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Numru ta' uffiċjali li jaħdmu fil-Parlament ta' Malta, flimkien mal-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia, żaru ċ-Ċentru tal-Għoti tad-Demm fi Gwardamangia nhar il-Ġimgħa, 19 ta' Diċembru.

A number of parliamentary officials, together with Speaker Anglu Farrugia, visited the National Blood Transfusion Centre in Gwardamangia on Friday, 19 December.

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Cover: *The Speaker exchanges New Year's Greetings with members of the Cabinet*

Ritratti/Photos:
Parlament ta' Malta/DOI

DAĦLA

Foreword

L-aħħar tliet xhur ta' din is sena, bħall-bqija tas-sena, kienu xhur tassew impenjattivi għall-Kamra u għall-Membri tagħha, partikolarment mit-13 ta' Ottubru 'l hawn meta l-Parlament reġa' beda jiltaqa' wara l-vaganzi tas sajf.

F'dan il-perjodu s-seduti fil-Kamra komplew b'mod regolari. L-istess jista' jingħad għall-ħidma tal-komitati permanenti tal-Kamra li wkoll komplew jiltaqgħu b'mod regolari. Infahħar inizjattiva tal-presidenti tal-Komitati dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali u l-Komitati dwar is-Saħħa, li f'Novembru u Diċembru għamlu sensiela ta' laqgħat kongunti li fihom, flimkien ma' esperti fil-qasam, iddiskutew is-suġġett tad-donazzjoni ta' organi. Il-komitati, ukoll b'mod kongunt, huma mistennija li malli jtemmu d-diskussjoni dwar is-suġġett joħroġu rapport li fih ikun jinkludi rakkomandazzjoni għal ligi dwar id-donazzjoni tal-organi.

Kif inhi l-konswetudni, f'dan il-perjodu l-Parlament għadda wkoll l-estimi finanzjarji għas-sena 2015, magħruf aħjar bħala l-baġit. Il-Kamra, kemm fil-Plenarja kif ukoll f'Komitati ta' Provviżta ħadet 'il fuq minn 62 siegħa għad-dibattiti dwar id-diversi voti, inkluż il-qari tal-baġit innifsu mill-Ministru għall-Finanzi, ir-risposta tal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni u r-replika tal-Prim Ministru. Barra minn hekk kien hemm 51 talba għal division fuq uħud mill-voti diskussi tul dawn is-seduti dedikati għall-baġit.

B'zieda mat-taqsimiet regolari, f'din il-ħarġa għandkom issibu informazzjoni aktar dettaljata dwar il-ħidma mwettqa fl-aħħar tliet xhur tas-sena, u b'kontinwazzjoni mill-ħarġa preċedenti tistgħu ssibu t-tieni parti ta' artiklu mill-Prof. Godfrey Pirotta dwar il-Parlament u d-dimensjoni Ewropea, kif ukoll artiklu minn Dr George Cassar dwar il-Kummissjoni Storika tal-1865 dwar l-edukazzjoni. Għandkom issibu wkoll kontribuzzjoni mill-President tal-Komitati dwar is-Saħħa u l-ħidma tal-Komitati illi huwa jippresjedi.

Nagħlaq billi ngħid illi fil-gimghat li ġejjin beħsiebni nkompli naħdem flimkien mal-Gvern u l-Oppożizzjoni fi ħdan il-Komitati Permanenti dwar ix-Xogħol tal-Kamra sabiex flimkien niżguraw illi l-mixxa lejn il-binja l-ġdida tal-Parlament issir meta l-binja tkun kompluta b'mod illi tista' taqdi l-bżonnijiet kollha ta' Parlament awtonomu.

The last three months of this year, like the rest of year, were very demanding months for the House and its Members, particularly from 13 October onwards when Parliament resumed meeting after the summer holidays.

In this period the House continued to meet regularly. The same can be said of the standing committees of the House, which also continued to meet regularly. In November and December the presidents of the Social Affairs Committee and the Committee on Health made a series of joint meetings which, together with experts in the field, discussed the subject of organ donation. The committees, also jointly, are expected to end the discussion on the subject shortly and also issue a report which will include recommendations for legislation on organ donation.

As is customary, in this period the Parliament also approved the financial estimates for 2015, better known as the budget. The House, both in Plenary and in Committee of Supply took over 62 hours to debate several votes, including the reading of the budget itself by the Finance Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the answer in reply by the Prime Minister. In addition there were 51 requests for division on a number of votes discussed during the sessions dedicated to the budget.

In addition to the regular sections of this periodical, in this issue you will find more detailed information on the work carried out in the last three months of the year, and as a continuation from the previous edition you can also find the second part of the article by Prof. Godfrey Pirotta on Parliament and the European dimension, as well as an article by Dr George Cassar on the Storke Commission of 1865 on education. You will also find a contribution from the Chairman of the Committee on Health and the work of the committee that he chairs.

I conclude by saying that in the coming weeks I intend to continue working together with the Government and the Opposition within the Standing Committee on House Business to ensure that the migration to the new Parliament building is completed and that can serve all the needs of autonomous Parliament.

Anglu Farrugia

Anglu Farrugia

IL-PARLAMENT U D-DIMENSJONI EWROPEA - IT-TIENI PARTI 1962-1964

(Ikompli minn *Harġa Numru 6*)

Fid-dell tar-Renju Unit

Iżda l-pressjoni fuq il-Gvern Malti biex jiddeciedi kienet qed tiżdied, kemm minn Malta kif ukoll minn barra. Għalhekk, lejn l-aħħar ta' Mejju, meta l-Kamra kienet qed tiddibatti l-Abbozz dwar l-Amministrazzjoni Finanzjarja u l-Verifika, membru tal-Kamra għied l-attenzjoni tal-gvern għal xi implikazzjonijiet għall-agrikoltura Maltija li jirriżultaw mill-isħubija mal-KEE. Huwa argumenta li anke r-Renju Unit kien qed jieħu approċċ kawt għas-sħubija minhabba din il-kwistjoni. Huwa għalhekk appella lill-gvern biex jistudja dawn il-kwistjonijiet b'attenzjoni sabiex jevita ħsara għas-settur agrikolu lokali u n-nies impjegati fih.¹ Fl-istess waqt ir-Renju Unit ukoll kien qed jagħmel pressjoni fuq il-Gvern Malti dwar il-kwistjoni tas-sħubija minhabba li ried ikejjel ir-reazzjoni ta' pajjiżi oħra tal-Commonwealth għall-applikazzjoni possibbli tagħha għal sħubija fis-Suq Komuni. Ir-Renju Unit kellu t-trattati u l-obbligi tiegħu stess mal-istati membri tal-Commonwealth u kellu jqishom meta jinnegozja s-sħubija mal-KEE.

Konsegwentament, f'Settembru tal-1962, il-Prim Ministru kellu jagħmel dikjarazzjoni fil-Kamra dwar il-kwistjoni waqt l-Agġornament. Huwa qal lill-Kamra li se jkun qed imexxi delegazzjoni lejn Londra għal konsultazzjoni mal-Gvern Ingliż dwar il-kwistjoni u jieħu sehem fil-Konferenza tal-Prim Ministri tal-Commonwealth dwar is-Suq Komuni. Huwa ammetta li sab ruħu taħt pressjoni insistenti mir-Renju Unit biex jgħid x'kienet il-pożizzjoni ta' Malta dwar l-isħubija u fl-aħħar wiegħeb li fil-prinċipju, kellha l-intenzjoni li tfittex Sħubija Assoċjata mas-Suq Komuni iżda mingħajr irbit formali. Qal li r-Renju Unit ried din l-informazzjoni sabiex ikun jaf kif l-aħjar jirrapprezenta l-interessi tal-Maltin u dawk ta' pajjiżi oħra tal-Commonwealth, fid-diskussjonijiet tiegħu dwar l-isħubija fis-Suq Komuni.

Il-Prim Ministru kien ippressat mill-Mexxej tal-Oppożizzjoni biex jispjega x'ried ifisser bl-użu tas-sentenza tiegħu fil-prinċipju li jagħzel assoċjazzjoni aktar milli sħubija. Il-Prim Ministru wiegħeb li Malta tiffirma parti mill-Ewropa u deherlu li jkun ta' żvantaġġ jekk tibqa' barra mill-blokk. Ma setax jgħid x'se jkun l-impatt fuq Malta jekk ir-Renju Unit jissieheb jew ma jisseħibx fis-Suq Komuni jew, tabilhaqq, jekk Malta tibqa' barra. Kien għal din ir-raġuni li t-twegiba tiegħu lir-Renju Unit enfasizzat li l-pożizzjoni Maltija kienet biss waħda ta' prinċipju aktar milli deċiżjoni sħiħa. Huwa qal ukoll, u din kienet revelazzjoni importanti, li r-Renju Unit kien ta' lil Malta d-dritt li tittratta b'mod dirett u separat mal-pajjiżi tas-suq Komuni. Dak li r-Renju Unit ried ikun jaf minn Malta kien liema direzzjoni din tal-aħħar kienet probabbilment se tiegħu sabiex ikun jista' jagħtiha pariri tajbin dwar il-vantaġġi u l-obbligi li jirriżultaw

mid-deċiżjoni tagħha. Huwa wiegħed li l-Kamra se jkollha kull opportunità biex tiddibatti l-kwistjoni bis-sħiħ u li l-gvern se jisma' b'moħħ miftuħ x'kellha xi tgħid kull taqsima tal-popolazzjoni fuq il-kwistjoni.²

Meta rritorna minn Londra, il-Prim Ministru Borg Olivier għamel dikjarazzjoni fil-Kamra u ta xi dettalji dwar iż-żjara tiegħu. Huwa tkellem fil-qosor ħafna dwar il-kwistjoni tas-Suq Komuni li qabel dehret li kienet ir-raġuni ċentrali għaż-żjara tiegħu f'Londra. Dwar il-kwistjoni huwa sempliċiment qal li ma kienx minnu li Malta kienet diġà sottomettiet applikazzjoni formali lil Brussell. Madankollu, huwa qal li dan ma kien inaqqas xejn mill-konvinzjoni tiegħu li bil-mod kif l-affarijiet kienu qed jiżviluppaw fl-Ewropa, eventwalment kien ser isir impossibbli għall-gżira li tibqa' barra mill-KEE. L-isforzi tal-Ewropa biex tissaħħaħ politikament, ekonomikament u soċjalment kienu qed jintlaħqu b'suċċess, huwa qal, u minkejja għadd ta' problemi min-naħa ta' Malta, dawn l-iżviluppi ma setgħux jiġu injorati.³

Din id-dikjarazzjoni naqset milli tissodisfa lill-partiti tal-oppożizzjoni fil-Parlament. Dom Mintoff insista li l-Prim Ministru għandu jispjega f'termini iktar konkreti x'kienu l-vantaġġi u l-iżvantaġġi ta' Sħubija Assoċjata u jekk din teskludix sħubija eventwali. Huwa esprima t-tama li l-kwistjoni ma titħallix issir waħda kontenzjuża iżda dan seta' jiġi evitat jekk il-gvern jevita li jikkommetti lill-Malta b'mod jew ieħor qabel ma dawn il-kwistjonijiet ikunu ġew eżaminati b'mod ċar. L-uniku prinċipju kruċjali, huwa qal, kien x'kien fl-interess ta' Malta u qabel ma wiegħed ikun jista' jaqbel fuq kwalunkwe prinċipju ieħor, wiegħed kellu jiddeciedi jekk il-vantaġġi jegħlbu l-iżvantaġġi. Jekk il-gvern ried l-appoġġ tal-Kamra, huwa kellu jiddikjara x'kien jaf u x'kien li wasslu biex jiddikjara li fil-prinċipju jaqbel ma' xi forma ta' assoċjazzjoni mal-KEE.⁴

Ganado, għall-PDN, qabel ma' Mintoff fuq dan l-aħħar punt. Kien id-dmir tal-gvern, huwa qal, li jgħin jiffirma opinjoni pubblika dwar is-sugġett u li juri x'kienu l-vantaġġi u l-iżvantaġġi. Din kienet, huwa saħaqq, kwistjoni fundamentali għall-pajjiż. Kien tajjeb li l-Prim Ministru kien attenda l-konferenza f'Londra, iżda kien ħazin li jittratta lill-Parlament daqs li kieku kien xi sikkatura żejda. Huwa esprima dubji dwar jekk il-gvern kienx jaf verament x'kienu l-implikazzjonijiet tas-sħubija għall-Malta u talab li l-Prim Ministru jiffissa data għal dibattitu dwar il-kwistjoni. Il-PDN, qal, kien favur l-idea tas-Suq Komuni iżda ried jiżgura li l-industrija Maltin f'diffikultà jkunu protetti. Il-gvern iddefenda l-pożizzjoni tiegħu billi argumenta li minkejja l-pożizzjoni ddikjarata mill-gvern li tiffavorixxi s-sħubija, kemm jekk sħiħa jew assoċjata, fil-prinċipju, huwa ma kkommettiex lill-pajjiż bl-ebda mod. Il-Prim Ministru kompli jargumenta li kien għadu kmieni wisq biex isiru ċerti dikjarazzjonijiet u kien biss wara n-negozjati li wiegħed seta' jara x'kienu lesti li joffru l-istati tal-KEE lil Malta

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u jekk it-termini offruti kinux aċċettabbli. Huwa reġa' ddikjara l-pożizzjoni preċedenti tiegħu li l-Kamra tkun kapaċi tiddibatti l-kwistjoni malli jkun hemm xi ħaġa konkreta x'tiddibatti.⁵

Ma jista' jkun hemm l-ebda dubju li l-kwistjoni ħolqot pressjoni fuq moħħ il-Gvern Malti li t-tħassib prinċipali tiegħu f'dan l-istadju kien li jinnegozja l-indipendenza mar-Renju Unit, filwaqt li jiżgura li fil-każ probabbli li r-Renju Unit jagħzel is-sħubija, Malta ma ssibx ruħha maqtugħa għaliha ekonomikament mir-Renju Unit. Il-gvern kellu bżonn kbir ta' alternattivi għaliex fl-opinjoni tiegħu, jekk ir-Renju Unit jingħaqad mal-KEE, għal Malta l-kwistjonijiet kollha jieħdu dimensjoni kompletament ġdida bil-possibbiltà li jiġu imposti tariffi fuq l-esportazzjonijiet Maltin lejn ir-Renju Unit. Għalhekk ma kienx b'kumbinazzjoni li fis-27 ta' Novembru 1962, il-Prim Ministru għamel dikjarazzjoni fil-Kamra li kienet tmiss dawn iż-żewġ kwistjonijiet. Borg Olivier qal lill-Kamra li f'dak l-istess jum ir-Renju Unit ser jagħmel stqarrija fir-rigward tat-talba tal-gvern għall-indipendenza u li huwa kien aċċetta stedina mill-Gvern Taljan biex iżur Ruma u jiddiskuti kwistjonijiet ta' tħassib għaż-żewġ naħat, inkluż żviluppi li għandhom x'jaqsmu mas-Suq Intern.⁶

Iżda ma kienx qabel Frar tal-1963 li saret dikjarazzjoni kompleta fil-Kamra dwar il-kwistjoni tal-aħħar u dwar din l-okkażjoni minn Dr Giovanni Felice, Ministru tan-Negożju u l-Kummerċ. Fid-dikjarazzjoni tiegħu Felice stabbilixxa l-politika li kien segwa l-gvern.⁷ Qal lill-Kamra li l-kwistjoni kienet tqajmet għall-ewwel darba meta r-Renju Unit ippreżenta l-applikazzjoni tiegħu għas-sħubija mal-KEE fl-10 ta' Awwissu 1961. Fid-diskussjoni li segwiet bejn Londra u Brussell, tqajmet l-assocjazzjoni eventwali ta' Malta mas-Suq Komuni u r-Renju Unit argumenta li l-każ Malti jixraqlu kunsiderazzjoni bħala każ speċjali għaliex kienet għadha kostituzzjonalment dipendenti fuq ir-Renju Unit u minħabba l-bżonn urgenti tal-gżira għal żvilupp ekonomiku. Brussell wieġeb li Malta setgħet tagħzel waħda minn żewġ alternattivi: jew tapplika biex issir Territorju Barrani Assoċjat (AOT) tal-KEE jew tirsisti biex issir membru "sħiħ" u tgawdi l-vantaġġi kollha taħt il-patroċinju tar-Renju Unit kif stabbilit fis-subtaqsima 4 tal-Artikolu 227 tat-Trattat ta' Ruma. Gie miftiehem bejn Londra u Brussell li jsir studju ta' dawn iż-żewġ alternattivi bil-preżunzjoni li l-Assocjazzjoni tinvolvi negożjati fit-tul u tista' ma twassalx għal ftehim, filwaqt li d-dhul taħt l-Artikolu 277 jista' jkun iktar dirett u faċli.

