of Valletta is scheduled. If all goes as planned, this will be the last issue of this periodical to be issued from the place which has housed Malta's legislative institution since its beginning in 1921, then the Legislative Assembly.

Anglu Farrugia

DISKORS MILL-ISPEAKER FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO

Prim Ministru, Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Presidenti Emeriti, Speakers Emeriti, Onorevoli Membri, Onorevoli Membri Anzjani, Eċċellenzi, mistiedna distinti.

Bħal kull sena niltaqgħu hawnhekk biex nicċelebraw il-jum tas-Sette Giugno, jum speċjali għalina lkoll li storikament baqa' mnaqqax – u għandu jibqa' hekk imnaqqax – fil-memorja ta' pajjiżna. Jum li jfakkar meta fl-1919 il-poplu Malti u Għawdxi, mingħajr xkiel tal-inqas vuċi waħda, wera għaqda nazzjonali u mexxa l-glieda għad-drittijiet tiegħu bħala nazzjon Malti.

Huwa dejjem interessanti li wieħed jidhrol aktar fil-fond f'dak li gara f'dawk iż-żminijiet. F'dak il-jum li nqalgħu l-irvellijiet għewwa l-Belt Valletta, jidher li kien hemm grupp ta' sostenituri tal-politiku Manwel Dimech li mill-bidu nett kien imexxi b'ċertu qawwa l-ideal ta' nazzjon indipendenti b'rajh f'idejeh, u dan speċjalment biex setgħu jigu megħjuna dawk li kienu mingħajr drittijiet, bla edukazzjoni u bla xogħol.

F'dak iż-żmien tal-ġrajja tas-Sette Giugno tal-1919 Manwel Dimech kien diġà ġie eżiljat mill-Ingliżi. Huwa kien l-uniku Malti eżiljat mill-Ingliżi matul l-ewwel gwerra dinjija u kien qiegħed jinżamm f'kamp ta' koncentrament f'Sidi Bishr f'Lixandra, l-Eġittu. Hemmhekk huwa kien jithalla jiffaccja ċirkostanzi ebsin ħafna għal saħħtu, anke f'dak li kien jingħata bħala ikel. Fil-fatt saħħtu tant marret lura li f'Novembru tal-1920 spicċa pparalizzat wara li tatu puplesija u kellu jiġi trasferit għall-Kulleġġ ta' Victoria li kien jinsab ukoll f'Sidi Bishr f'Lixandra.

“Jum li jfakkar meta fl-1919 il-poplu Malti u Għawdxi, mingħajr xkiel tal-inqas vuċi waħda, wera għaqda nazzjonali u mexxa l-glieda għad-drittijiet tiegħu bħala nazzjon Malti.”

Fil-frattemp kemm il-Maltin f'Malta kif ukoll il-Maltin li kienu jgħixu f'Lixandra, filwaqt li kienu qed iħossu t-tbatijiet ta' din il-persuna kienu wkoll iħossu l-problemi li kien għaddej minnhom pajjiżna. Kienu qed jaraw lill-Maltin jigu umiljati, anke bil-mod kif kienu qed jigu ttrattati mill-Ingliżi dak iż-żmien. Fil-fatt, wara li seħħew l-irvellijiet, proprju waqt is-seduta tal-Parlament tal-5 ta' Lulju 1919, il-Membru Parlamentari Salvatore Zammit, waqt li kien qed jitlob biex issir inkjesta dwar x'wassal għall-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno, kien qal hekk, u nikkwota:

“... l'irritazione diventava protesta, la quale degenerò in sommossa. Il torto non è nostro. Lo avevo già prima attirato l'attenzione del governo sul malcontento generale, prodotto dagli abusi dell'amministrazione.”

Aktar tard, wara li kien hemm domanda tal-Lieutenant Governor ta' dak iż-żmien, l-istess Membru Parlamentari – din id-darba kien qed jitkellem bl-Ingliż – qal hekk:

“I'm drawing the attention of the Council to my speech delivered in connexion with Dr Pullicino's Resolution for an enquiry. I was simply saying that if unhappily the riots took place it was not due to the will of the population itself but to a disease in which the population found itself entangled and, through the disease, vermin of course cropped up. The uneasiness felt by the population was not the fault of the population itself; it was perhaps also due to the answer given to me in this Council on the 10th May when I asked the government to institute an enquiry about the excessive profits made by some people on the

sale of potatoes, and the Lieutenant General in reply to my question had said: “The Government is satisfied with the measures taken by the Control Board to prevent excessive profits.” If the population was feeling, even wrongly, that excessive profits had been made, and the Government was sure that the Control Board were doing their duty, there was no reason why the Government should not have acceded to my simple request for an enquiry, and so on.”

Johroġ biċ-ċar li kien hemm diżgwid bejn il-Membri tal-Kunsill Legiżlattiv ta' dak iż-żmien dwar x'kien eżatt li wassal għar-rewwixti li saru fis-Sette Giugno.

Kien hemm diversi raġunijiet għaliex il-poplu kien imdejjaq. Ewlenija fosthom kien hemm il-kwestjoni tal-identità Maltija u dan għaliex il-Maltin dejjem riedu li jkun protett dak li huwa tagħhom. Kien hemm rabja kbira għall-fatt li l-ilsien Malti ma kienx aċċettat u onorat mill-istituzzjonijiet kollha tal-pajjiż. Dan narawh jiġri fis-seduta parlamentari li saret aktar minn sena wara r-rewwixti tas-Sette Giugno, proprju fit-12 ta' Ġunju tal-1920, meta l-Gvernatur ta' dak iż-żmien, Field Marshal Lord Plumer, kien ipprezenta l-Legal Instruments biex tiġi stabbilita l-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta, dik li wara saret magħrufa bħala l-Amery-Milner Constitution tal-1921. F'paragrafu 15 ta' dan id-dokument kien hemm miktub hekk, u nikkwota:

“The question of the use of Maltese in the Legislature has been carefully considered, and I am of opinion that while every member of the Legislature may be presumed to understand and read either English or Italian, there is no reason for precluding such members as can only express their views with fluency and ease in the vernacular from using it in debate, especially as their fellow members would also understand them, provided, however, that the record of their speeches should be kept, not in Maltese but in English or Italian.”

Dan ifisser li minkejja li saru dawk id-dimostrazzjonijiet, minkejja dak kollu li seħħ fis-Sette Giugno, sena wara xorta kien għad hemm tentattiv kostituzzjonali biex ma jiġix rispettati l-ilsien Malti. Din kienet waħda mir-raġunijiet għalfejn id-Dimechiani, kif kienu jsejħu lilhom infushom, kienu rrabjati; għaliex filwaqt li l-mexxej tagħhom kien fl-eżilju f'Lixandra u kien jinsab fi stat ħażin ta' saħħa, huma ma kienu irnexxielhom jipperswadu lill-awtoritajiet Ingliżi, inkluż il-Maltin li dak iż-żmien kienu fil-Kunsill Legiżlattiv, biex jagħtu aktar saħħa lill-ilsien Malti.

Manwel Dimech miet fis-17 ta' April 1921 u ndifen mingħajr ebda ċerimonji f'qabar li sal-lum għad hadd ma jaf fejn qiegħed, xi mkien f'Lixandra stess qrib Victoria College. Sentejn wara r-rewwixti li saru f'Malta fis-Sette Giugno, preċizament f'Ġunju 1921, jidher li f'Lixandra kienu għaddejjin rewwixti oħrajn li fihom kienu involuti anke xi Maltin. Dan johroġ minn domandi li saru fil-Parlament Malti stess. F'domanda li kienet saret lill-Gvernatur ta' dak iż-żmien fis-seduta parlamentari tal-11 ta' Ġunju 1921, l-Onorevoli Nerik Mizzi kien staqsa hekk:

“Domando se e quali passi a preso il Governo per assicurare la tutela della vita e della proprietà dei Maltesi residenti in Alessandria d'Egitto e se e quali notizie interessanti i Maltesi può dare sull'ultimo grave sommossa egiziana, indicando possibilmente i nomi dei Maltesi morti, feriti o danneggiati, e il valore approssimativo dei danni recati alla proprietà della Colonia Maltese.”

DISKORS MILL-ISPEAKER FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

Il-Gvernatur kien wieġeb hekk:

"Maltese and other British subjects resident in Egypt are under the protection of the British Authorities in that country. Enquiry has been made by telegraph whether any Maltese have been injured in the recent riots, and in the affirmative, the High Commissioner has been asked to communicate names and details."

Minn dan joħroġ li wara r-rewwixti li kienu nqalgħu f'Liandra, fejn kienu involuti wkoll xi Maltin, l-Onorevoli Nerik Mizzi, li ċertament ma kellu l-ebda rabta mal-ideal ta' Manwel Dimech ta' dak iż-żmien, xorta ha interess f'dak li seta' ġara lill-Maltin ta' dak il-post, li wħud minnhom kienu jsegwu lil Manwel Dimech. Mhijiex eskluża l-possibbiltà li l-Maltin ta' Liandra setgħu kienu qegħdin jipprotestaw kontra l-Ingliżi dwar il-mod kif kien qed jiġi ttrattat Manwel Dimech fl-eżilju, kif ukoll dwar il-kondizzjonijiet ta' huthom f'Malta.

Illum nistgħu ngħidu li t-triq kienet twila imma mxejna ħafna. Il-poplu Malti sar aktar sovrani, ra lil pajjiżu jakkwista l-Indipendenza, jadotta Kostituzzjoni Repubblikana, iġib fi tmiemha l-preżenza tal-bażijiet militari f'pajjiżna u jikseb il-Ħelsien u mbagħad jaqbad il-mixja lejn sħubija fl-Unjoni Ewropea, tant li din is-sena fakkarna l-ġħaxar anniversarju ta' din l-istess sħubija. Issa jidher li mxejna pass ieħor 'il quddiem biex tingħata widien l-ġħajta kbira li ilha tinħass, li l-Parlament, l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż, ikun imsaħħaħ b'dawk l-ġħodod li filwaqt li jippermettulu li jkun iktar awtonomu, jagħmlu aktar miftuħ għall-iskrutinju tal-poplu.

Minn hawnhekk irrid niringrazzja kemm lill-Gvern kif ukoll lill-Oppożizzjoni għax-xogħol kollu li twettaq matul din is-sena f'din il-linja ta' ħsieb u nibda billi nsemmi l-Kumitat Magħżul tal-Kamra li twaqqaf fis-16 ta' Ottubru 2013 bl-inkarigu li jhejji rapport dwar it-twaqqif ta' Uffiċċju tal-Kummissarju u ta' Kumitat Permanenti tal-Kamra dwar l-istandards, l-etika u l-imġiba xierqa fil-ħajja pubblika. Dan il-Kumitat Magħżul twaqqaf wara li l-Kamra, b'mod unanimu, adottat ir-riżoluzzjoni numru 77, li kienet tressqet mid-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għall-Affarijiet Ewropej u Twettiq tal-Manifest Elettorali, l-Onorevoli Louis Grech u wara li l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, l-Onor. Simon Busuttil, kien ukoll ippreżenta mozzjoni fuq l-istess linja ta' ħsieb ftit ta' żmien qabel lill-Ispeaker.