Felice kompli jispjega li r-Renju Unit kien informa lill-Gvern Malti li peress li dan tal-aħħar kien iqis lil Malta bħala parti mill-Ewropa, il-Kummissjoni Ewropea kienet osservat li d-dispożizzjonijiet għal Assocjazzjoni ma kinux japplikaw għaliex dawn kienu strettament limitati għal pajjiżi barra l-Ewropa. Għalhekk, il-każ ta' Malta kellu jiġi kkunsidrat skont l-Artikolu 227 u l-Gvern Malti gie mistoqsi biex

jeżamina jekk id-dispożizzjonijiet tat-Trattat ta' Ruma għandhomx jiġu applikati għal Malta kollha kemm huma. Skont il-Ministru, ir-Renju Unit kien tal-fehma li jekk dan kien il-każ, is-sħubija kienet probabbli ħafna. Għalhekk, l-għażla li kellu quddiemu l-gvern kienet jew li jirsisti għal sħubija u jara liema derogi setgħu jikkonċedu s-Sitt Stati Membri fi Brussell, jew inkella jibqa' barra mill-KEE u jipprova jikseb xi tip ta' protokoll speċjali li jippreżerva l-aċċess għall-prodotti Maltin fis-suq tar-Renju Unit. Skont Felice, il-gvern sab ruħu maqbud bejn dawn iż-żewġ alternattivi, u sabha diffiċli ħafna biex jiddeciedi liema kienet l-aħjar għal Malta.

Barra minn hekk, spjega l-Ministru, il-gvern kien tal-opinjoni li s-sħubija taħt l-Artikolu 227 kienet tinvolvi żewġ affarijiet: l-ewwel li r-Renju Unit kien se jsir membru tal-KEE; it-tieni li l-Gvern Malti kien qed jikkunsidra li jafda lir-Renju Unit bir-responsabbiltà għar-relazzjonijiet barranin tiegħu, anke fir-rigward tal-applikazzjoni eventwali tagħna għal sħubija. L-ewwel alternattiva, skont Felice kienet problematika. Minn naħa waħda, jekk ir-Renju Unit kellu jiddaħħal bħala membru qabel ma l-gvern ikun iddecieda liema triq għandu jsejwi, kien hemm il-biża' li Malta tiġi meqjusa bħala membru tal-KEE mingħajr il-possibbiltà ta' ebda negożjati dwar kwistjonijiet ta' interess għal Malta. Min-naħa l-oħra, Malta setgħet titħalla kompletament barra bil-konsegwenzi fatali li l-esportazzjonijiet Maltin jiġu intaxxati anki fir-rigward tas-suq tar-Renju Unit. It-tieni alternattiva, dik li tafda lir-Renju Unit bir-responsabbiltà għar-relazzjonijiet barranin tagħna, madankollu, kienet opposta għall-fehmiet u l-aspirazzjonijiet kostituzzjonali tal-gvern.

Hekk kif sab ruħu wiċċ imb wiċċ ma' dawn il-mistoqsijiet, il-gvern Malti, skont Felice, iddecieda li jwaqqaf kumitat ta' esperti magħmul minn Kapijiet ta' Dipartimenti, rappreżentanti mill-Kamra tal-Kummerċ u l-Federazzjoni tal-Industriji u ċertu Mr Vernon, espert fl-affarijiet tas-Suq Intern mibgħut mill-Uffiċċju Kolonjali biex jeżamina dawn il-kwistjonijiet. Wara li eżamina l-konkluzjonijiet ta' dan il-kumitat u aspetti oħra, inklużi d-derogi meħtieġa minn Malta, il-gvern iddecieda li jibgħat delegazzjoni Brussell biex tinvestiga l-aħjar triq 'il quddiem. Irriżulta li Malta ma setgħetx tikkontempla sħubija taħt l-Artikolu 237 għaliex dan kien jittratta nazzjonijiet sovrani, kif ukoll peress li Malta ma kinitx ekonomikament u finanzjarjament preparata. Il-gvern lanqas ma kien lest li japplika taħt l-Artikolu 227 (4) għaliex Malta ma kinitx bħal Monako jew San Marino. Allura l-unika triq miftuħa għall-gvern kienet dik mogħtija mill-Artikolu 238 tat-Trattat u li kienet tipprovdi għal "ftehimiet ta' assocjazzjoni bejn il-pajjiżi tal-KEE u stati oħra mhux tal-KEE". Huwa qal li Brussell diġà kien ikkonkluda ftehim bħal dan mal-Greċja u l-Gvern Malti kien ittama li jitħalla jipproċedi fuq din it-triq, minkejja li Malta kienet għadha mhux rikonnoxxuta bħala stat

IL-PARLAMENT U D-DIMENSJONI EWROPEA - IT-TIENI PARTI 1962-1964

sovrani. Iżda dan kien irrifjutat minn Brussell u l-Gvern Malti fittex u kiseb mir-Renju Unit d-delega tal-poteri meħtieġa biex jinnegozja mal-KEE. Madankollu, Brussell kien stipula numru ta' kundizzjonijiet: l-ewwel, li kellhom isiru arrangamenti għall-istabbiliment ta' relazzjonijiet bejn Malta u l-Komunità; it-tieni li dawn ir-relazzjonijiet kellhom jagħtu lok għal unjoni doganali; it-tielet, li sakemm jasal iż-żmien li l-avvanz kostituzzjonali ta' Malta jippermetti Ftehim ta' Assoċjazzjoni, il-Kummissjoni kienet ser tikkonkludi protokoll speċjali ma' Malta; ir-raba', li dan il-protokoll ikun innegozjat mal-Gvern tar-Renju Unit iżda bil-partecipazzjoni ta' rappreżentanti minn Malta; u fl-aħħar, li d-dispożizzjonijiet tal-Artikolu 227 (4) ma japplikawx għal Malta ladarba r-Renju Unit jingħaqad mal-KEE.

Skont il-Ministru, il-proċess kollu wehel peress li n-negozjati bejn Londra u Brussell dwar is-sħubija tar-Renju Unit kienu kkollasaw kompletament. Skont Felice, kien ikun preferibbli għal Malta kieku d-delega li kienet tippermetti lil Malta li tinnegozja mas-Sitta kienet ġiet interpretata fis-sens li tagħti d-dritt lil Malta biex tkompli bin-negozjati, iżda dan ma seħħx. Il-gvern kien għamel dak kollu li seta' iżda Malta kellha tistenna fuq din il-kwistjoni, bħal ma kellhom jagħmlu hafna stati oħra. Il-gvern ma kienx ħa deċiżjoni finali dwar il-kwistjoni u għalkemm kien ippreparat biex jaħdem biex jikkonserva, u anke jsaħħaħ, ir-relazzjonijiet tiegħu ma' stati tal-Commonwealth oħra, ma kienx se jitraskura l-interessi ta' Malta fl-Ewropa, speċjalment kif dawn kienu relatati mal-KEE. Huwa kkonkluda billi qal li dawn l-avvenimenti kienu wrew l-importanza ta' ħidma għal indipendenza għaliex din tippermetti lil Malta tinteragixxi ma' stati tal-Commonwealth oħra u bħala stat Ewropew tkun tista' tiegħu postha fil-Komunità Ewropea mingħajr xkiel.

Anton Buttigieg f'isem l-MLP, filwaqt li apprezza l-isforzi tal-gvern, qal li l-partit tiegħu la kien jaqbel mal-forma ta' assoċjazzjoni mfittxija mill-gvern u lanqas mad-deċiżjoni tiegħu biex jistenna. Huwa qal li ma setax jifhem kif il-gvern kellu l-ħsieb li jipproċedi bil-formolazzjoni ta' pjan ekonomiku filwaqt li fl-istess ħin ma jiddecidix kif il-KEE tista' tidhol fih. Biex dan il-pjan jagħmel sens, wieħed kellu jkun jaf il-kundizzjonijiet li assoċjazzjoni ta' kwalunkwe forma kienet iggib magħha u t-tip ta' għajjnuna li l-KEE tista' toffri lil Malta lejn l-iżvilupp tagħha. Buttigieg komplja jgħid li wieħed kellu bżonn ukoll ikun jaf x'konna mistennija li nħallsu u xi stajna nippretendu lura. Huwa qal li l-MLP kien jiffavorixxi assoċjazzjoni taħt l-Artikolu 131 tat-Trattat ta' Ruma li jipprovdi għal daww l-istati li kienu jeħtieġu assistenza ekonomika għall-iżvilupp ekonomiku tagħhom. Huwa argumenta li din il-forma ta' assoċjazzjoni kienet tippermetti ż-żamma tad-dazji doganali peress li s-Suq Komuni kien jaċċetta li dawn l-istati kellhom bżonn jipproteġu l-industriji tagħhom f'diffikultà. Huwa qal li l-oppożizzjoni ma qablitx mad-deċiżjoni tal-gvern li jwaqqaf in-negozjati ma'

Brussell dwar protokoll speċjali sempliċiment għaliex id-diskussjonijiet bejn ir-Renju Unit u Brussell dwar is-sħubija kienu kkollasaw. X'kien ser jigrj jekk ir-Renju Unit ma jirnexxilux jingħaqad mal-KEE? Il-Maltin kellhom jibqgħu dipendenti fuq ir-Renju Unit? Il-futur ta' Malta kien ser jibqa' dipendenti, kif il-Gvernatur kien qal lill-kappillani, fuq il-ftehim finanzjarji u ta' difiża li kellhom jigu nnegozjati mar-Renju Unit?

Il-pożizzjoni ta' Mintoff dwar il-kwistjoni ma kinitx jekk Malta għandhiex tissieheb jew le fil-KEE, iżda taħt liema kundizzjonijiet.⁸ Huwa qal li wieħed kellu jikkunsidra li jissieheb fis-Suq Komuni jekk ikun fl-interess ekonomiku u politiku tiegħu li jagħmel hekk. Huwa qal li ma kienx jagħmel sens għall-gvern li jitkellem dwar is-sħubija fl-Ewropa u mbagħad jibqa' jinsisti dwar sħubija fil-Commonwealth. Agħar minn hekk, il-gvern kien qed jiddiskuti ftehim ta' difiża mar-Renju Unit u deher lest li jimpenja ruħu f'politika bħal din. Fil-fehma tiegħu, il-punt kien li wieħed ma jikkommettix lilu nnifsu sakemm dak li kien fl-interess ta' Malta ma jkunx iddefinit b'mod ċar.

Konkluzjoni

L-affarijiet baqgħu hekk għal xi żmien. Il-kwistjoni tal-indipendenza minn dak iż-żmien 'il quddiem bdiet tiegħu dejjem aktar prominenza u l-Parlament ma marx lura għall-kwistjoni tar-relazzjonijiet ta' Malta mas-Suq Komuni qabel ma nkisbet l-indipendenza. Anke mbagħad, kif se naraw, kellha titqies id-dipendenza ekonomika ta' Malta fuq ir-Renju Unit u fuq stati oħrajn tal-Commonwealth. Il-livell ta' żvilupp ekonomiku ta' Malta kien fattur ieħor, iżda r-rieda tal-Gvern li jpoġġi lil Malta politikament fl-Ewropa baqgħet il-forza ewlenija.

1. Dibattiti tal-Assemblea Legiżlattiva, 21 ta' Mejju 1962.
2. Dibattiti tal-Assemblea Legiżlattiva, 5 ta' Settembru 1962.
3. Dibattiti tal-Assemblea Legiżlattiva, 26 ta' Settembru 1962.
4. Dibattiti tal-Assemblea Legiżlattiva, 26 ta' Settembru 1962.
5. Ibid.
6. Pirota, Godfrey, 2006, *Malta's Parliament: An Official History*, p141.
7. Dibattiti tal-Assemblea Legiżlattiva, 6 ta' Frar 1963.
8. Dibattiti tal-Assemblea Legiżlattiva, 9 ta' Marzu 1963.



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(continued from Issue 6)

In Britain's shadow

But pressure was mounting on the Maltese Government to decide, both from within and outside of Malta. Thus, towards the end of May, when the House was debating the Financial Administration and Audit Bill, a member of the House brought to the attention of the government some of the implications for Maltese agriculture raised by membership of the EEC. He argued that even Britain was taking a cautious approach to membership because of this issue. He therefore pleaded with the government to study these issues carefully in order to avoid harm to the local agriculture sector and the people employed in it.¹ In the meantime Britain too was applying pressure on the Maltese Government over the issue of membership since it wanted to gauge the reaction of other Commonwealth countries to its own possible application for membership to the Common Market. Britain had its own treaties and obligations with Commonwealth member states and had to take these into consideration when negotiating EEC membership.

Consequently, in September 1962, the Prime Minister was forced to make a statement in the House on the issue during the Adjournment. He told the House that he would be leading a delegation to London for consultation with the British Government on the issue and to take part in the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference on the Common Market. He admitted that he had come under insistent pressure from Britain to say what Malta's position on membership was and he had finally replied that, in principle, it intended to seek Associate Membership of the Common Market but without formal ties. He said that Britain wanted this information so that it would know how best to represent Maltese interests, and those of other Commonwealth countries, in its own discussions on membership in the Common Market.

The Prime Minister was pressed by the Leader of the Opposition to explain what he meant by his use of the phrase in principle when opting for association rather than membership. The Prime Minister replied that Malta formed part of Europe and thought it would be to its disadvantage if it remained outside the block. He could not say what the impact on Malta would be if Britain joined or did not join the Common Market or, indeed, if Malta stayed out. It was for this reason that his reply to Britain had stressed that the Maltese position was merely one of principle rather than a full decision. He added, and this was an important revelation, that Britain had conceded Malta the right to deal directly with and separately with Common market countries. What Britain wanted to know from Malta was what direction the latter was likely to take

so that it could advise it properly on the advantages and obligations arising from its decision. He promised that the House will have every opportunity to debate the issue fully and that his government would listen with an open mind to what every section of the population had to say on the matter.²

On his return from London Prime Minister Borg Olivier made a statement in the House giving some details about his visit. He was very brief on the Common Market issue which earlier seemed to be a central reason for his trip to London. On this issue he merely limited himself to saying that it was not true that Malta had already submitted a formal application to Brussels. Nonetheless, he said, this did not detract anything from his conviction that the way things were developing in Europe it would eventually become impossible for the island to stay outside of the EEC. Europe's efforts at strengthening itself politically, economically and socially were meeting with success, he said, and despite a number of problems on Malta's side, these developments could not be ignored.³

This statement failed to satisfy the opposition parties in Parliament. Dom Mintoff demanded that the Prime Minister explain in more concrete terms what the advantages and disadvantages of Associate Membership were and whether this would exclude eventual membership. He expressed the hope that the matter would not be allowed to become a contentious one but this could only be avoided if the government refrained from committing Malta one way or another before these issues had been clearly examined. The only principle at stake, he said, was what was in Malta's interest and before one could agree on any other principle one had to decide if the advantages outweighed the disadvantages. If the government wanted the support of the House it had to state what it knew and what had led it to state that in principle it agrees with some form of association with the EEC.⁴

Ganado, for the DNP, concurred with Mintoff on this latter point. It was incumbent on the government, he said, to help form public opinion on the subject and to show what the advantages and disadvantages were. This was, he stressed, a fundamental issue for the country. It was right that the Prime Minister had attended the London conference, but it was wrong to treat Parliament as if it was a nuisance to be got rid of. He doubted whether the government really knew what the implications of membership for Malta were and called on the Prime Minister to set a date for a debate on the issue. The DNP, he said, was in favour of the Common Market idea but it wanted to ensure that Malta's fledgling industries would be protected. The government defended its position by arguing that despite the government's stated position favouring membership, whether full or associate, on principle, it had not committed the country in any way. The

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Prime Minister further argued that it was too early to make certain declarations and it was only after negotiations that one could see what the EEC states were prepared to offer Malta and whether the terms offered were acceptable. He re-stated his earlier position that the House would be able to debate the issue when there was something concrete to debate.⁵

There can be no doubt that the issue taxed the mind of the Maltese Government whose main concern at this stage was negotiating independence with Britain while making sure that in the likely event that Britain opted for membership Malta would not find itself cut adrift, economically, from Britain. The government was in great need of options for in its view, if Britain joined the EEC, for Malta the whole issue would take a completely new dimension with the possibility of tariffs being imposed on Maltese exports to Britain. So it was not a coincidence that on 27 November 1962 the Prime Minister made a statement in the House touching these two issues. Borg Olivier told the House that that same day Britain would be making a statement in respect of the government's request for independence and that he had accepted an invitation from the Italian Government to visit Rome and discuss matters of concern to both sides, including developments in connection with the Common Market.⁶

Yet, it was not until February 1963 that a full statement was made in the House on the latter issue and on this occasion by Dr Giovanni Felice, Minister of Trade and Commerce. In his statement Felice set out the policy which the government had followed.⁷ He told the House that the issue had first arisen when Britain presented its own application for membership of the EEC on 10 August 1961. In the discussions that had followed between London and Brussels, Malta's eventual association with the Common Market was raised and Britain argued that the Maltese case merited consideration as a special case because it was still constitutionally dependent on Britain and because of the island's urgent need for economic development. Brussels responded that Malta could choose one of two options: either applies to become an Associated Overseas Territory (AOT) of the EEC or press to become and enjoy the advantages of a "full" member under the patronage of Great Britain as contemplated in subsection 4 of Article 227 of the Treaty of Rome. It was agreed between London and Brussels that a study of these two options will be made under the presumption that Association would involve lengthy negotiations and may not lead to agreement, while entry under Article 227 may prove to be more straightforward and easy.

Felice explained further that Britain had informed the Malta Government that as the latter considered Malta to be part of Europe the European Commission had observed that the provisions for Association did

not apply as these were strictly limited to countries outside of Europe. Hence, the case of Malta had to be considered under Article 227 and the Maltese Government was asked to examine whether the provisions of the Treaty of Rome should be applied to Malta in their entirety. Britain believed, according to the Minister, that if this was the case then membership was very probable. Thus, the choice before the government was either to push for membership and see what derogations the Six in Brussels would allow it, or to remain outside the EEC and try to obtain some sort of special protocol which would preserve access for Maltese products to the British market. Caught between these two alternatives the government, Felice admitted, had found it extremely difficult to decide which alternative was the best for Malta.

Furthermore, the Minister explained, the government was of the opinion that membership under Article 227 would involve two things: first that Britain was going to become a member of the EEC; and second that the Maltese Government was considering vesting Britain with responsibility for its foreign relations even in respect of our eventual application for membership. The first alternative, according to Felice was problematic. On the one hand, if Britain was admitted as a member before the government had decided which path to follow it was feared that Malta would be deemed to be a member of the EEC without the possibility of any negotiations over issues of interest to Malta. On the other hand, Malta could be left out completely with the fatal consequences that Maltese exports would have tariffs imposed on them even in respect of the British market. The second alternative, that of vesting Britain with responsibility for its foreign relations was, however, opposed to the government's views and constitutional aspirations. Faced with these questions, Felice said, the government had decided to set up a committee of experts, made up of Heads of Departments, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Industries and a certain Mr Vernon, an expert on Common Market affairs sent by the Colonial Office to examine these issues. Having examined the conclusions of this committee and other aspects, including the necessary derogations required by Malta, the government decided to send a delegation to Brussels to investigate the best way forward. It resulted that Malta could not contemplate membership under Article 237 as this dealt with sovereign nations and because Malta was not economically and financially prepared. Nor was the government prepared to apply under Article 227 (4) as Malta was not like Monaco or San Marino. So the only avenue open to the government was that provided by Article 238 of the Treaty and which provided for "agreements of association between EEC countries and other non-EEC states". Brussels, he said, had already concluded such an agreement with Greece and the Maltese Government had hoped that

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it would be allowed to proceed on this course even though it was still not a recognised sovereign state. But this was rejected by Brussels and the Maltese Government sought and obtained from Britain the necessary delegation of powers to negotiate with the EEC. However, Brussels had stipulated a number of conditions: first, that arrangements were to be made for the establishment of relations between Malta and the Community; second, that these relations should give rise to a customs union; third, that until Malta's constitutional advance made an Association Agreement possible, the Commission would conclude a special protocol with Malta; fourth, that this protocol be negotiated with the British Government but with the participation of representatives from Malta; and finally, that the provisions of Article 227 (4) will not apply to Malta once Britain joined the EEC.

According to the Minister the whole process had come to a standstill because negotiations between London and Brussels over British membership had collapsed completely. It would have been preferable for Malta, Felice said, if the delegation allowed Malta to negotiate with the Six had been interpreted as giving Malta the right to go on with the negotiations, but this had not happened. The government had done its best but Malta would have to mark time on the issue, as so many other states had to do. The government had not taken a final decision on the issue and although it was prepared to work to conserve, even strengthen, its relations with other Commonwealth states, it was not going to neglect Malta's interests in Europe especially as these related to the EEC. He concluded by saying that events had shown the importance of working for independence as this would allow Malta to interact with other Commonwealth states and as a European state be also able to take its place in the European Community without hindrance.

Anton Buttigieg, for the MLP, while appreciating the efforts of the government said that his party did not agree either with the form of association sought by the government or by its decision to mark time. He said he could not understand how the government intended to proceed with the formulation of an economic plan while at the same time not deciding how the EEC may fit into it. For such a plan to make sense one had to know the conditions which association of any form brought with it and the kind of aid which the EEC could offer Malta towards its development. One, continued Buttigieg, also needed to know what we were expected to pay and what we could expect in return. The MLP, he said, favoured association under Article 131 of the Treaty of Rome which provides for those states which needed economic assistance for their economic development. This form of association, he argued, allowed for the retention of customs duties as the Common Market accepted that these states needed to protect their fledgling industries. The Opposition, he said, disagreed with the government's

decision to stop negotiations with Brussels on a special protocol merely because the discussions between Britain and Brussels on membership had collapsed. What would happen if Britain failed to join the EEC? Were the Maltese to remain dependent on Britain? Is Malta's future to remain dependent, as the Governor had told parish priests, on the financial and defence agreements to be negotiated with Britain?

Mintoff's position on the issue was not whether Malta should join or not join the EEC but under what conditions.⁸ One, he said, would consider joining the Common Market if it was in one's economic and political interest to do so. It made no sense for the government to speak about joining Europe, he said, and then continue to insist on membership of the Commonwealth. Worse still the government was discussing a defence agreement with Britain and seemed ready to commit itself to such a policy. The point, as he saw it, was not to commit oneself until what was in Malta's interests was clearly defined.

Conclusion

And there the matter remained for some time. The issue of independence from this time on was to take greater prominence and Parliament was not to return to the issue of Malta's relations with the Common Market until independence had been obtained. Even then, as we shall see, Malta's economic dependence on Britain and other Commonwealth states had to be taken into consideration. Malta's level of economic development was another factor but the Government's desire to locate politically Malta within Europe would remain the driving force.

1. *Debates of the Legislative Assembly*, 21 May 1962.
2. *Debates of the Legislative Assembly*, 5 September 1962.
3. *Debates of the Legislative Assembly*, 26 September 1962.
4. *Debates of the Legislative Assembly*, 26 September 1962.
5. *Ibid.*
6. Pirota, Godfrey, 2006, *Malta's Parliament: An Official History*, p141.
7. *Debates of the Legislative Assembly*, 6 February 1963.
8. *Debates of the Legislative Assembly*, 9 March 1963.



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IL-KUMITAT PERMANENTI DWAR IS-SAĦĦA

Il-Kumitat Permanenti dwar is-Saħħa li jiena nipresiedi huwa l-iktar kumitat permanenti reċenti fil-Kamra tad-Deputati. L-Onor. Claudio Grech, il-Kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni dwar is-Saħħa, kien ippropona li jitwaqqaf dan il-Kumitat waqt id-dibattitu parlamentari dwar l-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar is-Saħħa fl-2013. L-għan ewlieni tal-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa kien li jinħoloq forum li jiddiskuti l-politiki u suġġetti oħra relatati mas-settur tas-saħħa li huma ta' importanza strategika kif ukoll ta' interess materjali għall-pazjenti. Qabel ma twaqqaf dan il-Kumitat, is-suġġetti kollha relatati mas-saħħa kienu jiġu diskussi fil-Kumitat dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali. Il-grupp parlamentari tal-Gvern qabel li jitwaqqaf dan il-Kumitat Permanenti tal-Kamra, u l-mozzjoni relattiva mressqa mill-Onor. Claudio Grech għaddiet mill-Kamra b'mod unanimu. Il-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa twaqqaf f'Marzu 2014 permezz tal-Mozzjoni 106, u minn dak iż-żmien 'l hawn beda jiltaqa' regolarment. Il-Membri tal-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa huma s-Segretarju Parlamentari dwar is-Saħħa, l-Onor. Chris Fearn, l-Onor. Deo Debattista, l-Onor. Michael Gonzi u l-Onor. Claudio Grech.

Fuq l-aġenda tal-ewwel laqgħa tal-Kumitat kien hemm l-istrategija nazzjonali dwar is-saħħa u l-iskrutinju ta' dokumenti relatati, kif ukoll diskussjoni bejn Membri miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra dwar is-suġġetti li għandhom jiġu diskussi f'laqgħat futuri. Gie deciż li soġġett għad-diskrezzjoni tal-President, is-suġġetti tad-diskussjoni jintgħażlu darba mill-Gvern u darba mill-Oppożizzjoni b'mod alternanti.

F'laqgħa sussegwenti, il-Kumitat iddiskuta s-sitwazzjoni industrijali fis-settur tas-saħħa f'Malta. L-unions ewlenin li jirrapprezentaw kemm il-professionisti kif ukoll il-ħaddiema l-oħra fis-settur tas-saħħa – jiġifieri l-APFD (Association of Private Family Doctors), l-MUPP (Malta Union of Professional Psychologists), il-GWU (General Workers' Union), il-UHM (Union Ħaddiema Magħqudin), il-MAM (Medical Association of Malta) u l-MUMN (Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses) – iddeskrivew it-tilwim industrijali eżistenti mad-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa. Dan it-tilwim ivarja minn applikazzjoni tad-Direttiva dwar il-ħin tax-xogħol għat-tobba tas-servizz pubbliku sa kundizzjonijiet tax-xogħol tal-infermiera.

"Il-Facilitajiet għall-Kura tas-Saħħa Mentali fit-Tfal" kien suġġett ieħor li l-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa ddiskuta mal-istaff managerjali u l-infermiera tal-Isptar Monte Carmeli. Il-Kumitat gie infurmat li l-maġġoranza taż-żgħażaġh li kienu qed jiddaħħlu fl-Isptar Monte Carmeli kellhom disturbi funzjonali jew ta' mgiba. Biex tiġi indirizzata din il-problema twaqqaf grupp ta' ħidma bejn il-ministeri għas-saħħa, l-edukazzjoni u s-servizzi soċjali. F'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mat-tfal, gie nnutat ukoll li l-manigment kien qed jagħmel

enfasi ikbar fuq il-kura fil-komunità fl-inqas ambjent restrittiv possibbli, filwaqt li jillimita r-rikoveri fl-isptar għall-fażijiet akuti biss. Saret ukoll analizi ta' erba' possibilitajiet f'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mar-rikoveri. Waqt il-laqgħa tħabbar li se tinbena faċilità ġdida għat-tfal viċin il-YPU (Young People's Unit) fl-Isptar Monte Carmeli, biex dawn jinfirdu mill-pazjenti adulti.