Fis-16 ta' Diċembru 2013 dan l-istess Kumitat Magħżul, li kien ippresedut minni bħala Speaker tal-Kamra u magħmul mill-Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin l-Onorevoli George Vella u s-Segretarju Parlamentari għad-Drittijiet ta' Persuni b'Diżabilità u Anzjanità Attiva l-Onorevoli Justyne Caruana għan-naħa tal-Gvern, u l-Onorevoli Francis Zammit Dimech u l-Onorevoli Ryan Callus għan-naħa tal-Oppożizzjoni, ippreżenta rapport interim flimkien ma' Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar l-istandards fil-ħajja Pubblika li kien jirrifletti numru ta' rakkomandazzjonijiet li ntlahaq qbil dwarhom fil-Kumitat. L-istess dokument stieden lil kull membru parlamentari kif ukoll lis-socjetà civili biex jgħaddu r-rimarki tagħhom fuq l-istess Abbozz ta' Liġi. Sussegwentement dan il-Kumitat reġa' ltaqa' u bil-kontribut tal-istess Membri, tal-Uffiċċju tiegħi u dak tal-Avukat Ġenerali thejja rapport u Abbozz ta' Liġi aġġornat li kien ippreżentat lill-Kamra fl-24 ta' Marzu 2014. Għandi pjaċir ngħid li l-Ewwel Qari ta' dan l-istess Abbozz għadda mill-Kamra b'mod unanimu fl-20 ta' Mejju 2014 wara li ġie mressaq mid-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għall-Affarijiet Ewropej u Twettiq tal-Manifest Elettorali, l-Onorevoli Louis Grech u ssekondat mill-Onorevoli Francis Zammit Dimech.

Dan huwa pass kbir 'il quddiem fid-direzzjoni lejn it-tiħiħ tal-Parlament għaliex permezz tal-ħatra ta' Kummissarju u t-twaqqif ta' Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-istandards, kull parlamentari se jkun aktar kontabbli fil-qadi tad-dmirijiet tiegħu fil-ħajja pubblika. Dan għaliex skont kif qed jiġi propost fl-istess Abbozz ta' Liġi, kull nuqqas jew ksur ta' dawk l-obbligi li jemanaw minn kodiċi ta' etika, ikun sugġett għal investigazzjoni minn Kummissarju indipendenti u minn Kumitat Permanenti magħmul minn żewġ Membri minn kull naħa tal-Kamra. Il-fatt li l-Parlament Malti issa għandu quddiemu għad-diskussjoni dan l-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar l-istandards fil-ħajja Pubblika għandu jitqies bħala pass kbir 'il quddiem għal din l-istituzzjoni. Issa nawgura li dan l-Abbozz ta' Liġi jiġi kkonsidrat u mgħoddi mill-Kamra kemm jista' jkun malajr.

Kif semmejt aktar kmieni, pass importanti ieħor lejn it-tiħiħ tal-Parlament Malti huwa dak li jirrigwarda l-awtonomija amministrattiva ta' din l-istituzzjoni b'tali mod li tkun ħielsa minn kull influwenza tal-Eżekuttiv, l-istess Eżekuttiv li hija fl-obbligu li teżamina. Huwa essenzjali li l-Parlament ikollu din l-indipendenza totali u assoluta fit-tmexxija tal-ħteġijiet tiegħu għaliex fil-prattika dan isarraf f'servizzi aħjar lill-istess Membri tal-Kamra biex min-naħa tagħhom ikunu jistgħu jaqdu daqstant ieħor aħjar il-funzjonijiet rappreżentattivi tagħhom f'din l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż. Is-sena l-oħra fid-diskors tiegħi tas-Sette Giugno kont għedt, u nikkwota:

"Fi kliem ieħor il-Parlament irid ikollu s-setgħa li mingħajr xkiel ihejji l-estimi finanzjarji tiegħu stess u jamministra r-riżorsi tiegħu b'mod ħieles u distint minn kull tip ta' influwenza tal-Eżekuttiv."

"... pass importanti ieħor lejn it-tiħiħ tal-Parlament Malti huwa dak li jirrigwarda l-awtonomija amministrattiva ta' din l-istituzzjoni b'tali mod li tkun ħielsa minn kull influwenza tal-Eżekuttiv, l-istess Eżekuttiv li hija fl-obbligu li teżamina."

Għandi l-pjaċir inħabbar li fil-21 ta' Mejju 2014, proprju l-ġħada li tressaq u ġie approvat l-Ewwel Qari tal-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar l-istandards fil-ħajja Pubblika, is-Sedja poggiet fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra rapport dwar din il-materja li ġie mhejji minn Kummissjoni interna li ħtart jien fis-16 ta' April ta' din is-sena. Flimkien

ma' dan ir-rapport ġie mqiegħed ukoll Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar it-twaqqif ta' Servizz Parlamentari bil-ħsieb li jagħti awtonomija amministrattiva shiħa lill-Parlament Malti.

Din is-sejħa ilna nisimgħuha għal bosta snin, partikolarment mill-predeċessuri tas-Sedja waqt din l-okkażjoni u allura issa nistenna li b'mod konkret u reali ngħaddu mill-kliem għall-fatti. Ngħid ukoll li dan il-pass għandu jwassal biex Malta ma tibqax l-uniku pajjiż fl-Unjoni Ewropea fejn l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż, il-Parlament, m'għandu l-ebda forma ta' awtonomija, imma jkun eżempju ħaj ta' pajjiżi żgħir li kapaci jagħmel dik il-quantum leap li tassew tirrifletti l-livell ta' demokrazija li pajjiżna kien kapaci jilħaq bis-saħħa tal-mexxejja eletti tiegħu.

L-awtonomija parlamentari ser tkompli tissaħħaħ fil-gimghat u x-xhur li ġejjin meta l-Parlament Malti se jkollu l-binja tiegħu minflok ma jibqa' jiltaqa' fil-Palazz tal-GranMastri. Jidher li x-xogħol se jkun lest sas-sajf li ġej u nittama li matul il-waqfa għall-vaganzi tas-sajf isir ix-xogħol kollu meħtieġ biex l-uffiċċji tagħna jsibu posthom fil-bini l-ġdid, bil-ħsieb li immedjatament

DISKORS MILL-ISPEAKER FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

wara, il-Kamra tibda tiltaqa' fil-binja l-ġdida. Dan huwa pass importanti u storiku għax għall-ewwel darba l-Parlament se jkun awtonomu anke infrastrutturalment. Sar xogħol sabiex hekk kif jibda jiltaqa' l-Parlament fil-binja l-ġdida, is-seduti parlamentari fil-plenarja jibdeu jixxandru minn fuq is-sit elettroniku tal-Parlament permezz ta' *online video streaming*, servizz li l-Uffiċċju tiegħi ilu jagħti għal dawn l-aħħar sentejn fir-rigward tal-laqgħat tal-Kumitati tal-Kamra. Dan is-servizz se jkun pass importanti ieħor biex il-poplu jkun aktar konxju tax-xogħol li jkun qed isir mid-deputati li huwa jeleggi biex imexxu 'l quddiem l-interessi tiegħu.

Dejjem bil-ħsieb li nkomplu nifthu l-aċċess għal din l-Istituzzjoni, nixtieq nagħmel referenza wkoll għal proposta li giet inkluża fl-Abbozz ta' Liġi li semmejt dwar l-awtonomija tal-Parlament li taħseb biex għall-ewwel darba l-Parlament Malti jasal biex ikollu *ċ-channel* televiżiv tiegħu. Permezz ta' din l-inizjattiva din l-Istituzzjoni tkun qiegħda hi wkoll tindirizza dik li jgħidulha *d-digital divide* għaliex tkun qed tqarreb il-Parlament lejn iċ-ċittadin, partikolarment lejn dawk li mhumiex daqstant familjari mat-teknoloġija tal-lum.

Huwa f'dan il-kuntest ta' tishiġ tal-aċċessibilità li tajna bidu għal numru ta' pubblikazzjonijiet, fosthom il-ħargiet regolari tar-rivista *mill-Parlament* li dalwaqt waslet għall-ħames ħarġa tagħha. F'Marzu li għadda saret ukoll pubblikazzjoni tar-*rulings*, *Is-Sedja Titkellem*, li tiġbor fiha r-*rulings* li ngħataw matul din il-leġiżlatura. Is-Sedja beħsiebha tkompli b'din is-sensiela ta' pubblikazzjonijiet minn żmien għal żmien. Hemm ukoll il-ħsieb li fi żmien qasir toħroġ pubblikazzjoni dwar ix-xogħol tal-Parlament għal dak li għandu x'jaqsam mad-diplomazija parlamentari biex b'hekk il-poplu jsir jaf aktar ir-rwol importanti li l-Parlament Malti għandu anke f'dan il-qasam, fejn b'mod regolari jikkontribwixxi f'diversi organizzazzjonijiet u fora internazzjonali. Dan l-aħħar, pereżempju, is-Sedja kellha l-opportunità li tagħmel *keynote speech* f'konferenza li giet organizzata mill-Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) u l-International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), taħt l-awspici tal-Ministru tal-Ġustizzja Awstrijak, fejn gie indirizzat ir-rwol parlamentari fil-ġlieda kontra l-korruzzjoni.

Kif semmejt, s'issa sar ħafna xogħol, però punt li sal-lum għadna ma smajna xejn dwaru huwa dak li tkellimt dwaru s-sena l-oħra u li wkoll kien indikat fil-programm elettorali tal-Gvern preżenti. Qed nirreferi għall-idea li l-MEUSAC tkun taqa' taħt il-Parlament, b'mod li l-Kamra tad-Deputati tibda tużufuwixxi mir-rizorsi ta' din l-entità sabiex tkun f'pożizzjoni aħjar li tgħarbel id-direttivi u r-regolamenti Ewropej billi tiegħu in konsiderazzjoni wkoll il-*feedback* tas-soċjetà ċivili, b'tali mod li dawn l-istess konsiderazzjonijiet jiġu inkorporati dejjem aktar fil-pożizzjonijiet li jieħu l-Parlament Malti. Ċertament li dan ikun pass ieħor reali fid-direzzjoni lejn aktar awtonomija parlamentari. Wieħed jifhem li ladarba din kienet miżura indikata min-naħa tal-Gvern preżenti fil-programm elettorali tiegħu, fil-gimghat u x-xhur li ġejjin tittiehed azzjoni sabiex tiġi attwata.

Hemm ukoll il-ħtieġa – illum ngħid urġenti – li jiġu riveduti sew l-Ordnijiet Permanenti biex tiżdied l-effiċjenza fix-xogħol parlamentari. Barra minn hekk hemm ħafna xogħol xi jsir speċjalment meta nitkellmu dwar tibdil Kostituzzjonali. Diġà sar xi tibdil importanti anke permezz ta' emendi mressqa fil-Parlament minn Membri Parlamentari b'mozzjonijiet privati, emendi li wħud minnhom effettivament diġà saru parti mill-Kostituzzjoni ta' pajjiżna. Madankollu, hemm emendi oħrajn li għadhom pendenti, u jiena ċert li l-partecipazzjoni tal-Membri Parlamentari fid-diskussjoni dwar dawn l-emendi ser tkun bħas-

soltu waħda attiva u li tikkontribwixxi b'tali mod li l-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta tkun tassew tirrifletti l-ħteġġiet ta' pajjiżna.

Dan qed ngħidu għax nemmen li din l-Istituzzjoni ma tista' tistrieħ qatt. Kull min minna huwa b'xi mod konness mat-tħaddim tagħha, irid jara li kontinwament naħsbu fuq kif din l-Istituzzjoni tista' tkun aħjar minn kif hallewha ta' qabilna. Irridu naraw li l-Parlament Malti jkun dejjem aktar jirrifletti t-tamiet u l-aspettattivi tal-poplu Malti – u dan bi dritt – kif ukoll li dejjem aktar jirrifletti l-kuxjenza ħajja u popolari ta' pajjiżna *tramite* l-espressjoni u t-tħaddim ta' demokrazija parlamentari ħajja.

Fuq dan il-ħsieb irrid li illum, bħala President tal-Kamra, f'dan il-jum nazzjonali u tant għażiż għalina, minn qalbi nsellem lil dawk kollha li verament emmnu kif ukoll lil dawk li jemmnu fis-sehem tagħhom fil-politika, minkejja kemm kultant ikun diffiċli dan ir-rwol. Dan il-jum għandu jfakkarna fis-sincerità kollettiva msawra fuq dan l-impenn politiku komuni li wrew numru ta' politiċi li ġew qabilna, li għandu jagħmlilna kuragg, lilna l-politiċi tal-lum, sabiex b'ħidmietna nkomplu nsaħħu lill-poplu Malti biex jibqa' jiddeciedi hu dwar x'inhu l-aħjar għalih u għal pajjiżu. Għalhekk il-memorja ta' dawn il-martri tas-Sette Giugno għandha sservi ta' riflessjoni qawwija biex inkomplu naħdmu ħalli naraw kif nistgħu nsaħħu dejjem aktar l-imħabba patrijottika lejn dan pajjiżna u kif nistgħu nrawmu wkoll dejjem aktar sens ta' responsabbiltà nazzjonali.