F'okkazzjoni oħra, il-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa ltaqa' ma' Dr Christopher Barbara, Clinical Chairman fid-Dipartiment tal-Patoloġija, u mas-Sur Noel Abela, Infection Control Nurse, li għamlu preżentazzjoni dettaljata dwar l-infezzjonijiet li jittieħdu fl-isptarijiet Maltin. Il-Kumitat gie infurmat li f'Malta kważi 80% ta' *Staphylococcus aureus* huwa reżistenti għal methicillin, u b'hekk dan huwa iktar perikoluż u diffiċli biex jiġi kkurat. L-Infection Control Unit (Unità għall-Kontroll tal-Infezzjonijiet) bdiet tieħu inizjattivi fl-isptarijiet lokali biex tnaqqas il-frekwenza ta' *Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), u tnediet kampanja nazzjonali biex tirrikmanda l-użu tal-antibijotiċi unikament meta jkun hemm verament bżonnhom u bir-ricetta tat-tabib. Dawn l-inizjattivi ttieħdu wara li studju reċenti wera li f'Malta l-persentaġġ ta' użu ta' antibijotiċi huwa ikbar minn dak fil-pajjiżi l-oħra tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Inizjattiva oħra li ħadet l-Infection Control Unit fl-Isptar Mater Dei kienet li jitpogġew sinkijiet tal-idejn u *alcohol rubs* f'kull sala, bħala miżura biex tiżdied l-igiene tal-idejn speċjalment fost l-istaff mediku u t-tobba. Jidher li r-riżultat kien wieħed pożittiv peress li f'dawn l-aħħar sentejn gie rreġistrat tnaqqis sinifikanti tal-MRSA.

Kmieni f'Ottubru li għadda l-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa kellu l-privileġġ li jiġi indirizzat minn Dr Tonio Borg, li dak iż-żmien kien il-Kummissarju Ewropew għas-Saħħa. Dan kien wieħed mill-aħħar impenji li kellu Dr Tonio Borg bħala Kummissarju Ewropew qabel ma temm il-mandat tiegħu fil-bidu ta' Novembru. Waqt li kien qed jindirizza l-Kumitat, Dr Borg semma kif f'April tal-2014 il-Kummissjoni kienet adottat komunikazzjoni dwar il-lezzjonijiet miksuba fis-snin reċenti biex jinbnew sistemi tas-saħħa effikaci, aċċessibbli u reżiljenti. Huwa tkellem ukoll dwar l-aċċessibilità u x'tista' twettaq id-Direttiva dwar il-kura tas-saħħa transkonfinali, jiġifieri legiżlazzjoni li tiffoka prinċipalment fuq għażla u aċċess ikbar għall-kura tas-saħħa billi l-pazjenti jkunu jistgħu jiċċaqalqu bejn il-fruntieri. Dr Borg tkellem ukoll dwar l-applikazzjoni tal-e-Health, li għandha l-potenzjal li żżid l-effikacija tas-sistemi tas-saħħa fil-pajjiżi tal-UE. Dr Borg zied jgħid li permezz tal-Grupp ta' Esperti tal-Kummissjoni dwar Modi Effikaci ta' Investiment fis-Saħħa, il-Kummissjoni tista' toffri pariri xjentifiċi indipendenti bbażati fuq l-aħjar żviluppi xjentifiċi, għarfien u pariri esperti disponibbli. Punt ieħor li semma Dr Borg kien il-Fondi Strutturali tal-UE li

IL-KUMITAT PERMANENTI DWAR IS-SAĦĦA (KONT.)



Laqgħa Kongjunta tal-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa u l-Kumitat dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali

Malta diġà bbenefikat minnhom għal ħames proġetti kbar. Suġġetti oħra li semma l-Kummissarju kienu d-Direttiva dwar it-tabakk, l-obeżità u d-demenzja, id-dijabete u mard kroniku ieħor, u l-isforzi tal-Unjoni Ewropea biex tiġġielel il-vajrus tal-Ebola.

Minbarra d-diskussjonijiet dwar il-politiki relatati mas-saħħa u suġġetti oħra marbuta direttament mal-pazjenti u l-benesseri tagħhom, f'dawn l-aħħar xahrej il-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa kellu sehem attiv fil-proposta dwar abbozz ta' liġi ġdida dwar it-trapjanti tat-tessuti u l-organi. Lejn il-bidu ta' Novembru 2014, il-Kumitat dwar ix-Xogħol tal-Kamra fformalizza l-ftehim bejn iż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra biex dan l-item jiġi diskuss konguntemment mill-Kumitat dwar is-Saħħa u dak dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali, billi n-natura tad-diskussjoni kienet tinteressa liż-żewġ kumitati. F'kull laqgħa, il-partijiet interessati involuti fis-suġġett ġew mistiedna biex jagħtu l-opinjoni tagħhom dwaru. Fl-ewwel laqgħa, l-Onor. Franco Mercieca (oftalmologu u espert fit-trapjanti tal-kornea) spjega lill-membri tal-kumitat kif il-legiżlazzjoni dwar it-trapjanti tat-tessuti u l-organi tista' tiffacilita l-proċess ta' kwalunkwe donatur li jixtieq jagħti l-organi tiegħu wara mewtu. Is-Sur Alfred Debattista, President tat-Transplant Support Group (Malta), ukoll tkellem favur din il-legiżlazzjoni, billi din tfisser li donatur prospettiv jista' jagħti l-organi tiegħu għat-trapjant wara mewtu, fuq xewqa espressa liberament u bil-miktub li għandha tiġi onorata mill-qraba. Huwa mistenni li ssir serje ta' diskussjonijiet kongunti mal-bqija tal-partijiet interessati sa qabel il-waqfa tal-Milied. Fi tmiem din is-serje ta' laqgħat, il-Kumitat

Permanenti dwar is-Saħħa u l-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali se jhejju rapport kongunt dwar dan is-suġġett li jagħti bidu għal konsultazzjoni pubblika wiesgħa fil-bidu tal-2015, imsejsa fuq *White Paper* imhejjija mill-Gvern, li eventwalment twassal għal abbozz ta' liġi ġdid li jiġi pprezentat fil-Kamra tad-Deputati għad-diskussjoni u l-approvazzjoni sa nofs l-2015.



*L-Onor. Etienne Grech, MD,
MMCDF, MP
President tal-Kumitat Parlamentari
Permanenti dwar is-Saħħa*

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Standing Committee on Health which I chair is the most recently set up standing committee of the House of Representatives. Its setting up was first proposed by Hon. Claudio Grech, Opposition Spokesman for Health, during the parliamentary debate on the Health Bill in 2013. The main aim of the committee on health was to have a forum for discussing policies, and other matters relating to the health sector, which are of strategic importance and are of material interest to patients. Before the setting up of this Committee, all matters relating to health were discussed in the Social Affairs Committee. The government parliamentary group agreed with the formation of such parliamentary standing committee, and the relative motion put forward by Hon. Claudio Grech was passed unanimously in the House. The Committee on Health was set up in March 2014 by way of Motion 106, and has been meeting regularly ever since. The Members on the Health Committee are Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Hon. Chris Fearne, Hon. Deo Debattista, Hon. Michael Gonzi and Hon. Claudio Grech.

The first meeting of the Committee had on its agenda the national health strategy and the scrutiny of related documents, as well as a discussion between Members from both sides about the topics to be discussed in future meetings. It was decided that subject to the discretion of the chairman, the issues discussed were to be chosen alternately between the Government and the Opposition.

During a subsequent meeting the Committee discussed the industrial situation in the health sector in Malta. The major unions who represent both the professional and health workers -namely the APFD (Association of Private Family Doctors), MUPP (Malta Union of Professional Psychologists), GWU (General Workers' Union), UHM (Union Haddiema Magħqudin), MAM (Medical Association of Malta) and MUMN (Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses) - outlined the industrial disputes they have with the Health Department. These disputes range from the application of the working-time directive for doctors in the public service, to the conditions of work for nurses.

'Mental Health Care facilities for children' was another issue that the Health Committee discussed with the management and nursing staff of Mount Carmel Hospital. The Committee learned that youngsters were mainly admitted to Mount Carmel Hospital because they were suffering from functional or conduct disorders or challenging behaviour. A working group between the ministries for health, education and social services was set up to address this problem. It was also remarked that with regard

to children, management was emphasizing more on community care in the least restrictive environment, limiting the inpatient facilities only for the acute phase. There was also a four-option analysis of how to go about inpatient treatment. During the meeting it was announced that a new facility near the present YPU (Young People's Unit) at Mount Carmel Hospital will be built in order to house children and segregate them from adult patients.



Meeting of the Standing Committee on Health chaired by

On another occasion the Health Committee met with Dr Christopher Barbara, Clinical Chairman in the Pathology Department and Mr Noel Abela, Infection Control Nurse, who gave a detailed presentation on acquired infections in Maltese hospitals. The Committee heard how in Malta, nearly 80% of *Staphylococcus aureus* is resistant to *methicillin*, thus making it more dangerous and difficult to treat. The Infection Control Unit began taking initiatives in local hospitals to lessen the frequency of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and a nationwide campaign was launched promoting the use of antibiotics only when really needed and with a doctor's prescription. These initiatives followed a recent study from which it transpired that in Malta there is a higher percentage of antibiotic use than in the other European Union countries. Another initiative that the Infection Control Unit took at the Mater Dei Hospital, was to place wash-hand basins and alcohol rubs in each ward, as a measure

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (CONT.)

to increase hand hygiene, especially amongst medical staff and doctors. The outcome appears to have been positive as a significant decrease in MRSA in the last two years has been recorded.

Early this October, the Health Committee had the privilege of being addressed by Dr Tonio Borg, at the time European Commissioner for Health. This was



Hon. Etienne Grech

one of the last appointments that Dr Tonio Borg had as European Commissioner before his term of office ended in the beginning of November. During his address to the Committee, Dr Borg stated how in April 2014, the Commission had adopted a Communication on the lessons learnt in recent years to build effective, accessible and resilient health systems. He also spoke about accessibility and what the cross-border healthcare Directive could bring: legislation which is primarily about giving patients greater choice and access to healthcare by being able to move across borders. Dr Borg also spoke about e-Health, an application which could increase the effectiveness of health systems around EU countries. Dr Borg also said that the Commission could offer independent scientific advice based on the best available science, expertise, and knowledge through its Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health. Another issue that Dr Borg mentioned was EU Structural Funds, from which Malta has already benefited in five major

projects. Other subjects that the Commissioner mentioned were the tobacco directive, obesity and dementia, diabetes and other chronic diseases, and European Union efforts in the fight against the Ebola virus.

But apart from discussing health policies and other matters relating directly to the patient and his well-being, in these last two months, the Health Committee has taken an active part in the proposed drafting of new legislation on tissue and organ transplantation. In early November 2014, the House Business Committee formalised the agreement between both sides of the House for this item to be discussed jointly by the Health Committee and the Social Affairs Committee as the nature of the discussion interested both committees. During each meeting stakeholders involved in the subject have been invited to give their opinion on the subject. During the first meeting, Hon. Franco Mercieca (an ophthalmologist by profession with expertise on corneal transplants) explained to the committee members how legislation on tissue and organ transplantation can facilitate the process of any donor who wishes to donate his organs after his death. Mr Alfred Debattista, Chairman of the Transplant Support Group (Malta), also expressed himself in favour of this legislation as it will mean that a prospective donor can donate his organs for transplantation, a wish expressed freely and in writing which is to be honoured by the family, after his death. A series of joint discussions with the remaining stakeholders was held until the Christmas recess. At the end of the series of meetings a report on the subject by the joint health and social parliamentary committees will open the way to a wide public consultation in the beginning of 2015 on the basis of a White Paper to be drafted by the government, which will eventually lead to the drafting of new legislation to be presented to the House of Representatives for discussion and enactment by the middle of 2015.



*Hon. Etienne Grech, MD,
MMCFD, MP
Chairman, Parliamentary Standing
Committee for Health*

ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT

Żjara minn delegazzjoni tal-Bundestag Ġermaniż

Fl-1 ta' Ottubru, delegazzjoni tal-Bundestag Ġermaniż, immexxija mis-Sur Peter Blaser, Segretarju tal-Istat Parlamentari fil-Ministeru Federali tal-Ikel u l-Agricoltura tar-Repubblika Federali tal-Ġermanja żaret il-Parlament Malti.

Iż-żewġ naħat tkellmu dwar ir-relazzjonijiet politiċi, ekonomiċi u kulturali eċċellenti li jeżistu bejn Malta u l-Ġermanja minn mindu tnedew ir-relazzjonijiet diplomatiċi bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi f'Diċembru 1964. Matul il-laqgħa ż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew il-kooperazzjoni fil-livell parlamentari, b'mod partikolari l-attivitajiet tal-Grupp Parlamentari ta' Hbiberija Kongunt imwaqqaf bejn il-Parlament Malti u l-Bundestag, kif ukoll kwistjonijiet oħrajn ta' interess reċiproku fosthom is-sitwazzjoni ta' kriżi fil-Libja, it-theddida tal-ISIS u l-problema tal-immigrazzjoni illegali.



Delegazzjoni tal-Bundestag Ġermaniż tagħmel żjara ta' korteżija lill-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia

Notte Bianca

B'hal fis-snin preċedenti, il-Parlament għal darb'oħra fetaħ il-bibien tiegħu għall-pubbliku b'hal parti mill-attivitajiet tan-Notte Bianca organizzati fil-Belt Valletta. Nhar l-4 ta' Ottubru, membri tal-pubbliku, kemm Maltin kif ukoll barranin, kellhom l-opportunità li jżuru l-kmamar parlamentari prinċipali. Wara żjara fil-kmamar tal-President, il-viżitaturi kellhom l-opportunità li jżuru l-kmamar tal-kumitati u mbagħad jipproċedu lejn is-Sala tal-Parlament fejn kellhom l-opportunità li jpoġġu għal ftit mument i fis-Sedja u jimmaġina kif tiżvolgi seduta parlamentari tipika. Uffiċjali tal-Parlament kienu preżenti sabiex iwiegħbu l-mistoqsijiet tan-nies u jipprovdu informazzjoni dwar il-ħidma mwettqa mill-Parlament.

B'hal fis-snin preċedenti, eluf ta' nies żaru l-kmamar tal-Parlament f'din l-okkażjoni, li hija l-unika darba li dawn il-kmamar huma miftuħa għall-pubbliku u mingħajr ħlas.

Żjara minn delegazzjoni mill-Kumitat Permanenti tal-Kungress Provinċjali ta' Hubei

Fit-13 ta' Ottubru l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rċieva żjara ta' korteżija minn delegazzjoni mill-Kumitat Permanenti tal-Kungress Provinċjali ta' Hubei fiċ-Ċina.

Iż-żewġ naħat tkellmu dwar ir-relazzjonijiet bilaterali diplomatiċi bejn Malta u r-Repubblika Popolari taċ-Ċina kif evolwew mit-twaqqif tagħhom f'Jannar 1972 fil-livell politiku, ekonomiku u kulturali.

Dr Farrugia esprima l-interess li terġa' titlaqqa' l-Kummissjoni Ekonomika Kongunta Sino-Maltija mal-ewwel opportunità, peress illi l-aħħar sessjoni tagħha kienet fl-2009. Dan intqal fid-dawl tax-xewqa ta' Malta li tikkonsolida l-oqsma ta' kooperazzjoni ekonomika u kummerċjali mar-Repubblika Popolari taċ-Ċina.

Id-Deputat Kap tal-Kumitat Permanenti tal-Kungress Provinċjali ta' Hubei, is-Sur Li Chunming, irringrazzja lill-Onor. Farrugia għat-trattament li ġie estiż lid-delegazzjoni matul iż-żjara tagħha u stieden lill-Parlament Malti sabiex jirreċipokaw din iż-żjara. Iż-żewġ naħat qablu li r-relazzjonijiet bilaterali għandhom jissaħħu aktar sabiex tissaħħaħ id-diplomazija parlamentari.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Visit by a delegation of the German Bundestag

On 1 October a delegation of the German Bundestag, led by Mr Peter Blaser, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany visited the Maltese Parliament.

The two sides reiterated the excellent political, economic and cultural relations that exist between Malta and Germany, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in December 1964. During the meeting the two sides discussed co-operation at parliamentary level, particularly the activities of the Joint Parliamentary Friendship Group set up between the Maltese Parliament and the Bundestag, as well as other issues of mutual interest including the crisis situation in Libya, the threat of ISIS and the problem of illegal immigration.

Notte Bianca

As in previous years, Parliament once again opened its doors to the public as part of the *Notte Bianca* activities organised in Valletta. On 4 October, members of the public, Maltese and foreigners alike, had the opportunity to tour the principal parliamentary chambers. After visiting the President's chambers, visitors to the Palace started by viewing the committee rooms and then proceeded to the parliamentary Chamber where they had the opportunity to sit for a few moments in the Speaker's chair and imagine what a typical parliamentary sitting would be like. Parliamentary staff was on site in order to answer people's questions and provide information on the work carried out by Parliament.

As in previous years, thousands of people visited the parliamentary chambers on this occasion, being the only time these rooms are open to the public and for free.

Visit by a delegation from the Standing Committee of the Hubei Provincial Congress

On 13 October Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit by a delegation from the Standing Committee of the Hubei Provincial Congress in China.

The two sides reiterated the outstanding bilateral relations that exist between Malta and the People's Republic of China at the political, economic and cultural level, following the establishment of diplomatic relations in January 1972.

Dr Farrugia expressed the interest in reconvening the Sino-Maltese Joint Economic Commission at the earliest opportunity given that the last session was held back in 2009. This was stated in view of Malta's wish to consolidate the areas of economic and trade cooperation with the People's Republic of China.



The Deputy Head of the Standing Committee of the Hubei Provincial Congress, Mr Li Chunming, thanked Hon. Farrugia for the warm welcome that was extended to the visiting delegation and invited the Maltese Parliament to reciprocate this visit. Both sides agreed that bilateral relations should be further enhanced in order to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy.

The Speaker receives a courtesy visit by a delegation from the Standing Committee of the Hubei Provincial Congress in China

ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

Tnedija tar-rapport mill-Grupp ta' Ħidma dwar id-Dijabete

Fl-24 ta' Ottubru l-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia, President tal-grupp ta' ħidma parlamentari fuq id-dijabete, u l-Onor. Simon Busuttil, Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, ipprezentaw ir-rapport *Health Choices* (Għażliet dwar is-Saħħa) lill-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia. Ir-rapport jelenka r-rakkomandazzjonijiet imressqa mill-11-il Membru Parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra li jiffurmaw dan il-grupp ta' ħidma. L-għan ta' dawn ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet huwa li jkunu mistharrġa modi li permezz tagħhom il-ħajjiet ta' dawk il-persuni li jbatu mid-dijabete jistgħu jiġu mtejjba. L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia faħħar l-isforzi tal-grupp ta' ħidma li kollettivament indirizzaw problema li taffettwa aktar minn 30,000 ruħ f'Malta, b'eluf oħrajn li għadhom ma ġewx djanjożati.



Press Conference fejn ġie mniedi r-rapport tal-Grupp ta' Ħidma dwar id-Dijabete



Għoti tal-Ġurament tal-Ħatra lill-Membru ġdid l-Onor. Joseph Farrugia

Bidliet fil-kompożizzjoni tal-Kamra

Fis-27 ta' Ottubru l-Onor. Karmenu Vella sottometta r-riżenja tiegħu minn Membru tal-Kamra tad-Deputati sabiex jieħu l-pożizzjoni ta' Kummissarju Ewropew għall-Ambjent, l-Affarijiet Marittimi u s-Sajd. Din ir-riżenja rriżultat f'vakanza fil-Ħames Distrett Elettorali li għaliha saret elezzjoni każwali fis-6 ta' Novembru. Is-Sur Joseph Farrugia kien elett f'din l-elezzjoni, u ħa l-ġurament bħala Membru tal-Kamra tad-Deputati fl-10 ta' Novembru.

Konferenza dwar il-Parteċipazzjoni Politika tan-Nisa f'Malta

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia indirizza s-sessjoni tal-ftuħ tal-Konferenza dwar il-Parteċipazzjoni tan-Nisa fil-Politika f'Malta li kienet organizzata fil-kamra tal-kumitati fit-3 ta' Novembru b'mod kongunt bejn il-Kamra tad-Deputati u l-Uffiċċju għall-Istituzzjonijiet Demokratiċi u d-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem tal-OSCE (ODIHR), il-Kummissarju nazzjonali għall-Promozzjoni tal-Ugwaljanza u l-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa. Fl-indirizz tal-ftuħ l-Ispeaker Farrugia qal li l-parteċipazzjoni tan-nisa fil-politika hija indikatur ewlieni tal-kwalità ta' kultura demokratika. Hu qal ukoll li Parlamenti sensitivi għaż-żewġ sessi jirrispondu għall-ħtiġijiet u l-interessi tal-irġiel u n-nisa u għalhekk huma centrali għal tmexxija parlamentari tajba.

Il-Konferenza kienet indirizzata wkoll mis-Sinjura Renee Laiviera, Kummissarju Nazzjonali għall-Promozzjoni tal-Ugwaljanza, Dr Nathalie Tagwerker, Deputat Kap tad-Demokratizzazzjoni (ODIHR) u l-Onor. Helena Dalli, Ministru għad-Djalogu Soċjali, Affarijiet tal-Konsumatur u Libertajiet Ċivili.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Launch of the report by the Working Group on Diabetes

On 24 October Hon. Godfrey Farrugia, Chairman of the parliamentary working group on diabetes, and Hon. Simon Busuttil, Leader of the Opposition, presented the report *Health Choices* to Speaker Anglu Farrugia. The report describes the recommendations put forward by the 11 Members of Parliament from both sides of the House making up this working group. The aim of these recommendations is to explore ways in which the lives of those persons suffering from diabetes can be improved. Speaker Anglu Farrugia praised the efforts of the working group which collectively addressed a problem that affects over 30,000 people in Malta, with thousands of others who are still undiagnosed.

Changes in the composition of the House

On 27 October Hon. Karmenu Vella submitted his resignation from Member of the House of Representatives in order to take up the position of European Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. This resignation resulted in a vacancy in the Fifth Electoral District for which a casual election was held on 6 November. Mr Joseph Farrugia was elected in this election, and took the oath as Member of the House of Representatives on 10 November.



Speaker Farrugia addressing the opening session of the Conference on Women's Participation in Politics in Malta

Conference on Women's Political Participation in Malta

Speaker Anglu Farrugia addressed the opening session of the Conference on Women's Participation in Politics in Malta which was organised in the parliamentary committee room on 3 November, co-organised by the House of Representatives and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the National Commissioner for the Promotion of Equality and the National Council of Women. In the opening address Speaker Farrugia said that the participation of women in politics is a key indicator of the quality of democratic culture. He also said that gender sensitive Parliaments respond to the needs and interests of both men and women and are thus central to good parliamentary governance.

The Conference was also addressed by Ms Renee Laiviera, National Commissioner for the Promotion of Equality, Dr Nathalie Tagwerker, Deputy Head of Democratisation (ODIHR) and Hon. Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

Preżentazzjoni ta' karozza elettrika lill-Kamra tad-Deputati

Fit-12 ta' Novembru l-Onor. Joe Mizzi, Ministru tat-Trasport u l-Infrastruttura, ippreżentata karozza elettrika għall-użu mill-Parlament. Il-karozza kienet ippreżentata bħala parti mill-Proġett DemoEV iffinanzjat mill-programm LIFE+. Il-profil ta' konsum baxx ta' enerġija tal-vettura se jikkomplimenta l-karatteristiċi moderni ta' ffrankar ta' enerġija tal-bini l-gdid tal-Parlament.

Tnedija tal-ktieb Nidhqu Bina Nfusna - Politika bi Tbissima

Fl-14 ta' Novembru l-ex Membru u l-ex Kummissarju tal-Unjoni Ewropea Tonio Borg nieda ktieb gdid miktub minnu bl-isem *Nidhqu Bina Nfusna - Politika bi Tbissima* li jiġbor aktar minn 100 grajja umoristika mill-ħajja politika ta' Membri preżenti u kif ukoll antiki. It-tnedija tal-ktieb saret taħt l-awspiċi tal-Ispeaker tal-Kamra fis-Sala tal-Arazzi fil-Palazz. F'din lokkazzjoni l-awtur introduċa l-ktieb lill-mistednin flimkien mal-Ispeaker Farrugia u l-Imħallef Emeritu Giovanni Bonello.



Tnedija tal-ktieb Nidhqu bina Nfusna - Politika bi Tbissima

Tnedija tat-tieni volum tal-pubblikazzjoni Is-Sedja Titkellem

Fl-4 ta' Diċembru l-Uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker ippubblika t-tieni volum tal-ktieb *Is-Sedja Titkellem*, li hija ġabra ta' deċiżjonijiet tas-Sedja mogħtija bejn April u Diċembru 2014. L-Ispeaker ippreżenta kopja ta' din il-pubblikazzjoni lill-Prim Ministru, l-Onor. Joseph Muscat, u lill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, l-Onor. Simon Busuttil, li t-tnejn li huma kellhom kliem ta' tifhir għal din l-inizjattiva tal-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia.



Il-karozza elettrika ppreżentata lill-Parlament

Parlament tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità

Nhar l-Erbgħa, 10 ta' Diċembru fil-Kamra tal-Kumitati nżammet is-sessjoni tal-2014 tal-Parlament tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità. It-tema tas-sessjoni ta' din is-sena kienet 'Id-Deciżjoni Tiegħi, il-Futur Tiegħi'. L-Onor. Ċensu Galea fetaħ din il-laqgħa, u wara sar diskors mis-Sur Oliver Scicluna, Chairman tal-Kummissjoni Persuni b'Diżabilità. Saru wkoll diskorsi mill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, l-Onor. Simon Busuttil, is-Segretarju Parlamentari għad Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità u Anzjanità Attiva, l-Onor. Justyne Caruana u l-kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni dwar ix-Xogħol u Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità, l-Onor. Stephen Spiteri. Il-persuni b'diżabilità li pparteċipaw f'din is-sessjoni kellhom l-oportunità li jintervjenu fid-diskussjoni. Id-diskors tal-għeluq tal-attività sar mid-Deputat Prim Ministru, l-Onor. Louis Grech.

Din l-attività kellha s-sapport mill-Programm għall-Impjeg u Solidarjetà Soċjali – PROGRESS (2007-2013) tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Presentation of an electric car to the House of Representatives

On 12 November Hon. Joe Mizzi, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, presented an electric car for use by Parliament. The car was presented as part of the DemoEV Project co financed with the LIFE+ programme. The low energy consumption profile of the vehicle will complement the modern energy-saving features of the new parliamentary building.

Launch of the book *Nidħqu bina nfusna – politika bi tbissima*

On 14 November former Member and former EU Commissioner Tonio Borg launched his new book *Nidħqu bina nfusna – politika bi tbissima* (Laughing at ourselves – Politics with a smile) a collection of more than 100 humorous anecdotes of present and former Members from their political life. The book launch was held in the Tapestry Chamber in the Palace under the auspices of the Speaker of the House, who together with the author of the book and Judge Emeritus Giovanni Bonello introduced the book to the guests at the occasion.

Launch of the second volume of the publication *Is-Sedja Titkellem*

On 4 December the Office of the Speaker published the second volume of the book *Is-Sedja Titkellem*, which is a collection of rulings of the Chair delivered between April and December 2014. The Speaker presented a copy of this publication to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Joseph Muscat, and the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Simon Busuttil, who both had words of praise for this initiative of Speaker Anglu Farrugia.



Presentation of the second volume of the publication Is-Sedja Titkellem to the Prime Minister and the Government Whip by Speaker Anglu Farrugia and Deputy Speaker Ċensu Galea



Presentation of the second volume of the publication Is-Sedja Titkellem to the Leader of the Opposition and to the Opposition Assistant Whip

Parliament for Persons with Disabilities

On Wednesday 10 December the 2014 session of the Parliament of Persons with Disabilities was held in the parliamentary community. The theme of this year's session was 'My Decision, My Future'. Deputy Speaker Hon. Ċensu Galea opened the meeting, and this was followed by a speech by Mr Oliver Scicluna, Chairman of the Commission Persons with Disability. Speeches were also delivered by the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Simon Busuttil, Parliamentary Secretary for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Active Ageing, Hon. Justyne Caruana and Opposition spokesman on Employment and Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Hon. Stephen Spiteri. Persons with disabilities who participated in the session had the opportunity to intervene in the discussion. The closing speech of the activity was delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Louis Grech.

This activity was supported by the Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity- PROGRESS (2007-2013) of the European Union.