SPEECH BY THE SPEAKER ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO

Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Presidents Emeriti, Speakers Emeriti, Honourable Members, Honourable Senior Members, your Excellencies, distinguished guests.

As in previous years, we meet here today to celebrate Sette Giugno, a special day for all of us which has remained engraved – and should remain so engraved – in our country's history. It is a day which commemorates that moment in 1919 when the Maltese and Gozitan people, demonstrated national unity and furthered the quest for their rights as a Maltese nation.

It is always interesting to delve deeper into what happened in those times. On that day when riots broke out in Valletta, it appears that there was a group of supporters of the politician Manwel Dimech, who was a pioneer in the promotion of the ideal of self-rule, an independent nation-state that would have been able to assist, in particular, those persons who at the time were without rights, education and employment.

"It is a day which commemorates that moment in 1919 when the Maltese and Gozitan people, demonstrated national unity and furthered the quest for their rights as a Maltese nation."

At the time when the Sette Giugno occurred in 1919, Manwel Dimech had already been exiled by the British. He was the only Maltese exiled by the British during the first world war and was detained in a concentration camp in Sidi Bishr in Alexandria, Egypt. There he had to endure serious hardship, including malnutrition, to the detriment

of his health, to the extent that in November 1920 he suffered a stroke which rendered him paralyzed and was transferred to Victoria College which was also located in Sidi Bishr in Alexandria.

In the meantime, both the Maltese in Malta as well as those living in Alexandria, were feeling the suffering of this person as well as the problems our country was experiencing. They were witnessing the Maltese being humiliated, even in the way they were being treated by the British at that time. In fact, following the riots, precisely during the Parliamentary sitting of the 5th of July 1919, the Member of Parliament Salvatore Zammit, while calling for an inquiry into the circumstances which led to the Sette Giugno riots, had stated, and I quote:

*"... l'irritazione diventava protesta, la quale degenerò in sommossa. Il torto non è nostro. Lo avevo già prima attirato l'attenzione del governo sul malcontento generale, prodotto dagli abusi dell'amministrazione."*¹

Subsequently, following a question by the Lieutenant Governor at the time, the same Member of Parliament replied in English as follows:

"I'm drawing the attention of the Council to my speech delivered in connexion with Dr Pullicino's Resolution for an enquiry. I was simply saying that if unhappily the riots took place it was not due to the will of the population itself but to a disease in which the population found itself entangled and, through the disease, vermin of course copped up.

¹*"...the irritation became protest, which degenerated into riots. The fault was not ours. I had already drawn the government's attention to the general discontent, which was the product of the administration's abusive behaviour."*

The uneasiness felt by the population was not the fault of the population itself; it was perhaps also due to the answer given to me in this Council on the 10th May when I asked the government to institute an enquiry about the excessive profits made by some people on the sale of potatoes, and the Lieutenant General in reply to my question had said: "The Government is satisfied with the measures taken by the Control Board to prevent excessive profits." If the population was feeling, even wrongly, that excessive profits had been made, and the Government was sure that the Control Board were doing their duty, there was no reason why the Government should not have acceded to my simple request for an enquiry, and so on."

It is clear that there was disagreement between the Members of the Legislative Council of that time concerning what exactly had led to the Sette Giugno riots.

There were various reasons for the people to be unhappy. First and foremost, was the issue of Maltese identity, because the Maltese always wanted to safeguard what was rightfully theirs. There was widespread anger due to the fact that the Maltese language was not accepted and honoured by all the institutions in the country. This can be seen from the parliamentary session which took place more than a year after the Sette Giugno riots, precisely on the 12th of June 1920, when Field Marshal Lord Plumer, who was Governor at the time, had presented the Legal Instruments for the establishment of the Constitution of Malta, which later became known as the 1921 Amery-Milner Constitution. In paragraph 15 of these documents it was stated, and I quote:

"The question of the use of Maltese in the Legislature has been carefully considered, and I am of opinion that while every member of the Legislature may be presumed to understand and read either English or Italian, there is no reason for precluding such members as can only express their views with fluency and ease in the vernacular from using it in debate, especially as their fellow members would also understand them, provided, however, that the record of their speeches should be kept, not in Maltese but in English or Italian."

This means that despite those protests, and despite all that had happened on Sette Giugno, one year later there was still a constitutional attempt to undermine the Maltese language. This was one of the reasons why the Dimechians, as they called themselves, were angry; because while their leader was exiled in Alexandria and had succumbed to poor health, they had not succeeded in persuading the British authorities, including the Maltese who at the time were members of the Legislative Council, to give greater importance to the Maltese language.

Manwel Dimech died on the 17th of April 1921 and was buried without any ceremonies in an unmarked grave still unknown to this day, somewhere close to Victoria College in Alexandria. Two years after the Sette Giugno riots in Malta, precisely in June 1921, it seems that other riots broke out in Alexandria in which some Maltese were also involved. Evidence of such an event arise out of questions submitted in the Maltese Parliament. In a question put to the Governor during a parliamentary session held on the 11th of June 1921, the Honourable Nerik Mizzi had asked:

SPEECH BY THE SPEAKER ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)

“Domando se e quali passi a preso il Governo per assicurare la tutela della vita e della proprietà dei Maltesi residenti in Alessandria d’Egitto e se e quali notizie interessanti i Maltesi può dare sull’ultimo grave sommossa egiziana, indicando possibilmente i nomi dei Maltesi morti, feriti o danneggiati, e il valore approssimativo dei danni recati alla proprietà della Colonia Maltese.”²

The Governor replied as follows: *“Maltese and other British subjects resident in Egypt are under the protection of the British Authorities in that country. Enquiry has been made by telegraph whether any Maltese have been injured in the recent riots, and in the affirmative, the High Commissioner has been asked to communicate names and details.”*

This shows that following the riots that broke out in Alexandria, in which a number of Maltese were also involved, the Honourable Nerik Mizzi, who certainly did not share Manwel Dimech’s ideals, still took an interest in the fate of the Maltese community there, some of whom had followed Manwel Dimech. It is not excluded that the Maltese in Alexandria could have been protesting against the British because of the way Manwel Dimech was being treated in exile, and because of the conditions inflicted on their brethren in Malta.

Today we may say that the road was long but we have come a long way. The Maltese people have acquired an increased level of sovereignty; saw their country gain independence, adopt a Republican Constitution, bring to an end the presence of foreign military bases in our country, thus acquiring freedom, and embark on a journey towards European Union membership, culminating in the tenth anniversary since EU membership which we commemorated this year. We have now taken a further step forward to address a long-standing demand, namely to bestow upon Parliament, the country’s highest Institution, those tools that enhance its administrative autonomy, while at the same time making it more open to public scrutiny.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank both the Government and the Opposition for all the work accomplished to this end over the course of this year, and would like to start by mentioning the Select Committee of the House which was set up in October 2013 and tasked with drawing up a report on the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner and a Standing Committee on standards, ethics and proper behaviour in public life. This Select Committee was set up after the House unanimously approved resolution number 77, which was tabled by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto, the Honourable Louis Grech and after another resolution on similar lines was presented by the Leader of Opposition, Honourable Simon Busuttil earlier to the Speaker.

² *“I demand to know which measures, if any, were taken by the Government to safeguard the lives and properties of Maltese residents in Alexandria in Egypt, possibly indicating the names of the Maltese who were killed, injured or suffered damages, and the approximate value of damages inflicted on property of the Maltese Colony.”*

“... another key step towards the strengthening of the Maltese Parliament concerns the administrative autonomy of this Institution, to ensure that it is free from any influence from the Executive, which it is duty bound to scrutinize.”

On the 16th of December 2013, this same Select Committee, which was chaired by myself as Speaker of the House and composed of the Minister for Foreign Affairs the Honourable George Vella and the Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing the Honourable Justyne Caruana from the Government side, and the Honourable Francis Zammit Dimech and the Honourable Ryan Callus from the Opposition side, presented an interim report accompanied by a draft Bill on Standards in Public Life which reflected a number of recommendations that were agreed upon by the Committee. The said document also called on all members of parliament as well as civil society to forward their comments on the said draft bill. Subsequently, this Committee met again and through the contributions of the same Members, my Office and that of the Attorney General, an updated report and draft bill were drawn up and presented to the House on the 24th of March 2014. I am pleased to state that the First Reading of this bill was unanimously approved by the House on the 20th of May 2014 following it being moved by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto the Honourable Louis Grech and seconded by the Honourable Francis Zammit Dimech.

This is a major step forward towards the strengthening of Parliament, because through the appointment of the Commissioner and the establishment of the Standing Committee for Standards in Public life, each and every Member of Parliament will be more accountable in the performance of his or her duties in Public Life. This is because according to what is being proposed in the same bill, any breach of the obligations emanating from the code of ethics shall be subject to investigation by an independent Commissioner and a Standing Committee composed of two Members from each side of the House. The fact that the Maltese Parliament shall be discussing this Bill on Standards in Public Life should be considered as an important step forward for this Institution. I now augur that this bill be considered and approved by the House as soon as possible.

As I mentioned earlier, another key step towards the strengthening of the Maltese Parliament concerns the administrative autonomy of this Institution, to ensure that it is free from any influence from the Executive, which it is duty bound to scrutinize. It is essential that Parliament has total and absolute independence in carrying out its tasks as in practice this translates into better services for the same Members of the House who in turn will be able to perform better their duties as the people’s representatives in the country’s highest institution. In my speech last year on the occasion of Sette Giugno I had stated, and I quote:

“In other words, Parliament should have the power to prepare its financial estimates and to manage its own resources unhindered, independently and in a distinct manner from any type of influence from the Executive.”

I am pleased to announce that on the 21st of May 2014, exactly one day after the presentation and approval of the First Reading of the Bill on Standards in Public Life, I tabled a report on this matter which was drawn up by an internal Commission that I appointed on the 16th of April of this year. This report is accompanied by a Bill for the establishment of a Parliamentary Service with a view of giving the Maltese Parliament administrative autonomy.

This has been a long standing demand, particularly by my predecessors on this occasion, and I therefore firmly expect

SPEECH BY THE SPEAKER ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)

words to now turn into action. This step should also lead to Malta no longer being the only EU country that has its highest institution, Parliament, not enjoying any form of administrative autonomy. It would be a living example of a small country that is able to make a quantum leap truly reflecting the level of democracy which our nation was capable of achieving thanks to its elected leaders.

Parliamentary autonomy will be further enhanced in the coming weeks and months when the Maltese Parliament relocates from the GrandMasters' Palace to its new premises. Works are expected to be completed this summer, and I hope that during the summer recess we shall be in a position to relocate our offices in the new building, with the aim of convening the House in the new premises immediately thereafter. This is an important and historical step as for the first time the Maltese Parliament shall have its own edifice and shall therefore be an autonomous entity even from an infrastructural perspective. All the necessary arrangements have been made for online video streaming of the plenary sessions once Parliament starts operating from the new premises, building on the service that my Office has already been providing over the last two years in connection with the meetings of the Parliamentary Committees. This service will be another important step towards creating greater public awareness about the work carried out by all elected representatives in their bid to further the interests of the constituents they represent in this Institution.

Always with a view to increasing access to this Institution, I would also like to refer to the proposal included in the aforementioned bill on administrative parliamentary autonomy which envisages the unprecedented step of Parliament having its own television channel. Through this initiative, this Institution will also be addressing the so-called digital divide by bringing Parliament closer to citizens, in particular those who are not so familiar with modern day technology.

It is within this context of strengthening accessibility that we launched a number of publications, including the regular issue of the magazine *mill-Parlament* which will soon reach its fifth issue. Last March we also launched the publication of rulings, *Is-Sedja Titkellem*, which comprises the rulings delivered during this legislature. The Office of the Speaker intends to continue with this series of publications from time to time. It is also planned to shortly issue a publication on Parliament's work related to parliamentary diplomacy in order to increase public awareness on the important role the Maltese Parliament plays in this field, in particular through its regular contributions within various international organisations and fora. Recently, for instance, I had the opportunity to deliver a keynote speech at a conference organised by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), under the auspices of the Austrian Minister of Justice, which conference addressed the role of parliament in the fight against corruption.

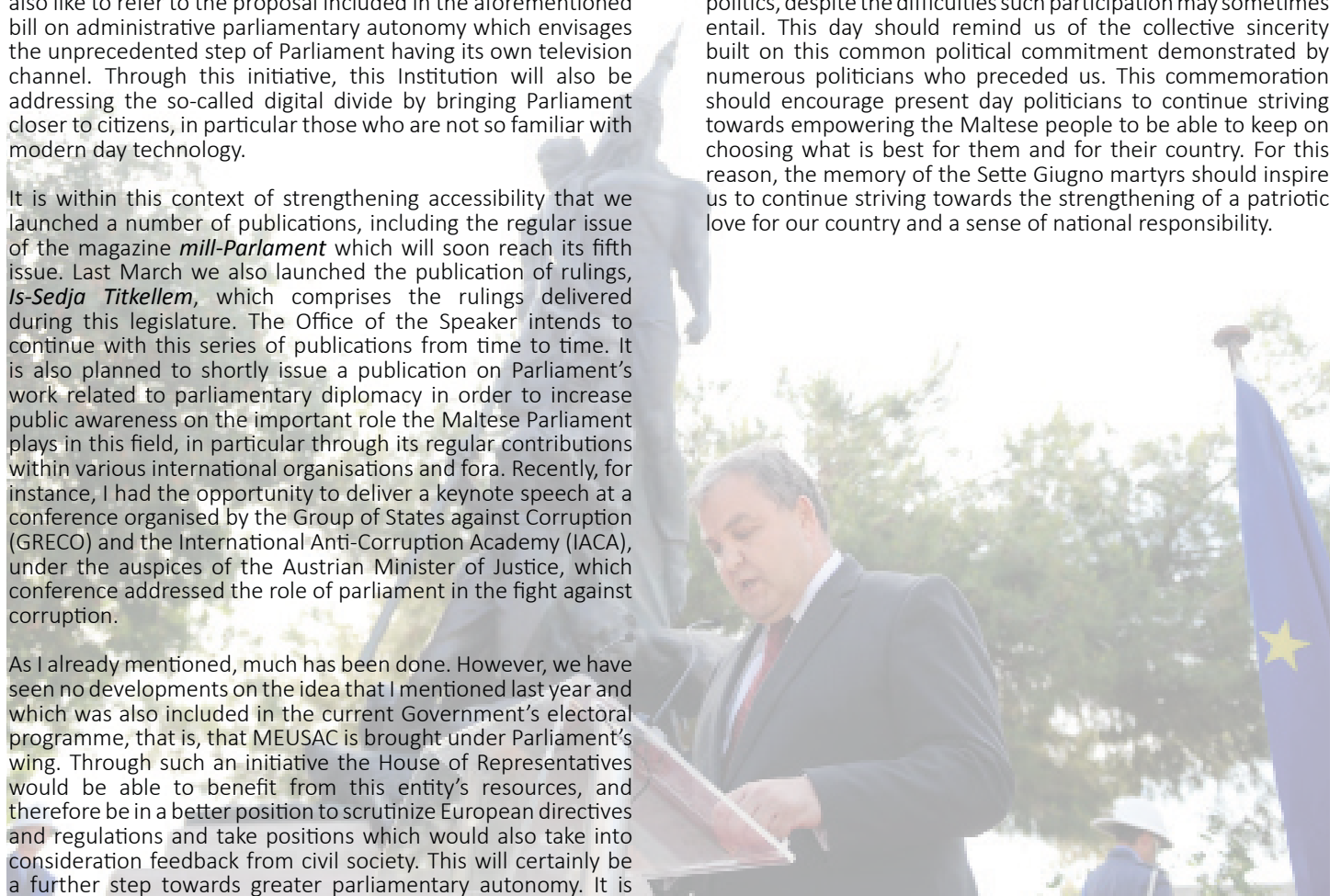
As I already mentioned, much has been done. However, we have seen no developments on the idea that I mentioned last year and which was also included in the current Government's electoral programme, that is, that MEUSAC is brought under Parliament's wing. Through such an initiative the House of Representatives would be able to benefit from this entity's resources, and therefore be in a better position to scrutinize European directives and regulations and take positions which would also take into consideration feedback from civil society. This will certainly be a further step towards greater parliamentary autonomy. It is

understood that since this measure was indicated by the present Government in its electoral programme, it will be implemented in the coming weeks or months.

There is also the urgent necessity – I would now say – to revise thoroughly the Standing Orders of the House in order to increase efficiency in parliamentary work. Furthermore, much needs to be done in terms of Constitutional reform. Important changes have already been made through amendments tabled in Parliament by Members of Parliament by way of private members' motions. Some of these amendments have effectively already become part of our country's Constitution. However, other amendments are still pending, and I am sure that the participation of Members of Parliament in the discussion concerning these amendments will, as usual, be active and will contribute in such a way that the Constitution of Malta truly reflects our country's needs.

I believe that this Institution can never rest on its laurels. Those of us who may in some way be responsible for the functioning of this Institution must continually endeavour to improve on the accomplishments of our predecessors. We need to take initiatives to ensure that the Maltese Parliament, by right, always reflects our people's hopes and expectations and its collective common consciousness through a dynamic and functioning parliamentary democracy.

As President of the House of Representatives, on this national day which is so dear to us, I would like to give a heartfelt tribute to all those who truly believed and still believe in their commitment in politics, despite the difficulties such participation may sometimes entail. This day should remind us of the collective sincerity built on this common political commitment demonstrated by numerous politicians who preceded us. This commemoration should encourage present day politicians to continue striving towards empowering the Maltese people to be able to keep on choosing what is best for them and for their country. For this reason, the memory of the Sette Giugno martyrs should inspire us to continue striving towards the strengthening of a patriotic love for our country and a sense of national responsibility.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT

KOMPOŻIZZJONI TAL-PARLAMENT

Mill-aħħar ħarġa ta' dan il-perjodiku f' Marzu 2014 il-kompożizzjoni tal-Kamra inbidlet darbtejn:

- Fl-ewwel ta' April l-ex Ministru għall-Familja u s-Solidarjetà Soċjali, l-Onor. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, issottomettiet ir-riżenja tagħha minn Membru tal-Kamra tad-Deputati. Fl-istess seduta il-Kamra approvat b'mod unanimu mozzjoni ta' ringrazzjament lil-Dott. George Abela għas-servizz tiegħu bħala President tar-Repubblika u approvat ukoll b'mod unanimu mozzjoni dwar in-nomina tal-Onor. Coleiro Preca bħala l-President tar-Repubblika li jmiss;

- Ir-riżenja tal-Onor. Coleiro Preca ħolqot post vakanti fis-Sitt Distrett Elettorali li għalih saret elezzjoni każwali fil-15 ta' April 2014. In-Nutar Charles Mangion gie elett f'din l-elezzjoni, u ħa l-ġurament bħala Membru tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-għada, 16 ta' April.

Ir-riżenja tal-Ministru għall-Familja u s-Solidarjetà Soċjali wasslet ukoll għal numru ta' tibdiliet fil-Kabinett u sussegwentement fir-rwoli fil-Parlament ta' numru ta' Membri. In-nomina tal-Onor. Christopher Fearn bħala Segretarju Parlamentari għas-Saħħa fil-Ministeru għall-Energija u s-Saħħa rriżultat ukoll f'bidla fil-presidenza tal-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej. L-Onor. Luciano Busuttill gie appuntat bħala l-President il-ġdid ta' dan il-Kumitat permezz ta' mozzjoni 126 li ġiet approvata mill-Kamra b'mod unanimu fis-7 ta' Mejju 2014.



L-Onor. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca tissottometti r-riżenja tagħha minn Membru Parlamentari.



ELEZZJONI TA' PRESIDENT TAR-REPUBBLIKA

Skont artikolu 48 tal-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta, il-President ta' Malta jiġi appuntat permezz ta' riżoluzzjoni tal-Kamra tad-Deputati u skont artikolu 50 persuna hekk appuntata għandha tiegħu ġurament tal-kariga quddiem il-Kamra. Wara li l-mozzjoni dwar in-nomina tas-Sja Coleiro Preca bħala President tar-Repubblika ġiet approvata b'mod unanimu mill-Kamra, iċ-ċerimonja tal-ħatra uffiċjali saret f'seduta speċjali tal-Kamra fis-Sala tal-Gran Kunsill tal-Palazz tal-Grannmstri, il-Belt Valletta, fl-4 ta' April 2014.

Is-Sinjura Marie Louise Coleiro Preca tiegħi l-ġurament tal-ħatra bħala President tar-Repubblika ta' Malta

NSTF MINI EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY 2014

Fil-25 ta' April inżammet l-24 sessjoni annwali tal-NSTF Mini European Assembly (MEA) ġewwa s-Sala tal-Parlament bil-parteciżazzjoni ta' madwar 40 student żagħżuġ. L-MEA hija simulazzjoni tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa fejn studenti jirrapprezentaw pajjiżi Ewropej differenti u jiddiskutu sugġetti b'relevanza għall-Ewropa mill-perspettiva politika tal-pajjiż Ewropej li jirrapprezentaw. L-istudenti mill-iskejjel postsekondarji u fl-ewwel sena tal-edukazzjoni terzjarja f' Malta u Għawdex iridu jinqasmu f'timijiet ta' ħames Membri kull wieħed sabiex ikunu jistgħu jipparteċipaw.

It-tema tas-sessjoni ta' din is-sena kienet "Creative Europe. Are EU programmes in culture & arts contributing to cultural diversity and the promotion of the arts within the member states?" L-i-Speaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa din is-sessjoni plenarja u għamel ukoll l-indirizz tal-ftuħ, segwit mill-indirizz tal-mistieden speċjali tal-organizzaturi tal-NSTF, il-Viċi President tal-Parlament Ewropej Jacek Protasiewicz. Fi tmiegi is-sessjoni l-i-Speaker ippreżenta l-premjju tal-aħjar kelliem (*Best Speaker's Award*) lil Francesca Zarb.

ACTIVITIES IN PARLIAMENT

COMPOSITION OF PARLIAMENT

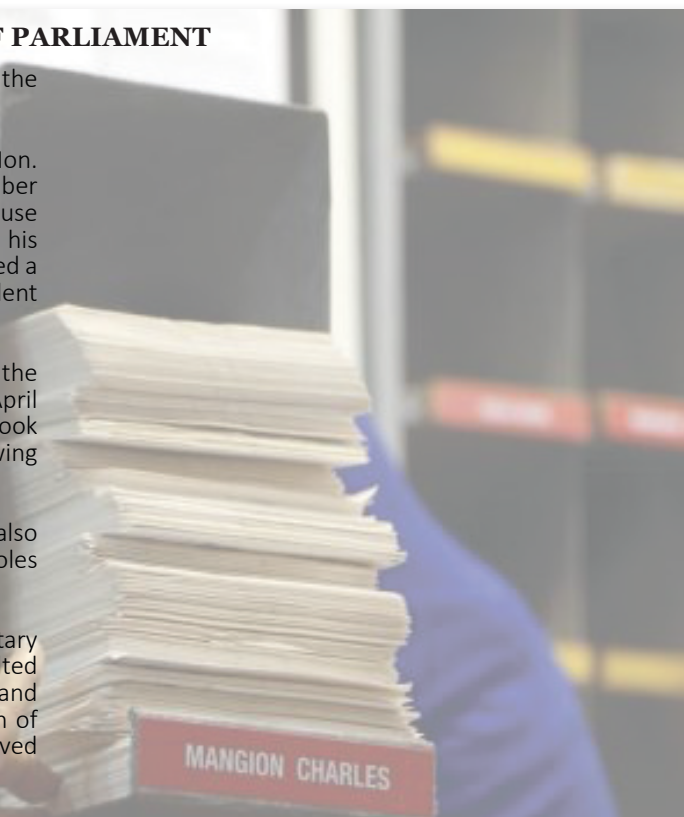
In the period since the last issue of this periodical in March 2014 the composition of the House has undergone two major changes:

- On 1 April former Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity, Hon. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, submitted her resignation from Member of the House of Representatives. During the same sitting the House unanimously approved a motion thanking Dr George Abela for his service as President of the Republic and also unanimously approved a motion on the nomination of Hon. Coleiro Preca as the next President of the Republic;

- The resignation of Hon. Coleiro Preca resulted in a vacancy on the Sixth Electoral District for which a casual election was held on 15 April 2014. Notary Charles Mangion was elected in this election, and took the oath as Member of the House of Representatives the following day, on 16 April.