IL-KUMMISSJONI STORKS (1865)

Fiz-żminijiet kolonjali Britanniċi d-dmirijiet ta' kap tal-gvern ta' Malta kien jassumihom il-Gvernatur, li kien responsabbli mill-aspetti kollha tat-tmexxija ordinarja ta' din il-gżira fortizza. Wara l-mandat turbolenti tal-Gvernatur Gaspard Le Merchant (1858-1864), il-Gvern Ingliz ħasibha tajjeb li jibgħat lil-Log. General Sir Henry Storks (1864-1867). M'hemmx dubju li Stork kien mgħarraf bis-sitwazzjoni f'Malta li kienet iddegenerat minħabba dak li Abela jiddeskrivi bħala "il-manjieri arroganti" u "n-nies prepotenti" tal-predeċessur tiegħu.¹ Storks ħtiegħu li b'xi mod ibiddel l-atteggjament tal-amministrazzjoni u jagħmel ħiltu biex jaddotta attitudni aktar dħulija fil-konfront tas-sudditi tal-kolonja. Laferla jiddeskrivi l-aġir tal-Gvernatur il-gdid b'mod qawwi u fi kliemu: "Storks ikkalma l-ilmijiet" u "taffa t-tensjoni", biex b'hekk sar "l-idolu ta' dawk li altrimenti kellhom ikunu l-opponenti tal-gvern".²

Fost il-ħafna trufijiet mhux solvuti li Storks affronta kien hemm il-kwistjoni tal-edukazzjoni fil-kolonja. Dak iż-żmien id-Direttur tal-Iskejjel Elementari kien il-Kanonku Paolo Pullicino, bla dubju benefattur tas-settur li sas-sena 1865 kien digà ilu f'dik il-kariga ħmistax-il sena. Kien bniedem determinat fl-atteggjament tiegħu, eżigent ma' ta' taħtu, iħares fit-tul, innovattiv u aġġornat fl-aħħar żviluppi fix-xena edukattiva internazzjonali. L-iskejjel tiegħu kienu saru realtà. Meta l-Gvernatur Storks ħabbar ix-xewqa tiegħu li jeżamina l-istrutturi u l-proċessi fl-iskejjel elementari Maltin, wieħed jista' faċilment jassumi li lill-Kan. Pullicino ma tantx niżlitlu tajjeb din l-aħbar. Id-Direttur kien digà kellu xi jgħid mal-gvernatur preċedenti Le Merchant, li kien bagħat "inqwizitur" fid-Dipartiment tiegħu biex jevalwa l-affarijiet. Dr Francesco Toreggiani (wieħed mill-"erba' avukati" – kif imlaqqma mill-Gvernatur preċedenti) kienu gerfxulu s-sistema tiegħu bl-evalwazzjoni u l-kritika tagħhom tal-iskejjel. Issa, sentejn biss wara tmiem dik l-istorja, kien se jkun hemm kummissjoni oħra tindaħal fl-iskejjel tiegħu. It-tip ta' direttur li kien, il-karattru imponenti li kellu u l-mod kif kien imexxi d-Dipartiment "tiegħu"³ kienu jagħmluha diffiċli għal Pullicino li jniżżel deċiżjoni bħal din. Ma seta' qatt jikkonvinci ruħu li "L-uniku għan tal-Eċċellenza Tiegħu li jaħtar kummissjoni kien biss dak li jikseb rapport dettaljat u li din tikkunsidra bir-reqqa s-suggerimenti kollha li setgħu jsiru bil-ħsieb li jittejjeb dan is-settur importanti tal-edukazzjoni pubblika taħt ir-responsabbiltà tiegħek."⁴

Il-Kummissarji maħtura biex jesejwixxu l-istruzzjonijiet tal-Gvernatur kienu Kol. Romer R.A., is-Sur Emilio de Baroni Sciberras u s-Sur

Benjamin B. Baker LL.D.⁵ Jidher li dawn daħlu għal xogħolhom b'hegga liema bħalha. Fi kliem Laferla, "Il-Kummissarji bdew iwettqu xogħolhom bl-aktar mod straordinarju. Injoraw lid-Direttur kompletament u fittxew għew minn skola għall-oħra".⁶ Għalkemm id-Direttur ma giex ikkonsultat, Romer, Baker and Sciberras taw widen għal opinjonijiet ta' nies oħra. Fost dawn insibu lil Sigismondo Savona, li aktar tard kien okkupa l-kariga ta' Direttur tal-Edukazzjoni. F'ittra li bagħat lill-Kummissjoni, Savona ressaq numru ta' "punti dwar il-ħtiegħa li l-poplu jkun edukat, bit-tama li jogħgobkom tikkunsidrawhom". Dawn kienu jinkludu ideat dwar kif il-kwalifiki tal-għalliema setgħu jittejjeb, kif it-tagħlim tal-lingwa Ingliza seta' jissahħaħ u ħafna aktar. Speċifikament dwar l-iskejjel primarji, Savona wera l-fehma li dawn ma kinux jilħqu l-istandard. Huwa għamilha ċara li, "sabiex tintlaħaq effiċjenza dejjiema u jkun hemm żvilupp u firxa gradwali tal-Iskejjel Primarji", kien hemm il-ħtiegħa li jinħatar spettur għal dawn l-iskejjel. Dan l-uffiċjal kellu jkollu d-dmir li "jeżamina l-istat ta' kull skola u jirrapporta dwaru, waqt li jissuggerixxi dak it-titjib li jkun meħtiegħ biex tinfirex il-barka ta' edukazzjoni tajba fost il-klassijiet tal-ħaddiema".⁷ L-osservazzjonijiet ta' Savona jagħtu impressjoni qawwija li hu kien qed jikkritika l-ħiliet amministrattivi ta' Pullicino. Sigismondo Savona, politiku aspirant, kellu f'moħħu l-kisba ta' "effiċjenza dejjiema" fl-iskejjel, u ta lil kulhadd x'jifhem li din ma kinitx teżisti.

Kummenti oħra kienu waslu mingħand Ramiro Barbaro. Dawn ġew ipprezentati lill-Kummissjoni permezz tal-gurnal *Idee E Fatti*, li tiegħu l-istess Barbaro kien editur, bħala l-kontribut tiegħu lejn dan l-eżerċizzju. Permezz tal-artikli tiegħu ppubblikati fuq numru ta' ġimgħat, Barbaro kkritika l-istat attwali tal-edukazzjoni f'Malta. Dwar id-Dipartiment tal-Iskejjel Primarji, hu kien għamilha ċara li dan ma kienx jipprepara lill-istudenti għas-settur tal-edukazzjoni sekondarja, u dan minħabba li ż-żewġ setturi kienu responsabbli għalihom żewġ persuni differenti. Hu sostna li l-livelli kollha kellhom jaqgħu taħt it-tmexxija ta' persuna waħda.⁸ Dan is-suggeriment kien jaqbel ma' dak ta' Savona, li kien offra l-istess idea lill-Kummissjoni billi qal li s-settur edukattiv kellu jiġi inkorporat "f'awtorità ċentrali waħda".⁹ Barbaro ma kienx jara lil Pullicino bħala din l-awtorità waħdanija. Fil-fatt kien jispera li r-Reverendu jitneħħa mill-kariga għall-gid tal-edukazzjoni u tal-pajjiż.¹⁰ Dik kienet il-fehma li kellhom xi wħud dwar Pullicino.

Madanakollu, il-Kummissjoni ta' tlieta ma sejsitx l-evalwazzjoni tad-Dipartiment ta' Pullicino

IL-KUMMISSJONI STORKS (1865) (KONT.)

fuq dawn il-kummenti u l-opinjoni jiet biss. Il-Kummissarji żaru l-iskejjel madwar Malta u Għawdex u eżaminaw is-sitwazzjoni mill-qrib. Hekk kien mistenni minnhom u hekk għamlu. Kumment interessanti li jispikka, u li deher fl-ittra ta' prezentazzjoni tar-rapport mibgħut lill-Gvernatur Storks, jaqra hekk, "Bi pjaċir nistqarru li ngħatajna l-attenzjoni kollha meħtieġa minn ... id-Direttur tal-Iskejjel Primarji".¹¹ Madankollu, id-Direttur Pullicino oġġezzjona għal dan il-kumment billi qal, "il-Kummissjoni aġixxiet fl-Iskejjel Primarji u dwarhom mingħajr kważi ebda konsultazzjoni miegħi". Il-Kanonku kompli jistqarr li waqt li l-Kummissarji kienu fuq żjara fl-Iskola Primarja tas-Subien tal-Belt Valletta, inżerta kien qiegħed hemm kumbinazzjoni u "peress li ma ġejtx imsejjaħ minnhom fil-kapaċità tiegħi ta' Direttur tal-Iskejjel, assistejt għal dak li kien qed isir daqslikieku barrani...".¹²

Ibbażat fuq dak li rat, il-Kummissjoni pingiet stampa tassew kerha tal-iskejjel u d-direttur tagħhom. Romer, Baker u Sciberras irrikonoxxew l-enerġija li biha kien irnaxxielu jorganizza l-iskejjel tiegħu u d-dixxiplina li kien daħħal fihom. Madankollu, il-Kummissjoni rrimarkat li, "huwa ta' dispjaċir li fl-entuzjażmu tiegħu biex jgħolli l-mertu ta' dawn l-iskejjel, huwa ppubblika rapporti ta' informazzjoni ġenerali u programmi li kellhom l-effett li jqanqlu aspettattivi għolja min-naħa tal-pubbliku, meta fil-fatt ma kellu l-ebda ftehim kif dawn il-programmi setgħu jitwettqu ...".¹³

Ma setgħetx tonqos it-twegiba għal akkużi bħal dawn. Insinwazzjonijiet ta' falsifikazzjoni tar-realtà huma pjuttost serji u Pullicino, fit-twegiba tiegħu għal din l-akkuża, enfasizza li kien jikkunsidra tali stqarrija bħala "tassew nieqsa mill-korteżija u l-gratitudni" lejha. Il-Kanonku sostna li r-rapporti tiegħu kienu jistqarru "purament il-fatti li rrigwardaw il-perjodu kopert minn kull Rapport individwali." Żied ukoll li l-programmi li fassal qatt ma ġew ipprezentati lill-pubbliku u li dawn kienu maħsuba għall-għalliema biex jirregolaw it-tagħlim skonthom.¹⁴

Il-Kummissarji kellhom aktar kritika fil-konfront tad-Direttur u l-mentaw li l-livell tal-edukazzjoni fl-iskejjel primarji kien tant baxx illi anki studenti akbar fl-età kienu lura fl-oqsma kollha akkademiċi, bħall-qari, l-ortografija, il-konjugazzjoni tat-Taljan u l-Ingliš u l-aritmetika. Huma jsemmu każ fejn seba' studenti tal-iskejjel primarji kienu qed jagħmlu l-eżami għad-dhul fil-Liceo waqt li tnejn mill-Kummissarji kienu preżenti. Huma rrimarkaw li s-sebġha li kienu m'għaddewx, "għalkemm l-istandard mistenni minnhom (forsi l-aktar



Il-Gvernatur Sir Henry Storks – karikatura li deheret fil-pubblikazzjoni Vanity Fair tal-24 ta' Dicembru 1870

wieħed baxx imqabbel ma' kwalunkwe pajjiż fl-Ewropa) kien sempliciment dak li jkunu jafu jiktbu korrettement f'ames jew sitt linji ddetta bit-Taljan b'mod li jinqraw, u jaħdmu somma ta' diviżjoni b'numru ta' żewġ ċifri".¹⁵ Pullicino rribatta dawn u attakki oħra fuq l-istudenti tiegħu u l-livell ta' edukazzjoni tagħhom billi sostna li dan kien riżultat ta' "l-għaġla kbira li biha ġie evalwat ix-xogħol tal-istudenti" mill-Kummissarji. Id-Direttur insista li l-għalliema kienu għarrfuh li ħafna aktar studenti minn dawk imsemmija mill-Kummissjoni kienu fil-fatt ħadmu b'mod korrett il-mistoqsijiet aritmetiċi. Il-Kanonku żied li din l-informazzjoni li tawh "hija korretta u taqbel perfettament ma' dak li jien naf personalment dwar l-istat attwali reali tal-iskejjel".¹⁶

IL-KUMMISSJONI STORKS (1865) (KONT.)

Il-Kanonku Pullicino ma ħalliex din il-kritika għaddejja bla risposta. Huwa fittex provi li jikkonfermaw l-istat tassew tajjeb li fih kien jinsab id-dominju tiegħu. Huwa segwa l-perkors tal-Kummissarji u kkontenda li "ħafna mill-istqarrijiet tal-Kummissarji dwar l-Iskejjel Primarji kienu, jiddispjaċini ngħid, żbaljati".¹⁷ Dan stqarru f'komunikazzjoni oħra li segwiet l-ewwel reazzjoni tiegħu għar-Rapport ippubblikat. Id-Direttur kien ittama li l-informazzjoni addizzjonali li kien gabar u bagħat lill-Gvernatur "twassal lill-Eċċellenza Tiegħek għall-konkluzjoni t-tajba dwar sugġett daqshekk importanti, billi tqabbel l-istqarrija tiegħi ma' dik tal-Kummissarji".¹⁸ Il-Kanonku Pullicino stenna wkoll li dak li kien ippreżenta lill-Gvernatur jiġi ppubblikat biex kulħadd ikun jista' jarah. Huwa fittex ir-rikonoxximent tal-pubbliku għall-fatt li l-kritika li saret kontrih mill-Kummissjoni Storiks kienet ingusta. Dan kien għamlu ċar f'ittra li kiteb lill-awtoritajiet. Fiha esprima s-sorpriża tiegħu għall-fatt li l-Gvernatur naqas li jippubblika l-kummenti addizzjonali tiegħu tal-1 ta' Awwissu 1865. Fil-11 ta' Awwissu huwa kkummenta li kien jistenna li l-osservazzjonijiet jiġu ppubblikati u, meta dan ma sarx, talab lis-superjuri tiegħu biex iwassluhom lill-pubbliku permezz tal-midja uffiċjali tal-Gvern.¹⁹ Huwa kien konvint li "Il-pubbliku kien b'hekk ikollu informazzjoni iktar sħiħa qabel jasal għall-konkluzjoni tiegħu dwar sugġett daqstant importanti."²⁰

Din l-affari heżżet lil Pullicino minn għeruqu. Kienet l-aġġar theddida sa dakinhar, mhux biss għall-kredibilità tiegħu, iżda wkoll għas-sigurtà tal-kariga li kien jikkupa.

1. Abela, A.E., *Governors of Malta (Malta, 1991)*, 32.
2. Laferla, A.V., *British Malta, I (Malta, 1938)*, 228.
3. Ara Fenech, J, 'Laying the foundation for cultures of teaching', *Education*, IV/2 (1991), 2-8. Ara wkoll id-diversi rapporti u struzzjonijiet oħra miktuba mill-Kan. Pullicino nnifsu tul it-tletin sena tad-direttorat tiegħu.
4. Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG04/849/1865, Is-Segretarju Ewlieni lill-Gvern lid-Direttur tal-Iskejjel Primarji (9.iii.1865).
5. Romer dak iż-żmien kien Spettur tal-Iskejjel tal-Armata. Baker qabel kien Direttur tal-College f'Corfu, imbagħad Registratur tal-Qorti tal-Appell tal-Maestà Tagħha f'Malta. Ara *The Malta Government Gazette*, Nru 2210 (11.i.1865), 49.
6. Laferla, 232.
7. Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/1586/1865, Sigismondo Savona lill-Kummissjoni dwar l-Edukazzjoni (20.v.1865).
8. Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/1586/1865, R. Barbaro lill-Giunta d'Inchiesta dell'Istruzione, dok. mehmuż, *Idee E Fatti*, Nru 23, (17.ii.1865), 1.
9. Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/1586/1865, op. cit.

10. Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/1586/1865, R. Barbaro lill-Giunta d'Inchiesta dell'Istruzione, dok. mehmuż, *Idee E Fatti*, Nru 24, (24.ii.1865), 1.
11. *The Malta Government Gazette*, Nru 2229 (8.vii.1865), 233.
12. *The Malta Government Gazette*, Nru 2235 (8.viii.1865), 265; u, Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/1816-1865, Id-Direttur Ewlieni tal-Iskejjel Primarji lis-Segretarju Ewlieni tal-Gvern (20.vii.1865).
13. *The Malta Government Gazette*, Nru 2229 (8.vii.1865), 235.
14. *The Malta Government Gazette*, Nru 2235 (8.viii.1865), 267; u, Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/1816/1865.
15. *The Malta Government Gazette*, Nru 2229 (8.vii.1865), 267; u, Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/1816/1865.
16. *The Malta Government Gazette*, Nru 2235 (8.viii.1865), 266; u, Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/1816/1865.
17. *The Malta Government Gazette*, Nru 2239 (28.viii.1865), 285.
18. *Ibid.*, 287.
19. Minbarra l-organu tal-midja uffiċjali, il-ġurnal *The Malta Times and United Service Gazette* ukoll irriproduċew il-korrispondenza li *The Malta Government Gazette* kienet ippubblikat għas-sodisfazzjon tal-pubbliku. Ara *The Malta Times and United Service Gazette*, Nru 1165 (13.vii.1865); Nru 1166 (20.vii.1865); Nru 1169 (10.viii.1865); Nru 1170 (17.viii.1866); u, Nru 1172 (31.viii.1865).
20. Arkivji Nazzjonali, CSG01/2025/1865, Id-Direttur Ewlieni tal-Iskejjel Primarji lis-Segretarju Ewlieni tal-Gvern. (11.viii.1865).



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THE STORKS COMMISSION (1865) - DR GEORGE CASSAR

In British colonial times, the duty of head of the government in Malta fell on the governor who assumed all responsibilities connected with the day-to-day running of this island-fortress. After the tempestuous term of Governor Gaspard Le Merchant (1858-1864), the British Government thought wisely to send Lt General Sir Henry Storks (1864-1867). Undoubtedly briefed about the actual situation in Malta resulting from the many problems, which had resulted because of “the bluntness of manner” and “authoritative mien” of his predecessor¹. Storks needed to change somewhat the conduct of administration and strive to transmit a more benevolent attitude in dealing with the subjects of the colony. Laferla describes the new governor’s actions through the significant observation that “Storks threw oil on the troubled waters,” and “soothed jagged nerves” thus becoming “the idol of the erstwhile opponents of the government.”²

Among the various loose ends, which Storks sought to follow up, there was the education issue of the colony. The Director of Elementary Schools at the time was Can. Paolo Pullicino, arguably an asset to the sector who by 1865 had already been in his position for fifteen years. He was a man who was determined in his ways, demanding on his staff, far looking, innovative, and abreast with the developments on the international education scene. His schools had become his real. When Governor Storks announced that he wished to look into the structures and processes of the elementary schools of Malta, it may be reasonably assumed that Can. Pullicino did not like this piece of news. The Director had already had a clash with the previous governor when Le Merchant sent an ‘inquisitor’ into his Department to pry into his affairs. Dr Francesco Toreggiani (one of ‘the four lawyers’ – a term coined by that Governor) had disrupted his system by looking into the schools and criticising them. That affair over, now, two years later, another commission was to interfere with his schools. Being the director he was, and taking into consideration his authoritative character and manner of how he run ‘his’ Department,³ Pullicino found this decision difficult to accept. Little would have convinced him that “His Excellency’s sole objective appointing this commission being to obtain an accurate report and to carefully consider any suggestions that may be made with a view to improvements in the important branch of public instruction under your control.”⁴

The Commissioners appointed to carry out the Governor’s instructions were Col. Romer R.A., Mr Emilio de Baroni Sciberras and Mr Benjamin B.

Baker LL.D.⁵ The appointees, it seems, embarked on the job with great ardour. In Laferla’s words, “The Commissioners set about their work in a most extra-ordinary manner. They entirely ignored the Director and rushed from school to school.”⁶ Yet, while the Director was not consulted, Romer, Baker and Sciberras remained open to hear the views of others. Such persons included Sigismondo Savona who would later on come to occupy the post of Director of Education. In a letter to the Commission, Savona put forward a number of “remarks on the necessity of educating the people, in the hope that you will be pleased to take them into consideration.” These included ideas on how teacher qualifications might be improved; how the entire educational sector could be centrally administered; how the teaching of the English language may possibly be consolidated; and much more. Specifically on the primary schools, Savona opined that these were not up to standard. He made it clear that, “with the view of securing the permanent efficiency and gradual development and extensions of the Primary Schools” there was the need of appointing an inspector for these schools. This officer would have the duty “to inquire into, and report upon, the state of each school, and to suggest such improvements as may tend to spread the blessings of a good education among the working classes.”⁷ Savona’s remarks give the strong impression that he was criticising Pullicino’s management abilities. Sigismondo Savona, a politician in the making, wanted to secure “the permanent efficiency” of the schools, giving one and all to understand that this did not exist.

Other comments received were those of Ramiro Barbaro. These were presented to the Commission through the newspaper *Idee E Fatti* edited by Barbaro himself, and which were his contribution to their inquiry. Through his columns, over a number of weeks, Barbaro criticised the actual state of education in Malta. About the Primary Schools Department, he made it clear that this did not prepare students for the secondary education sector, and this because the two levels fell under the responsibility of two different persons. All level, he maintained, should fall under the direction of a single person.⁸ This suggestion tallied with Savona’s who had aired the same vision to the Commission, stating that the education sector had to be incorporated into “one central authority.”⁹ Barbaro did not see Pullicino as this authority. In fact, he hoped that the reverend gentlemen would be removed from his post for the good of education and the country.¹⁰ Such was the regard in which some held Pullicino.

THE STORKS COMMISSION (1865)



Canon Dr Paolo Pullicino 1850-1880) - Director of Primary Schools

they were supposed to do and this is what they did. An interesting remark that strikes the eye, and which appeared in the covering letter to the Report sent to Governor Storks narrates that, "We have pleasure in stating that we have received every attention from ... the Director of the Primary Schools."¹¹ However, Director Pullicino objected to this statement retorting that, "the Commission acted in the Primary Schools, and with regard to them, hardly without any reference to me." The Canon further asserted that when the three Commissioners visited the Valletta Male Primary School he happened to be there "and where not having been appealed to by them in my position of Director of the Schools, I assisted as a stranger at what was going on...."¹²

Based on what it saw the Commission drew a very negative picture of the schools and their director. Romer, Baker and Sciberras acknowledged the Director's zeal as regards the way he had managed to organise his schools and the discipline he had introduced into them. However they lashed out that, "it is to be regretted that in his laudable anxiety to uphold the credit of these schools, he should have published for general information

reports and programmes which have tended to raise expectations in the mind of the Public that he has not the remotest means of fulfilling...."¹³

As may be expected, such accusations could not go by unanswered. Insinuations of falsifying reality are quite serious and Pullicino in his reply to this accusation stressed that he considered such a statement as "very uncourteous and uncomplimentary" to him. The prelate held that his reports were a statement of "the simple facts relative to the period to which each Report belongs." He further added that the Programmes he enacted were never given to the general public but were intended for the teaching staff to regulate their teaching.¹⁴

The Commissioners put forward more criticism against the Director when they complained that the level of education in the primary schools was so low that even the older pupils were inefficient in all areas of academic work, such as reading, orthography and conjugation in the Italian and the English languages and arithmetic. They referred to one instance where seven pupils of the primary schools were being examined for entry into the Lyceum, while two of the Commissioners were present. These Commissioners pointed out that all seven had failed "though the standard of knowledge required (perhaps the lowest in any country in Europe) was nearly that of writing legibly and correctly five or six lines in Italian, under dictation, and working a sum in division by two figures."¹⁵ Pullicino's defence to these and other attacks on 'his' pupils and their level of education was that this was due to the Commissioners' "great hurry with which the work of the pupils was verified." The Director insisted that his teachers had informed him that many more pupils than the Commission had claimed had in fact worked correctly the arithmetic questions given to them. The Canon continued that this information "is correct as it is in perfect concordance with the knowledge I possess of the real actual state of the schools."¹⁶

Canon Pullicino did not leave these criticisms to his schools go by unchallenged. He chased after evidence that could verify the solid state of his domain. He followed the itinerary of the Commissioners and claimed that, "many of the statements of the Commissioners with regards to the Primary Schools are, I regret to say, incorrect."¹⁷ This he pointed out in another communication following his first reaction to the published Report. The Director hoped that the additional information he collected and forwarded to the

THE STORKS COMMISSION (1865)

Governor “will lead Your Excellency to a right conclusion on this important subject, in placing my statement and that of the Commissioners in juxtaposition.”¹⁸ Canon Pullicino also expected that what he had presented to the governor would be published for everyone to see. He sought public recognition for what he held to be the proof that the criticism levelled by the Storks Commission was unfair. This he made clear in a letter to the authorities. He expressed his surprise that the Governor did not publish these additional remarks, dated 1 August 1865. On 11 August, he commented that he had expected that his observations would be published, and when these were not, he asked his superiors to disseminate them among the public through the official media organ of the Government.¹⁹ He believed that, “The public would have also more complete information before arriving at a conclusion with regard to this very important subject.”²⁰

This affair shook Pullicino from the roots. It was the worst affront yet, not only to his personal credibility, but also to what concerned his security of office.

1. Abela, A.E., *Governors of Malta* (Malta, 1991), 32.
2. Laferla, A.V., *British Malta*, I (Malta, 1938), 228.
3. Cf. Fenech, J, ‘Laying the foundation for cultures of teaching’, *Education*, IV/2 (1991), 2-8. Cf. also the various reports and other instructions written by Can. Pullicino himself during his thirty years of directorship.
4. NAM, CSG04/849/1865, Chief Secretary to Government to Director of Primary Schools (9.iii.1865).
5. Romer was at the time Inspector of Army Schools. Baker had been Director of the College at Corfu and then Registrar of His Majesty’s Court of Appeal in Malta. Cf. *The Malta Government Gazette*, no.2210 (11.ii.1865), 49.
6. Laferla, 232.
7. NAM, CSG01/1586/1865, Sigismondo Savona to Education Commission (20.v.1865).
8. NAM, CSG01/1586/1865, R. Barbaro to Giunta d’Inchiesta dell’Istruzione, attachment, *Idee E Fatti*, no.23, (17.ii.1865), 1.
9. NAM, CSG01/1586/1865, op. cit.
10. NAM, CSG01/1586/1865, R. Barbaro to Giunta d’Inchiesta dell’Istruzione, attachment, *Idee E Fatti*, no.24, (24.ii.1865), 1.
11. *The Malta Government Gazette*, no.2229 (8.vii.1865), 233.
12. *The Malta Government Gazette*, no.2235 (8.viii.1865), 265; &, NAM, CSG01/1816-1865, Chief Director of Primary Schools to Chief Secretary to Government (20.vii.1865).
13. *The Malta Government Gazette*, no.2229 (8.vii.1865), 235.
14. *The Malta Government Gazette*, no.2235 (8.viii.1865), 267; &, NAM, CSG01/1816/1865.

15. *The Malta Government Gazette*, no.2229 (8.vii.1865), 267; &, NAM, CSG01/1816/1865.
16. *The Malta Government Gazette*, no.2235 (8.viii.1865), 266; &, NAM, CSG01/1816/1865.
17. *The Malta Government Gazette*, no.2239 (28.viii.1865), 285.
18. *Ibid.*, 287.
19. Besides the official media organ, the newspaper *The Malta Times and United Service Gazette* also featured all the correspondence that *The Malta Government Gazette* had published for the general public. Cf. *The Malta Times and United Service Gazette*, no.1165 (13.vii.1865); no.1166 (20.vii.1865); no.1169 (10.viii.1865); no.1170 (17.viii.1866); &, no.1172 (31.viii.1865).
20. NAM, CSG01/2025/1865, Chief Director of Public Schools to Chief Secretary to Government. (11.viii.1865).



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ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI

Missjoni ta' Osservazzjoni tal-Elezzjonijiet gewwa Montserrat

Bejn it-3 u l-14 ta' Settembru l-Onor. Mario Galea mexxa missjoni ta' osservazzjoni tal-elezzjonijiet għall-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA) gewwa Montserrat. L-Onor. Nelson Cole Simons (MP, Osservatur-Bermuda), is-Sinjura Hannah Roberts (Analist tal-Elezzjonijiet, Osservatur tal-ERI) u s-Sur Matthew Salik (Koordinatur tal-Elezzjonijiet, Osservatur) ħadu sehem ukoll f'din il-Missjoni. Il-Missjoni osservat il-proċess elettorali skont *standards* internazzjonali, inkluż l-impenji ta' Montserrat taħt il-liġi internazzjonali, kif ukoll leġislazzjoni domestika. F'jum l-elezzjoni saru 26 zjara lit-12-il stazzjon tal-votazzjoni, inkluż waqt il-ftuħ u l-għeluq. Il-Missjoni ipproduċiet rapport finali li ta analiżi dettaljata tal-elezzjoni generali, u numru ta' rakkomandazzjonijiet li, jekk jingħataw kunsiderazzjoni xierqa, għandhom iwasslu għal elezzjonijiet aħjar gewwa Montserrat.