The resignation of the Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity also gave rise to a number of changes in the Cabinet and hence in the roles in Parliament of a number of Members.

The appointment of Hon. Christopher Fearne as Parliamentary Secretary for Health in the Ministry of Energy and Health also resulted in a change in chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs. Hon. Luciano Busuttill was elected new Chairman of this Committee by way of motion 126 which was unanimously approved by the House on 7 May 2014.



ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

In terms of article 48 of the Constitution of Malta the President of Malta is appointed by way of resolution of the House of Representatives and in terms of Article 50 a person so appointed shall take the oath of office before the House. Following the unanimous adoption by the House of the motion calling for the nomination of Ms Coleiro Preca as President of the Republic, the official swearing-in ceremony was held at a special sitting of the House held in the Throne Room of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta on 4 April 2014.

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia greets Ms Marie Louise Coleiro Preca ahead of her appointment as President of the Republic of Malta



NSTF MINI EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY 2014

On 25 April the 24th annual session of the NSTF Mini European Assembly (MEA) was held in the parliamentary Chamber with the participation of around 40 young students. The MEA is a simulation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe where students represent different European countries and discuss topics of European relevance through the political perspective of the European country they represent. To participate students attending post-secondary and first year tertiary educational institutions in Malta and Gozo must make up teams of five members.

The theme of this year's session was "Creative Europe. Are EU programmes in culture & arts contributing to cultural diversity and the promotion of the arts within the member states?" Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over this plenary session and also made the opening address, followed by an address by the special guest of the NSTF organizers Vice President of the European Parliament Jacek Protasiewicz. At the end of the session, the Speaker presented the Best Speaker's Award to Francesca Zarb.

ATTIVITAJIET FIL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

ŻJARA TA' KORTESIJA LILL-PRESIDENT

Fil-15 ta' April, f'it wara l-elezzjoni mill-Kamra tal-ET Marie Louise Coleiro Preca bħala President tar-Repubblika, l-i-Speaker Anġlu Farrugia u d-Deputy Speaker Ċensu Galea għamlu żjara ta' kortesija lill-President. F'din il-laqgħa l-ET Coleiro Preca pproponiet illi abbozzi ta' liġi ma jintbagħtux lill-President biss għall-kunsens wara l-istadju tat-Tielet Qari, imma li hi għandha tinzamm infurmata sa mill-bidu tal-proċess leġislattiv parlamentari sabiex tkun f'pożizzjoni aħjar li tħares l-aħjar interessi taċ-ċittadini, mingħajr ma tindaħal fid-dibattiti. L-i-Speaker u d-Deputy Speaker qablu ma' dan is-suggeriment.



Żjara ta' Kortesija lill-President l-E.T. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca



Esibizzjoni 'Malta - The Great Story of a Small Island-Nation through 100 Objects'

ESIBIZZJONI 'MALTA - THE GREAT STORY OF A SMALL ISLAND-NATION THROUGH 100 OBJECTS'

L-i-Speaker gie mistieden iżur l-esibizzjoni organizzata minn Heritage Malta dwar l-istorja ta' Malta f'mitt oġġett 'Malta - The Great Story of a small Island-Nation through 100 Objects' flimkien mal-istaff tal-Parlament, li għet imtallgħa fil-Mużew tal-Arkeologija, fil-Belt Valletta. L-esibizzjoni tiegħu l-viżitaturi tul mixja ta' 35 miljun sena ta' storja tal-għejjer, mill-formazzjoni ġeoloġika tagħhom sad-dhul ta' Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropea 10 snin ilu.

Din l-istedina saret bħala sinjal ta' apprezzament talli l-Parlament silef l-Att originali LVIII - Att li jemenda l-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta (Emenda Nru 2) ta' Diċembru 1974 - li permezz tiegħu Malta effettivament saret Repubblika. Il-pubbliku jista' jara dan l-Att, flimkien mal-esebiti l-oħra, sal-1 ta' Frar 2015.

LAQGĦA MAL-PRESIDENT TAL-KUMITAT EŻEKUTTIV TAS-CPA

Fit-8 ta' Mejju l-i-Speaker Anġlu Farrugia Itaq' ma' Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, President tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA).

Matul il-laqgħa ż-żewġ dinjitarji tkellmu dwar ir-relazzjonijiet eċċellenti li jeżistu bejn il-Kamra tad-Deputati ta' Malta u l-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth, fejn Malta hija rappreżentata mill-Onor. Carmelo Abela u l-Onor. David Agius bħala membru u membru sostitut rispettivament fil-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tas-CPA.

Huma ddiskutew diversi kwistjonijiet ta' interess komuni, partikolarment l-inizjattiva ta' Sir Alan Haselhurst dwar it-tishiġ tar-rwol tal-Ferġat Żgħar tal-Commonwealth billi jiġi stabbilit President tal-Ferġat Żgħar li, fost dmirijiet oħra, ikun uffiċjal tas-CPA u jirrappreżenta l-Ferġat Żgħar fuq il-Kumitat Eżekuttiv. Malta diġà esprimiet l-appoġġ tagħha għal din l-inizjattiva.

Ġiet diskussa wkoll l-offerta li għamel il-Prim Ministru Malti waqt il-laqgħa tal-Kaprijiet tal-Gvern tal-Commonwealth li saret fis-Sri Lanka fl-2013, li jitwaqqaf f'Malta Ċentru ta' Eċċellenza għal Stati Żgħar.

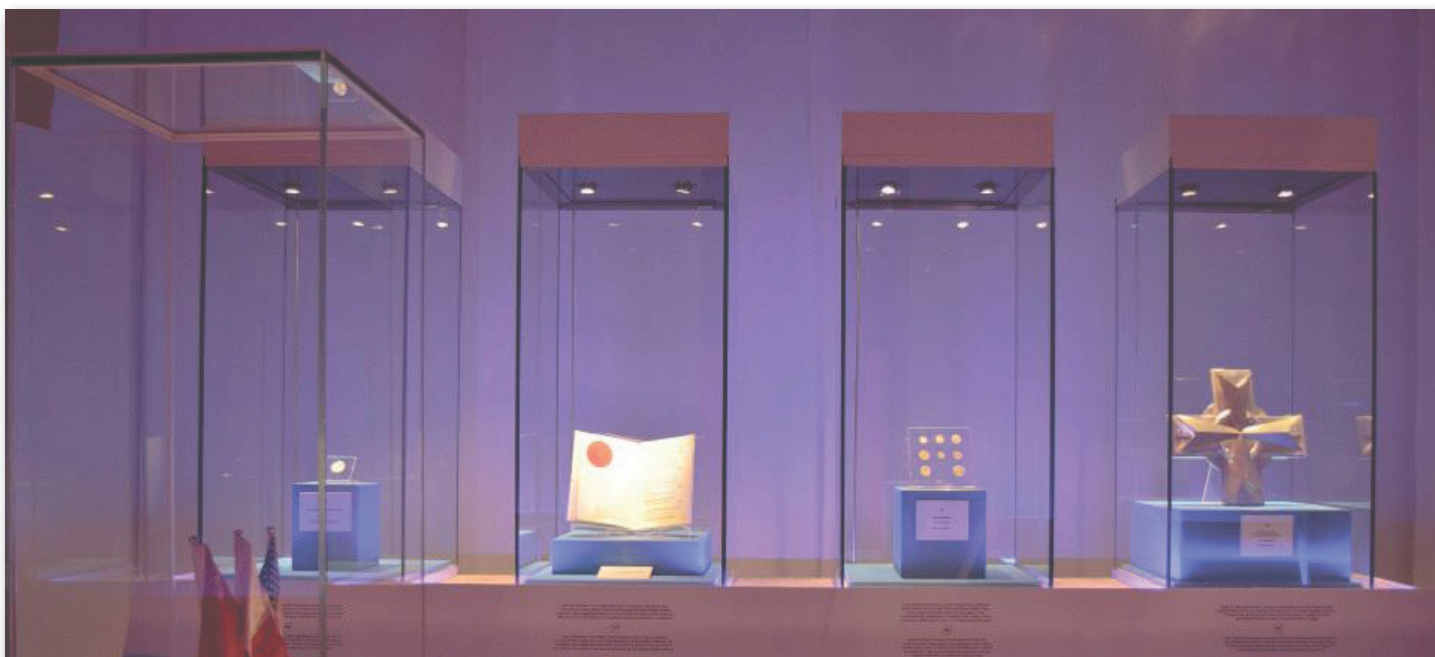


L-i-Speaker Anġlu Farrugia jiltaqa' ma' Sir Alan Haselhurst, President tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly

ACTIVITIES IN PARLIAMENT (CONT.)

COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT

On 15 April, shortly after the election by the House of HE Marie Louise Coleiro Preca as President of the Republic, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia and Deputy Speaker Ġensu Galea made a courtesy call on the President. During this meeting HE Coleiro Preca proposed that bills are not only forwarded for her assent after the Third Reading stage, but that she be kept informed of bills throughout the parliamentary legislative process to be in a better position to safeguard the citizens' best interest, without, however, interfering in the debates. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker agreed with this suggestion.



EXHIBITION 'MALTA – THE GREAT STORY OF A SMALL ISLAND-NATION THROUGH 100 OBJECTS'

The Speaker was invited to tour, together with the staff of Parliament, the exhibition Malta – The Great Story of a small Island-Nation through 100 Objects organised by Heritage Malta and hosted by the National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta. The exhibition takes visitors through 35 million years of the islands' history, from their geological formation up to Malta's EU accession 10 years ago.

This invitation was made as a sign of appreciation for the loan by Parliament of the original Act LVIII – Constitution of Malta (Amendment) (No 2) Act of December 1974, which gave effect to Malta becoming a Republic. This Act, together with the other exhibits, is on display until 1 February 2015.

MEETING WITH THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CPA

On 8 May Speaker Anġlu Farrugia met with the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Sir Alan Haselhurst MP.

During the meeting the two dignitaries reiterated the excellent relations that exist between the House of Representatives of Malta and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, where Malta is represented by Hon. Carmelo Abela and Hon. David Agius as member and substitute member respectively on the CPA Executive Committee.

They discussed various issues of mutual interest, particularly Sir Alan Haselhurst's initiative regarding the strengthening of the role of the Commonwealth Small Branches by establishing the Small Branches Chairperson who would, amongst others, be an Officer of the CPA and represent the Small Branches on the Executive Committee. Malta has already expressed its support to this initiative.

The offer by the Prime Minister of Malta, Hon. Joseph Muscat, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 2013 to establish in Malta a Small States Centre for Excellence focusing on democracy and development, was also discussed.

ATTIVITAJIET FIL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

EKOSKOLA

Fid-29 ta' Mejju, il-Kamra tad-Deputati laqgħet l-10 sessjoni parlamentari tal-EkoSkola. Is-sessjoni parlamentari tal-EkoSkola hija avveniment annwali li jiġbor flimkien tfal u żgħażaġh minn diversi skejjel, u jiġbhom wiċċ imb' wiċċ ma' dawk il-persuni li jfasslu l-politika tal-pajjiż fid-dibattitu parlamentari, fejn jiddiskutu modi kif tista' tittejjeb il-kwalità tal-ħajja tagħhom fl-iskola u fil-pajjiż b'mod ġenerali.

Is-seduta kienet ippreseduta mill-iSpeaker Anġlu Farrugia, u fiha ħadu sehem 76 student minn 38 skola, bil-partecipazzjoni ta' għadd ta' Membri Parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra. Din is-sena, it-tema kienet l-iżvilupp sostenibbli b'enfasi fuq il-kwistjonijiet ta' skart, ilma, enerġija, il-familja u edukazzjoni wara t-Tielet Summit Ambjentali taż-Żgħażaġh li nżamm f'Marzu.

Il-mozzjoni pprezentata fil-bidu tas-sessjoni kienet taqra "Aħna dejjem lesti li nimpennjaw ruħna għaliex aħna nemmnu li jekk ikollna ambjent aħjar, ikollna saħħa aħjar. U jekk saħħitna tkun aħjar nistgħu ngawdu ħajja ferħana u minn soċjetà aktar b'saħħitha".

20 Membru Parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra ppartecipaw f'dan l-avveniment, inkluż il-Prim Ministru l-Onor. Joseph Muscat, u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Simon Busuttil.

KOMMEMORAZZJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO

Kull sena l-Kamra tad-Deputati tikkommemora l-ġrajjet tas-Sette Giugno, li huma kkunsidrati li kienu wieħed mill-ewwel passi fil-proċess politiku lejn l-indipendenza ta' Malta mir-Renju Unit u kkontribwew b'mod sinifikanti għall-iżvilupp parlamentari f'Malta. It-tifkira tal-vittmi li kienu ħallew ħajjithom fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 issir permezz ta' ċerimonja quddiem il-monument tas-Sette Giugno, li jinsab fil-Gonna ta' Hastings fil-Belt Valletta. Matul iċ-ċerimonja l-iSpeaker tal-Kamra, il-Prim Ministru u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni jpoġġu kuruni quddiem il-monument u l-iSpeaker jagħmel diskors dwar it-tishiħ tal-iżvilupp parlamentari.

Din is-sena fid-diskors tiegħu fis-6 ta' Ġunju, l-iSpeaker Anġlu Farrugia tkellem dwar is-sitwazzjoni politika li kien jinsab fiha pajjiżna fiż-żmien li seħħew l-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno, u dwar kif dawn l-avvenimenti kienu wkoll marbuta mal-kwistjoni tal-lingwa f'Malta. Dawn l-istess avvenimenti wasslu għall-ġhota tal-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner tal-1921.

L-iSpeaker tkellem ukoll dwar il-ħidma mwettqa mill-Kumitat Magħżul tal-Kamra mwaqqaf sabiex jagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet dwar it-twaqqif ta' Uffiċċju u Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-iStandards, l-etika u l-imġiba xierqa fil-ħajja pubblika. Bħala riżultat tal-ħidma ta' dan il-Kumitat, id-Deputat Prim Ministru, l-Onor. Louis Grech ressaq l-Ewwel Qari ta' Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar l-iStandards fil-ħajja Pubblika fl-20 ta' Mejju, u kien issekondat mill-Membru tal-Oppożizzjoni, l-Onor. Francis Zammit Dimech.

Fid-diskors tiegħu l-iSpeaker irrefera wkoll għall-ħidma tal-kummissjoni interna parlamentari mwaqqfa sabiex tagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet dwar l-awtonomija amministrattiva tal-Parlament Malti kif ukoll għal numru ta' inizjattivi maħsuba biex jagħmlu x-xogħol tal-Kamra aktar aċċessibbli għall-pubbliku.

Id-diskors shiħ tal-iSpeaker Farrugia jinstab fuq il-paġni 4 sa 6 ta' din il-ħarġa.

TIFKIRA TA' JUM L-EWROPA

Nhar it-12 ta' Mejju, għall-ewwel darba, il-Kamra tad-Deputati fakkret l-okkażjoni ta' Jum l-Ewropa, li huwa ċelebrat fid-9 ta' Mejju. Il-Kumitat dwar ix-Xogħol tal-Kamra qabel li tiġi ddedikata parti mill-ewwel seduta wara din id-data għal diskors qasir minn kull naħa tal-Kamra.

L-Onor. Marthese Portelli, Kelliema tal-Oppożizzjoni għall-Affarijiet Ewropej, tkellmet dwar il-kundizzjonijiet li fl-1950 wasslu għat-twaqqif tal-Komunità Ewropea tal-Faham u l-Azzar, li minn dakinhar evolviet fl-Unjoni Ewropea ta' 28 Stat Membru li aħna familjari magħha llum; kontinent ta' paċi, liberta', kummerċ ħieles u solidarjeta'. L-Onor. Portelli tkellmet ukoll dwar id-diversi fondi Ewropej u kif Malta bbenefikat minnhom matul is-snin. L-Onor. Portelli kkonkludiet li l-Ewropa mhijiex biss l-ideal ta' missirijietna, iżda hija wkoll ir-realtà u l-futur taż-żgħażaġh tal-lum.

Min-naħa tal-Gvern, l-Onor. Ian Borg, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi tal-UE u l-Presidenza 2017, tkellem dwar il-bżonn li mhux biss titfakkar l-istorja tal-Unjoni Ewropea, iżda wkoll li nħarsu 'l quddiem lejn il-futur tagħha. Huwa zied għid li fil-programm legiżlattiv tagħha, l-Unjoni Ewropea għandha timxi 'l quddiem fil-limiti tas-sussidjarjeta' u l-proporzjonalità. L-Onor. Borg tkellem fl-aħħar dwar il-Presidenza tal-Kunsill li Malta se tiehu f'idejha fl-2017, li għal pajjiżna se tkun l-ewwel esperjenza ta' din ix-xorta u għandha sservi bħala opportunità għall-poplu Malti kollu biex jingħaqad u jasserixxi illi l-Ewropa hija tassew tiegħu.



ACTIVITIES IN PARLIAMENT (CONT.)

EKOSKOLA

The House of Representatives hosted the 10th EkoSkola Parliamentary session on 29 May. The EkoSkola Parliament Session is an annual event bringing together young policy makers, face to face with the country's policy makers in a parliamentary debate, discussing ways of improving the quality of life at school and in the country in general.

The sitting was chaired by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia, and was attended by 76 students from 38 schools, together with the participation of a number of Members of Parliament from both sides of the House. This year's theme, as a follow up of the 3rd Young People's Environmental Summit held in March, was sustainable development focusing on the issues of waste, water, energy, the family and education.

The motion presented at the beginning of the session read 'We are always ready to commit ourselves because we believe that if we have a better environment, our health will be better. And if our health is better, we can enjoy a happier life and a healthier society'.

20 Members of Parliament from both sides of the House participated in this event, including the Prime Minister, Hon. Joseph Muscat, and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Simon Busuttil.



Participants of the 10th EkoSkola Parliamentary session

SETTE GIUGNO COMMEMORATION

Each year the House of Representatives commemorates the Sette Giugno events, which are considered to have been one of the first steps in the political process towards Malta's independence from Britain and have contributed significantly to Malta's parliamentary development. The victims of the uprisings of 7 June 1919 are commemorated in a ceremony held at the foot of the Sette Giugno monument, which is located at the Hastings Gardens in Valletta. During the ceremony the Speaker of the House, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition lay wreaths at the foot of the monument and the Speaker delivers a speech on the reinforcement of this parliamentary development. In this year's speech on 6 June, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia spoke about the political situation that prevailed at the time of the riots of the Sette Giugno, and about how these events were also linked to the language issue in Malta. These same events led to the granting of the 1921 Amery-Milner Constitution.

The Speaker also spoke about the work done by a Select Committee of the House established to make recommendations on the setting up of an Office and a Standing Committee on standards, ethics and proper behaviour in public life. As a result of the work of this Committee, the First Reading of a Bill on Standards in Public Life was moved by the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Louis Grech on 20 May, and was seconded by Opposition Member Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech. In his address the Speaker also referred to the work done by an internal parliamentary commission on the administrative autonomy of the Maltese Parliament and to a number of initiatives intended to make the work of the House more accessible to the public.

The full speech delivered by Speaker Farrugia can be found on pages 7,8 and 9 of this issue.

MARKING EUROPE DAY

On 12 May, for the first time, the House of Representatives, marked the occasion of Europe Day, which is celebrated on 9 May. The House Business Committee agreed to dedicate a part of the first sitting after this date to a short speech from either side of the House.

Hon. Marthese Portelli, Opposition spokesperson for European affairs spoke about the conditions prevailing in the 1950s that led to the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community, which since then has evolved into the European Union of 28 Member States that we are familiar with today – a continent of peace, freedom, free trade and solidarity. Hon. Portelli also spoke about the various European funds, including how Malta has benefited from them over the years. She concluded that Europe is not only the ideal of the forefathers who conceived this idea but it is the reality and the future of today's young people.

Speaking on behalf of the Government side, Hon. Ian Borg, Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and the Presidency 2017, spoke about the need not only to recall the history of the European Union, but also to look ahead at its future. He added that in its legislative programme, the European Union must move ahead within the limits of subsidiarity and proportionality. In conclusion Hon. Borg spoke about Malta's Presidency of the Council in 2017, which will be a first for Malta, and should serve as an opportunity for all the Maltese people to unite and assert their ownership of Europe.

ATTIVITAJIET FIL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

ŻJARA TA' KORTESIJA MILL-MEMBRI L-ĠODDA TAL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW

Fid-9 ta' Ġunju, l-iSpeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati Anġlu Farrugia, irċieva żjara ta' kortesija mill-Membri Parlamentari Maltin li ġew eletti fil-Parlament Ewropew f'Mejju ta' din is-sena.

L-iSpeaker beda billi rringrazzja lill-kandidati kollha li pparteċipaw fl-elezzjoni tal-Parlament Ewropew, kemm dawk eletti kif ukoll dawk li ma ġewx eletti.

Il-President tal-Kamra tad-Deputati rrimarka b'mod pożittiv li Malta bagħtet sinjal ċar dwar il-fatt li għandha maġġoranza ta' nisa li ġew eletti fil-Parlament Ewropew u sostna li dan għandu jġi rifless f'aktar Membri Parlamentari nisa eletti fl-Elezzjoni Ġenerali li jmiss.

L-iSpeaker enfasizza l-fatt li r-riżultat globali tal-elezzjonijiet tal-Parlament Ewropew bagħat messaggġ ċar li "not all is well with Europe". L-iSpeaker Farrugia interpreta dan il-messaggġ illi l-Parlament Ewropew għandu jaħdem ferm aktar fil-qrib mal-parlamenti nazzjonali Ewropej u l-poteri mghoddija lill-istess Parlamenti Nazzjonali b'riżultat tat-Trattat ta' Liżbona għandhom isarrfu aktar biex ikun hemm żvilupp li l-iSpeaker irrefera għalih bħala "pilsatru ieħor fid-demokrazija Ewropea". B'hekk l-istati membri Ewropej ikunu kkumplimentati b'dak li sejjahlu "Think Tank Forum" tal-parlamenti nazzjonali Ewropej, biex b'hekk tiġi assicurata fil-prattika l-integrazzjoni haġja Ewropea.

Għal din il-laqgħa kienu preżenti wkoll l-Onor. Carmelo Abela, Whip tal-Gvern u l-Onor. David Agius, Whip tal-Oppożizzjoni.



ISRAEL-MALTA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Bejn is-17 u d-19 ta' Ġunju delegazzjoni mill- Grupp Parlamentari ta' Hbiberija Iżrael-Malta għamel żjara uffiċjali f'Malta li matulha l-Membri tal-Knesset Iżraeljan kellhom laqgħa ta' kortesija mal-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, Speaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati. Iż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew kwistjonijiet ta' interess komuni, inkluż ir-rabtiet bejn il-Maltin u l-Lhud, l-eżitu taż-żjara tal-Prim Ministru fl-Iżrael f'Ottubru li għadda, il-kooperazzjoni f'diversi livelli u l-ħtif reċenti ta' tliet żgħażaġh Iżraeljani.

Id-delegazzjoni Iżraeljana ltaqgħet mal-membri Maltin tal-Grupp Parlamentari ta' Hbiberija mal-Iżrael, u ħadet sehem f'laqgħa kongunta bejn il-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej u l-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet tal-Familja.

Id-delegazzjoni ltaqgħet mal-Onor. George Vella, Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin, l-Onor. Helena Dalli, Ministru għad-Djalogu Soċjali, Affarijiet tal-Konsumatur u Libertajiet Ċivili, kif ukoll l-Onor. Edward Zammit Lewis, Ministru għat-Turiżmu. Huma żaru wkoll il-Malta Enterprise fejn segwew preżentazzjoni dwar il-promozzjoni tal-investment.

Id-delegazzjoni tal-Knesset Iżraeljan kienet tikkonsisti mis-Sinjura Orly Levi-Abekasis MK, Chairperson tal-Grupp Parlamentari ta' Hbiberija Iżrael-Malta u President tal-Kumitat dwar id-Drittijiet tat-Tfal, is-Sur Yakov Margi MK, is-Sur Shimon Ohayon MK u s-Sinjura Maya Cohen-Rahamim, Deputat Direttur tad-Dipartiment għall-Affarijiet Barranin tal-Knesset.

ACTIVITIES IN PARLIAMENT (CONT.)

COURTESY VISIT BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 9 June, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia, received a courtesy visit from the Maltese MEPs elected to the European Parliament in May this year.

The Speaker began by thanking all candidates who participated in the European Parliament election, both those who were elected and also those who were not elected.

The Speaker remarked that Malta is sending out a clear signal with the fact that it now has a majority of women elected to the European Parliament and that this should be reflected in more women MPs elected in the next General Election.

The Speaker stressed that the overall result of the European Parliament elections is a clear message that “not all is well with Europe”. Speaker Farrugia interpreted this message that the European Parliament is expected to work much more closely with the European national parliaments and powers delegated to the same national parliaments, as a result of the Treaty of Lisbon, should translate into “another pillar in European democracy” whereby the Member States would be complemented by what Speaker Farrugia described as a “Think Tank Forum” of national parliaments, thereby ensuring the integration of European life in practice.

Hon. Carmelo Abela, Government Whip, and Hon. David Agius, Opposition Whip, were also present at this meeting.



Speaker Anġlu Farrugia meets the newly Elected Maltese European Members of Parliament

ISRAEL-MALTA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Between 17 and 19 June a delegation from the Israel-Malta Parliamentary Friendship Group paid an official visit to Malta during which the Members of the Israeli Knesset paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest, including the links between the Maltese and the Jews, the outcome of the Prime Minister’s visit to Israel last October, co-operation at various levels and the recent kidnapping of three Israeli youths.

The Israeli delegation held discussions with its counterpart, the Malta-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, and had a joint meeting with the Foreign and European Affairs Committee and the Family Affairs Committee.

The delegation met the Hon George Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, as well as the Hon Edward Zammit Lewis, Minister for Tourism. They also visited Malta Enterprise where a presentation on investment promotion was made to the delegation.

The Israeli Knesset delegation consisted of Ms Orly Levi-Abekasis MK, Chairperson of the Israel-Malta Parliamentary Friendship Group and Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Mr Yakov Margi MK, Mr Shimon Ohayon MK and Ms Maya Cohen-Rahamim, Deputy Director of the Knesset Foreign Affairs Department.

KONT TAF LI....

It-titolu tal-album “The Division Bell”, li kien l-aħħar album tal-grupp Pink Floyd li ħareġ eżattament 20 sena ilu, kien ispirat mill-qanpiena tad-*division* li tinstema’ fil-Parlament tar-Renju Unit biex tindika l-bidu ta’ votazzjoni fil-Kamra?

Il-qanpiena tad-*division* (votazzjoni) hija użata fil-Parlament tar-Renju Unit, u f’numru ta’ parlamenti oħrajn inkluż il-Parlament Malti, biex tindika l-bidu ta’ votazzjoni formali, magħrufa l-aktar bħala “divisions”.



Facċata tal-Album tal-Pink Floyd ‘The Division Bell’

Il-kelma “division” tirreferi għall-prattika fil-House of Commons li l-Membri litteralment jinqasmu f’żewġ sezzjonijiet distinti, il-lobbies tal-“Iva” u dawk tal-“Le”.

Ordni Permanenti 83 tal-Ordnijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra tad-Deputati jgħid li “Wara li l-iSpeaker... jkun iddikjara r-riżultat ta’ proposta li jkun qiegħed għall-votazzjoni, kull membru li jkun semma’ leħnu ma’ dawk li skont dik id-dikjarazzjoni jkunu fil-minoranza, jista’ jitlob votazzjoni tal-Kamra dwar dik il-proposta, u wara hekk għandha ssir votazzjoni bla diskussjoni, kemm-il darba ma jidhrix lill-iSpeaker jew lill-President li dik it-talba tkun saret bla bżonn.” Sakemm ma jkunx hemm ftehim mod ieħor fil-Kamra, wara li l-iSpeaker iqiegħed il-mistoqsija l-ewwel darba s-seduta tiġi sospiża għal 20 minuta u wara li jerga’ jqiegħed il-mistoqsija jagħti ordni li jissakkru l-bibien kollha tal-Kamra, li jfisser li dawk il-Membri li beħsiebhom jivvutaw għandhom ikunu fil-Kamra malli jiskadu l-20 minuta. L-Iskrivan tal-Kamra jaqra l-ismijiet tal-Membri kollha u jindika dawk il-Membri li ma jkunux fil-Kamra. L-Iskrivan jirrapporta r-riżultat tal-votazzjoni lill-iSpeaker, li minnufih jiddikjara tali riżultat.

Membri jitqiesu li vvutaw skont il-grupp parlamentari li jagħmlu parti minnu, sakemm ma jkunx hemm arrangamenti differenti. Din il-prattika giet ikkonfermata f’deċiżjoni tal-President tal-Kumitati Michael Bonnici, mogħtija fid-19 Diċembru 1998.

Ir-regola li l-ħin għad-*division* ikun ta’ 20 minuta kienet introdotta fl-1957, bħala parti minn għadd ta’ emendi proposti mill-Gvern, inkluż dwar il-ħinijiet tas-seduti tal-Kamra. Dawn ġew mibdula sabiex is-seduta tieħu mill-5p.m. sad-9p.m. b’nofs siegħa ħin tal-aġġornament. It-tul tas-seduta, fejn Membri jkunu mistennija jibqgħu preżenti mingħajr ħin għal xi forma ta’ pawża, kien meqjus bħala pjuttost twil u kien għalhekk li l-ħin allokat għat-teħid ta’ *division* gie estiż minn tliet minuti, kif kien, għal 20 minuta, kif għadu sal-lum. Skont dawn l-emendi, il-ħin li jittieħed għall-votazzjonijiet għandu jįzdied mal-ħin tal-interruzzjoni tax-xogħol.

Qniepen elettriċi fil-Palazz ħadu post id-daqq tal-qanpiena bl-idejn fil-bidu tal-1956.

Divisions jistgħu jintalbu fuq kwalunkwe mistoqsija magħmula mill-iSpeaker. Matul il-11-il Legiżlatura ttieħdu 203 votazzjonijiet fil-Kamra, filwaqt li sa issa, fit-12-il Legiżlatura, ittieħdu 86.

Referenza: Pirota, Godfrey A., *Malta’s Parliament An Official History, House of Representatives, Malta/DOI, 2006.*

DID YOU KNOW THAT....

The title of the album 'The Division Bell', which was the last album to be released by Pink Floyd exactly 20 years ago, was inspired by the division bell sounded in the UK Parliament to signal the commencement of a vote in the House?

The division bell is used in the UK Parliament, and a number of other parliaments including the Maltese Parliament, to signal the commencement of a formal vote, usually referred to as a 'division'.



The word 'division' refers to the practice in the House of Commons to literally divide into two separate areas, the 'Aye' and the 'No' lobbies.

Standing Order 83 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives states that 'After the Speaker ... shall have declared the result of the putting of any question, any member who has given his voice with those who are according to such declaration in the minority, may demand a division of the House upon that question, whereupon a division shall without debate take place unless it shall appear to the Chair that such a demand is unnecessarily claimed'. Unless there is an alternative agreement in the House, the Sitting is suspended for 20 minutes after which the Speaker puts the question once more and orders for all the doors to the Chamber to be locked, which means that those Members intending to vote must be in the Chamber at the lapse of the 20 minutes. The Clerk of the House reads out the names of all the Members, indicating those which are not in the Chamber. The Clerk reports the result of the division to the Speaker, who forthwith declares such result.

Members are deemed to have voted according to the parliamentary group to which they belong, unless there have been different arrangements. This practice has been confirmed in a ruling of the Chairman of Committees Michael Bonnici, delivered on 19 December 1998.

The rule that the time for a division be 20 minutes was introduced in 1957, as part of a number of amendments proposed by the Government, including to the time of the sittings of the House. These were changed to be from 5p.m. to 9p.m. with an additional half hour adjournment time. This time was deemed to be rather lengthy to expect Members to sit without time for some form of refreshment, and thus the time allowed for taking a division was extended from the existing three minutes to 20, as it remains to date. According to these amendments, the time occupied in taking divisions shall be added to the time appointed for the interruption of business.

Electric bells throughout the Palace replaced the ringing of a handheld bell in the beginning of 1956.

Divisions may be requested on any question put by the Speaker. 203 divisions were taken in the House in the 11th Legislature, whereas 86 have been taken so far in the 12th Legislature.

Reference: Pirota, Godfrey A., Malta's Parliament An Official History, House of Representatives, Malta/DOI, 2006.

ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI

KONFERENZA TAL-INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACADEMY

L-iSpeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, ھا sehem fil-Konferenza Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians, Judges and Prosecutors to Prevent Corruption in their own ranks: Emerging Trends from Two Years of GRECO Round IV Evaluations, organizzata ցewwa Laxenburg, l-Awstrija, mill-International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) fl-10 u l-11 ta' April. L-IACA hija organizzata ցewwa Laxenburg. Hija l-ewwel istituzzjoni globali tax-xorta tagħha, dedikata sabiex jingħelbu n-nuqqasijiet preżenti fl-għarfien u l-prattika fil-qasam tal-ġlieda kontra l-korruzzjoni u l-professionisti jkunu kapaci jaffaċċjaw l-isfidi tal-futur.

L-iSpeaker Farrugia indirizza l-ftuħ tal-High-Level Segment tal-Konferenza, fejn tkellem dwar l-Att li jemenda l-Kodiċi Kriminali, l-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Informatur, il-Kumitat Magħżul tal-Kamra mwaqqaf sabiex jagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet dwar it-twaqqif ta' Uffiċċju ta' Kummissarju u Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-iStandards, l-Etika u l-Imġiba Xierqa fil-Ħajja Pubblika u abbozz li jimplimenta dawn ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet, u l-Abbozz dwar il-Finanzjament tal-Partiti Poliċi. L-iSpeaker kien akkumpanjat mill-Avukat Ġenerali, Dott. Peter Grech.

SIMPOSJU INTERNAZZJONALI DWAR ID-DIPLOMAZIJA KULTURALI U R-RELIGJON 2014



L-iSpeaker jattendi Simposju Internazzjonali

L-iSpeaker Anġlu Farrugia pparteċipa fis-Simposju Internazzjonali tal-2014 dwar id-diplomazija kulturali u r-religjon, bit-tema The Promotion of World Peace through Inter-Faith Dialogue, li kienet organizzata ցewwa Ruma mill-Istitut għad-Diplomazija Kulturali.

L-iSpeaker indirizza is-sessjoni The Role of Inter-Faith Dialogue in Peace Building and Reconciliation fejn tkellem dwar ir-rwol tad-diplomazija kulturali u dwar il-potenzjal li għandha l-kultura li twassal bidliet u attitudni pożittiva lejn affarijiet godda f'ċerti sitwazzjonijiet. L-iSpeaker ikkonkluda billi qal illi l-mexxejja poliċi u religjużi għandhom ikomplu jmessu bl-eżempju sabiex in-nies iħossuhom tassew parti minn xi ھاġa u li huma parteċipi fid-deċiżjonijiet li jittieħdu.

25 ANNIVERSARJU TAL-EWWEL ELEZZJONIJIET HIJLSA ցEWWA L-POLONJA

Kif kien imħabbar waqt il-Konferenza tal-Presidenti tal-Parlamenti Ewropej li nżammet f'Vilnius fis-6 ta' April, il-Marshal (Speaker) tas-Sejm, is-Sinjura Ewa Kopacz stiednet lill-iSpeakers tal-parlamenti nazzjonali għaċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet tal-25 anniversarju tal-ewwel elezzjonijiet ħielsa li saru fil-Polonja wara l-1945. Iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet saru fl-4 ta' Ġunju f'Varsavja.

L-iSpeaker indirizza sessjoni speċjali tas-Senat tar-Repubblika tal-Polonja, ippreseduta mill-ET Bogdan Borusewicz, Marshal tas-Senat Pollakk.

Fl-indirizz tiegħu, l-iSpeaker Farrugia fakkar l-avvenimenti li seħħew fl-1989 li wasslu għar-rebħa elettorali tal-moviment Pollakk Solidarność li mbagħad serva ta' katalist għall-proċess ta' tranżizzjoni politika li nfirxet madwar l-Ewropa ċentrali u tal-Lvant.

L-iSpeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati fakkar kif il-waqqgħa tar-regim Komunista fil-Polonja giet segwita mill-waqqgħa tal-Ħajt ta' Berlin kif ukoll it-tmiem tal-Gwerra Bierda. Huwa rrefera wkoll għas-summit li nżamm f'Malta f'Diċembru 1989 bejn l-ex President Amerikan George H. W. Bush u l-ex mexxej tal-Unjoni Sovjetika Mikhail Gorbachev, fejn gie ddikjarat it-tmiem uffiċjali tal-Gwerra Bierda.

Fil-konklużjoni tal-indirizz tiegħu l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia wassal l-awguri tar-rappreżentanti tal-Parlament ta' Malta f'din l-okkażjoni.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACADEMY

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, took part in a Conference Strengthening the Capacity of Parliamentarians, Judges and Prosecutors to Prevent Corruption in their own ranks: Emerging Trends from Two Years of GRECO Round IV Evaluations, organised in Laxenburg, Austria, by the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) on 10 and 11 April. The IACA is a young international organization based in Laxenburg. It is the first global institution of its kind, dedicated to overcoming current shortcomings in knowledge and practice in the field of anti-corruption and seeking to empower professionals for the challenges for tomorrow.

Speaker Farrugia made a keynote address during the High-Level Segment of the Conference, where he spoke about the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, the Protection of the Whistleblower Act, the Select Committee of the House tasked with making recommendations on the setting up of the Office of Commissioner and a Standing Committee on Standards, Ethics and Proper Behaviour in Public Life and the Bill pursuant thereto and the proposed Bill on Political Party Financing.

The Speaker was accompanied by Attorney General Dr Peter Grech.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AND RELIGION 2014

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participated in the 2014 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy and Religion 2014, with the theme The Promotion of World Peace through Inter-Faith Dialogue, which was organised in Rome by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy.

The Speaker made a keynote address on The Role of Inter-Faith Dialogue in Peace Building and Reconciliation in which he spoke about the role of cultural diplomacy and about the potential of culture to bring around change in a given situation and a positive attitude towards new things. In conclusion the Speaker said that politicians and religious leaders alike have to continue to lead by example giving people a true sense of belonging and co-sharing of the decisions taken.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST FREE ELECTIONS IN POLAND

As was announced during the Conference of Speakers of European Parliaments held in Vilnius on 6 April, the Marshal (Speaker) of the Sejm, Ms Ewa Kopacz invited the Speakers of the national parliaments to the 25th anniversary of the first free elections held in Poland after 1945. The celebrations were held on 4 June in Warsaw.

The Speaker addressed a special Session of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, presided by HE Bogdan Borusewicz, Marshal of the Polish Senate.

In his keynote address, Speaker Farrugia recalled the events which took place in 1989 which culminated in the electoral victory of the Polish movement Solidarność which served in turn as a catalyst in the process of political transition that swept throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives recalled how the fall of the Communist regime in Poland was followed by the fall of the Berlin Wall as well as the end of the Cold War. He also referred to the summit held in Malta in December 1989 between former US President George H. W. Bush and former USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev, when they declared the official end of the Cold War.

In conclusion Hon. Anġlu Farrugia conveyed the congratulations of all the Representatives of the Parliament of Malta on this occasion.



Mr Speaker addressing thr special session of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

IS-SESSJONI TAR-REBBIEGĦA TAL-2014 TAL-PACE

L-Onor. Joe Debono Grech, kap tad-delegazzjoni, l-Onor. Charlò Bonnici u l-Onor. Beppe Fenech Adami attendew is-Sessjoni tar-Rebbiegħa tal-2014 tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa (PACE) fi Strażburgu, li nżammet bejn is-7 u l-11 ta' April.

Matul din is-sessjoni indirizzaw l-Assemblea s-Sur Heinz Fischer, President tal-Awstrija, is-Sur Sebastian Kurz, Ministru għall-Ewropa, l-Integrazzjoni u l-Affarijiet Barranin tal-Awstrija u l-President attwali tal-Kumitat tal-Ministri. Is-Sur Fischer tkellem dwar il-kriżi fl-Ukraina dwar il-Krimea. Is-Sur Kurz spjega l-ħidma tal-presidenza Awstrijaka tal-Kumitat tal-Ministri – inkluż il-ġlieda kontra l-korruzzjoni u l-isforzi biex jżiedu r-ratifiki tal-Konvenzjoni tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa dwar il-Vjolenza kontra n-Nisa – li ffukat ukoll fuq il-kriżi dwar il-Krimea. L-iżviluppi riċenti fl-Ukraina u t-theddid għall-funzjonament tal-istituzzjonijiet demokratiċi ġew diskussi wkoll f'dibattitu taħt il-proċedura ta' urgenza.

Minbarra dibattiti waqt l-Assemblea id-delegazzjoni Maltija kellha skambju mal-Ambaxxatur Joseph Filletti fuq it-talba tal-PACE li Malta għandha tirrapporta dwar il-minoranzi; dwar il-kandidati għall-kariga ta' Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, dwar il-pożizzjoni ta' Malta fuq l-Abbozz ta' Konvenzjoni kontra l-manipulazzjoni tal-kompetizzjoni sportiva u l-implikazzjonijiet tagħha għall-industrija tal-logħob lokali, u dwar iċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-50 Anniversarju minn meta Malta ngħaqdet mal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. Id-delegazzjoni Maltija ltaqgħet ukoll mas-Sinjura Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, li, flimkien mas-Segretarju Ġenerali preżenti, is-Sur Thorbjørn Jagland, qiegħda tikkontesta għall-kariga ta' Segretarju Ġenerali.



Meeting place of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg

44 KONFERENZA TAL-GŻEJJER BRITTANIĊI U R-REĠJUN MEDITERRANJU (BIMR)

Fit-28 u d-29 ta' Meju l-Onor. Carmelo Abela, l-Onor. Luciano Busuttill u l-Onor. Charles Mangion ħadu sehem fl-44 Konferenza tal-Gzejjer Brittaniċi u r-Regjun Mediterranju (BIMR) tal-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA) li saret f'Cardiff, Wales.

Matul il-Konferenza l-Membri tal-delegazzjoni Maltija pparteċipaw b'mod attiv kemm fis-sessjoni plenarja kif ukoll fil-workshops. L-Onor. Abela, li huwa wkoll membru tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv (Internazzjonali) tas-CPA, kien membru tal-panel li mexxa l-Laqqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tal-BIMR. Bħala rapporteur ta' wieħed mill-workshops, l-Onor. Abela ppreżenta rapport dwar il-Bilingwizmu u Lingwi Uffiċjali fil-Parlament. Id-delegazzjoni ssottomettiet ukoll rapport dwar avvenimenti li seħħew fil-Parlament Malti mill-aħħar Konferenza li saret fi Frar 2013 fil-Gzejjer Falkland.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

PACE APRIL 2014 PART SESSION

Hon. Joe Debono Grech, Leader of the delegation, Hon. Charlò Bonnici and Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami attended the April 2014 Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg, which was held between 7 and 11 April.

Mr Heinz Fischer, President of Austria, Mr Sebastian Kurz, Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria and current Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, addressed this Part Session of the PACE. Mr Fischer spoke about the crisis in Ukraine over Crimea. Mr Kurz outlined the work of the Austrian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers – including the fight against corruption and efforts to increase ratifications of the Council of Europe Convention on Violence against Women – and also focused on the crisis over Crimea. The recent developments in Ukraine and the threats to the functioning of democratic institutions were also discussed in a debate under the urgent procedure.

In addition to the PACE debates the Maltese delegation held an exchange of views with Ambassador Joseph Filletti on the PACE's request for Malta to report about its minorities, the candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Malta's stand on the Draft Convention against the manipulation of sports competition and its implications for the local gaming industry; and the celebration of Malta's 50th Anniversary since joining the Council of Europe. With regard to the post of Secretary General, the Maltese delegation also met with candidate Ms Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, who is contesting together with the incumbent, Mr Thorbjørn Jagland.

44TH BRITISH ISLES AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION (BIMR) CONFERENCE

On 28 and 29 May Hon. Carmelo Abela, Hon. Luciano Busuttil and Hon. Charles Mangion participated in the 44th British Isles and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) which was held in Cardiff, Wales.

During the Conference the Maltese Members of the delegation participated actively in both the plenary session as well as the workshops. Hon. Abela, who is also Member of the Executive Committee (International) of the CPA formed part of the panel that chaired the Annual General Meeting of the BIMR. As rapporteur of one of the workshops Hon. Abela submitted a report on Bilingualism and Official Languages in Parliament. The delegation also submitted a report on events that took place in the Maltese Parliament since the last Conference that was held in February 2013 in the Falkland Islands.

Hidma Parlamentari

Parliamentary Work

April 2013 – Ġunju 2014

April 2013 – June 2014

Seduti fil-Plenarja	168	Plenary Sittings
Laqgħat tal-Kumitati Permanenti	172	Meetings of Standing Committees
Stqarrijiet Ministerjali	24	Ministerial Statements
Mozzjonijiet	154	Motions
Mozzjonijiet Privati	16	Private Members' Motions
Mozzjonijiet għall-Ewwel Qari ta' Abbozzi ta' Ligi	64	Motions for First Reading of Bills
Ligijiet mgħoddija mill-Parlament	42	Acts enacted by Parliament
Ligijiet approvati b'votazzjoni	6	Acts approved upon division
Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari	10,334	Parliamentary Questions
Dokumenti mqiegħda fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra	3,035	Documents laid on the Table of the House
Diskorsi tal-Aggornament	124	Adjournment Speeches
Deċizzjonijiet tas-Sedja	24	Rulings by the Chair
Membri Parlamentari li siefri fuq xogħol parlamentari	177	Members of Parliament on parliamentary duties abroad
Delegazzjonijiet parlamentari barra minn Malta	90	Parliamentary delegations abroad
Delegazzjonijiet immexxija mill-iSpeaker/Deputy Speaker	23	Delegations led by the Speaker/ Deputy Speaker