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Skambju ta' fehmiet mal-parlamenti nazzjonali mill-Kumitat ECON

Fit-23 ta' Settembru l-Onor. Tonio Fenech ippartecipa fl-iskambju ta' fehmiet mal-parlamenti nazzjonali organizzat mill-Kumitat ECON tal-Parlament Ewropew fi Brussell. It-tema tal-laqgħa kienet jekk ir-rispons għall-kriżi tad-dejn sovrani kienx effettiv. Fid-diskussjoni dwar ir-rapport imħejji mir-rapporteur Philippe de Backer, kien hemm kunsens ġenerali li ma għandhom jiġu proposti ebda bidliet lill-istruttura tal-governanza ekonomika u li l-Kummissjoni Ewropea għandha timpenja ruħha aħjar mal-parlamenti nazzjonali qabel ma jkunu ppubblikati rakkomandazzjonijiet speċifiċi għall-pajjiż, li min-naħa tagħhom għandhom jindirizzaw dawn il-kwistjonijiet matul id-dibattiti dwar il-baġit nazzjonali. Il-partecipanti enfasizzaw ukoll il-ħtieġa ta' aktar tkabbir, investiment privat u riformi sabiex jagħmlu lill-Ewropa aktar kompetittiva.

Konferenza Ewropea tal-Prezidenti tal-Parlament

Fil-11 u t-12 ta' Settembru d-Deputy Speaker Ċensu Galea ppartecipa fil-Konferenza Ewropea tal-Prezidenti tal-Parlament tal-2014 li kienet organizzata mill-iStorting (il-Parlament tan-Norveġja). Din il-Konferenza biennali tlaqqa' flimkien Prezidenti tal-Parlamenti mill-istati membri tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa u minn għadd ta' pajjiżi ġirien. L-organizzazzjoni ta' din il-Konferenza talterna bejn Strażburgu u belt kapitali ta' stat membru tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. It-temi ewlenin tal-Konferenza ta' din is-sena kienu "Id-drittijiet fundamentali kostituzzjonali u l-libertajiet - partecipazzjoni, fiduċja u dibattitu pubbliku bħala kundizzjonijiet għad-demokrazija", "Id-demokrazija, is-sovranità u s-sigurtà fl-Ewropa" u "Il-maġġoranza u l-oppożizzjoni - bilanċ f'demokrazija".

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Election Observation Mission in Montserrat

Between 3 and 14 September Hon. Mario Galea led an election observation mission of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly in Montserrat. Hon. Nelson Cole Simons (MP, Observer – Bermuda), Ms Hannah Roberts (Election Analyst, ERIS Observer) and Mr Matthew Salik (Election Coordinator, Observer) also took part in this Mission. The Mission observed the electoral process in accordance with international standards, including Montserrat's commitments under international law as well as domestic legislation. On Election Day 26 visits were made to all 12 polling stations including the opening and closing. The Mission produced a final report which gives a detailed analysis of the general election, and a number of recommendations, which, if given due consideration, should lead to improved elections in Montserrat.

European Conference of Presidents of Parliament

On 11 and 12 September Deputy Speaker Ċensu Galea participated in the 2014 European Conference of Presidents of Parliament which was organised by the Storting (Parliament of Norway). This biennial Conference brings together Presidents of Parliament from the Council of Europe's Member States and from a number of neighbouring countries. It is hosted alternately in Strasbourg or in the capital of a Council of Europe member state. The main themes of this year's Conference were 'Fundamental constitutional rights and freedoms – participation, trust and public debate as conditions for democracy', 'Democracy, sovereignty and security in Europe' and 'Majority and opposition – striking a balance in a democracy'.



ECON Committee exchange of views with national parliaments

On 23 September Hon. Tonio Fenech participated in the exchange of views with national parliaments organised by the ECON Committee of the European Parliament in Brussels. The theme of the meeting was whether the responses to the sovereign debt crisis were effective. In the discussion on the report prepared by rapporteur Philippe de Backer, there was general consensus that no changes should be proposed to the economic governance structure and that the European Commission needed to engage better with the national parliaments before producing the country-specific recommendations, who in turn should address these issues during the debates on the national budget. The participants also emphasised the need of more growth, private investment and reforms to make Europe more competitive.

ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

Konferenza Interparlamentari taħt l-Artikolu 13 tal-Patt Fiskali

L-Onor. Tonio Fenech u l-Onor. Silvio Schembri ħadu sehem fil-Konferenza Interparlamentari organizzata taħt l-Artikolu 13 tal-Patt Fiskali fid-29 u t-30 ta' Settembru mill-Presidenza Taljana tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Il-Konferenza kienet maqsuma f'erba' sessjonijiet: triq Ewropea lejn it-*tkabbir* – it-*tnedija* mill-*gdid* tal-investiment u t-*tnaqqis* tal-inugwaljanzi; l-*għodod* ta' *governanza* ekonomika u finanzjarja tal-UE; it-*tlestija* tal-Unjoni Bankarja u l-finanzjament tal-ekonomija reali, u l-koordinazzjoni tal-politiki fiskali u l-*każ* tal-ekonomija diġitali. Matul is-sessjoni dwar il-progress miksub fl-Unjoni Bankarja li kienet indirizzata mill-Viċi President tal-Parlament Ewropew Olli Rehn, id-delegazzjoni Maltija rrimarkat li l-fatt li n-nies jinvestu aktar faċilment fl-istocks tal-gvern milli fin-negozju privat u ż-żieda fis-self improduktiv huma inkwetanti għal Malta u enfasizza l-importanza li filwaqt li l-Unjoni Bankarja kienet proġett importanti, l-implimentazzjoni tagħha ma tkunx kontroproduktiva.

Ir-Raba' Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-2014 tal-PACE

Bejn id-29 ta' Settembru u t-3 ta' Ottubru l-Onor. Joe Debono Grech, l-Onor. Charlò Bonnici u l-Onor. Deborah Schembri pparteċipaw fir-Raba' Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-2014 tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa (PACE) li nżammet fi Strasburgu.

Il-puntifjuq-*agendata'* din il-parti tas-sessjoni kienu: il-*kriżi* fl-Ukraina, *kontroazzjonijiet* għall-*manifestazzjonijiet* tan-*neo-Nażiżmu*, id-*drittijiet* tan-*nisa* u l-*prospetti* għall-*kooperazzjoni* Ewro-Mediterranea, il-*governanza* tajba u l-*kwalità* aħjar fl-*edukazzjoni*, status aktar għoli tal-*edukazzjoni* vokazzjonali u t-*taħriġ*, il-*funzjonament* tal-*istituzzjonijiet* demokratiċi fil-*Georgja*, l-*alternattivi* għad-*detenzjoni* tat-*tfal* immigranti, lejn l-*aħjar* servizzi madwar l-Ewropa dwar *kanċer* tas-*sider* u t-*thedd* mill-*Istat* Iżlamiku (ISIS). Flimkien ma' dawn id-*dibattiti* plenarji, il-*membri* tad-*delegazzjoni* Maltija ħadu sehem ukoll fil-*laqgħat* tad-*diversi* kumitati li tagħhom huma membri.

Matul is-sessjoni tal-2014 ingħata l-Premju Vaclav Havel lis-Sur Anar Mamamdijis, attivista prominenti mill-Ażerbajġan għad-*drittijiet* tal-*bniedem*. Għal dan il-*premju* kienet nominata wkoll l-*Ordni* tal-*Gizwiti* f'Malta.

Is-60 Konferenza tal-Commonwealth u l-34 Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA

Delegazzjoni mill-Parlament Malti mmexxija mill-*Ispeaker* Anġlu Farrugia u li tinkludi l-Onor. Carmelo Abela, l-Onor. David Agius u l-Onor. Anthony Agius Decelis, ħadet sehem fis-60 Konferenza tal-Commonwealth u l-34 Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar organizzata mill-*Assocjazzjoni* Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA) bejn it-2 u l-10 ta' Ottubru f'Yaoundé, il-Kamerun. Matul is-60 Konferenza kienu organizzati numru ta' *workshops*. L-*Ispeaker* Anġlu Farrugia ħa sehem fil-*workshop* dwar it-*trasparenza* u r-*responsabbiltà* bħala rekwiżiti għall-*governanza* tajba u f'dak dwar *kodiċijiet* ta' *etika* għall-*Membri* tal-Parlament, fejn hu tkellem dwar il-*pjanijiet* għat-*twaqqif* ta' *uffiċċju* indipendenti u kumitat permanenti dwar standards fil-*ħajja* pubblika f'Malta. L-Onor. Abela ħa sehem fil-*workshop* dwar l-*agenda* tal-*iżvilupp* wara l-2015 fid-*dawl* tal-*istandards* stabbiliti fiċ-*Charter* tal-Commonwealth. Fl-*intervent* tiegħu l-Onor. Abela saħaq li l-*parlamenti* nazzjonali għandhom id-*dmir* li jiżguraw li l-*gvernijiet* rispettivi tagħhom huma impenjati biex jintlaħqu l-*Għanijiet* ta' *Zvilupp* tal-Millennju, li finalment jaffettwaw il-*ħajjiet* taċ-*ċittadini*.

F'Yaoundé d-*delegazzjoni* ħadet sehem ukoll fil-Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar. L-*indirizz* tal-*ftuħ* tal-Konferenza sar minn Sir Alan Haselhurst, *Chairman* tal-*Kumitat* Eżekuttiv tas-CPA. Fid-*diskors* tiegħu huwa għamel referenza għaž-*żjara* tiegħu f'Malta aktar kmieni din is-sena u faħħar il-*parteċipazzjoni* ta' Malta fis-CPA, partikolarment fiż-*żona* tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar. It-*temi* diskussi matul din il-Konferenza kkonċernaw speċifikament l-*isfidi* ekonomiċi u soċjali li jħabbtu wiċċhom magħhom il-*pajjiżi* iż-*żgħar* u l-*irwol* tal-*parlamenti* fir-*rigward* tal-*aktar* *ċittadini* vulnerabbli.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Inter-Parliamentary Conference under Article 13 of the Fiscal Compact

Hon. Tonio Fenech and Hon. Silvio Schembri took part in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference under Article 13 of the Fiscal Compact organised by the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 29 and 30 September. The Conference was divided in four sessions: A European path to growth – relaunching investment and reducing inequalities; EU economic and financial governance tools; completing the banking union and financing the real economy, and the coordination of tax policies and the case of the digital economy. During the session on the progress achieved in the Banking Union which was addressed by Vice President of the European Parliament Olli Rehn, the Maltese delegation remarked that the fact that people invest more readily in government stocks than in private business and the increase in non-performing loans are worrying for Malta and highlighted the importance that while the banking union was an important project, its implementation will not be counterproductive.

Fourth Part of the 2014 PACE Ordinary Session

Between 29 September and 3 October Hon. Joe Debono Grech, Hon. Charlò Bonnici and Hon. Deborah Schembri participated in the Fourth Part of the 2014 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Ordinary Session which was held in Strasbourg.

The items on the agenda of this part session were: the crisis in Ukraine, counteractions to the manifestations of neo-Nazism, women's rights and prospects for Euro-Med co-operation, good governance and enhanced quality in education, raising the status of vocational education and training, the functioning of the democratic institutions in Georgia, the alternatives to the detention of migrant children, towards optimum breast cancer services across Europe and the threats posed by the Islamic State (ISIS). In addition to these plenary debates, the members of the Maltese delegation also took part in the meetings of the various committees of which they are members.

During the session the 2014 Vaclav Havel Prize was awarded to Mr Anar Mamamdijis, a prominent Azerbaijani human rights activist. Shortlisted for the prize was also the Jesuit Refugee Service Malta.

60th Commonwealth Conference and 34th Small Branches Conference of the CPA

A delegation from the Maltese Parliament, led by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia and comprising Hon. Carmelo Abela, Hon. David Agius and Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis, took part in the 60th Commonwealth Conference and 34th Small Branches Conference organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) between 2 and 10 October in Yaoundé, Cameroon. A number of workshops were organised during the 60th Conference. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia took part in the workshops on transparency and accountability as requirements for good governance and on codes of ethics for Members of Parliament, where he spoke about the plans for setting up an independent office and standing committee on standards in public life in Malta. Hon. Abela took part in the workshop on the post-2015 development agenda against the standards set out in the Commonwealth Charter. In his intervention Hon. Abela stressed that national parliaments have a duty to ensure that their respective governments are committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which ultimately affect the lives of the citizens.

In Yaoundé the delegation also took part in the Small Branches Conference. The opening address of the Conference was made by Sir Alan Haselhurst, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA. In his speech he made reference to his visit to Malta earlier this year and praised Malta's participation in the CPA, particularly in the Small Branches area. The themes discussed during this Conference concerned specifically the economic and social challenges faced by small countries and the role of parliaments in respect of the most vulnerable citizens.

ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

Il-131 Assemblea tal-IPU

Bejn it-12 u s-16 ta' Ottubru l-Onor. Carmelo Abela u l-Onor. Michael Gonzi ħadu sehem fil-131 Assemblea tal-Unjoni Inter-Parlamentari (IPU), li kienet organizzata f'Ġinevra li laqgħet 744 Membru tal-Parlament minn 141 pajjiż madwar id-dinja biex jiddiskutu l-paċi globali, is-sigurtà u d-drittijiet tal-bniedem, fost kwistjonijiet oħra.

L-Onor. Abela tkellem dwar l-iffurmar ta' sistema ġdida għall-governanza tal-ilma u l-promozzjoni ta' azzjoni parlamentari fuq l-ilma u argumenta li l-governanza tajba tal-ilma hija partikolarment importanti għal pajjiżi żgħar u għandha impatt kemm fuq iċ-ċittadini u fuq il-finanzi pubbliċi. L-Onor. Gonzi intervjena dwar il-kwistjoni tal-investment minn kumpaniji fl-iżvilupp sostenibbli waqt sessjoni kongunta mal-Forum Dinji għall-Investment. Huwa staqsa mistoqsija lill-panel dwar kif gżira żgħira b'rizorsi limitati bħal Malta tista' tattira l-investment filwaqt li fl-istess ħin ikun żgurat li l-intrapriżi ż-żgħar u ta' daqs medju jibqgħu kompetittivi u profittabbli.

Il-131 Assemblea tal-IPU eleggiet lis-Sur Saber Chowdhury mill-Bangladexx, bħala s-suċċessur tas-Sur Abdelwahed Radi bħala President tal-IPU.



Id-delegazzjoni Maltija mmexxija mill-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia f'laqgħa maċ-Chairman u l-membri tal-Grupp Parlamentari ta' Hbiberija bejn l-Arabja Sawdija u Malta

Żjara bilaterali fl-Arabja Sawdija

Bejn it-23 u l-25 ta' Novembru l-Ispeaker mexxa delegazzjoni parlamentari, li inkludiet lill-Onor. Anthony Bezzina u l-Onor. Joseph M. Sammut, fl-Arabja Sawdija. Matul din iż-żjara d-delegazzjoni kellha diversi laqgħat ma' dinjitarji mill-Arabja Sawdija li magħhom iddiskutew diversi temi fosthom: ir-relazzjonijiet bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi, il-qagħda internazzjonali fil-kuntest tas-sitwazzjoni fil-Libja u l-avanz tal-ISIS ġewwa s-Sirja u l-Iraq, ir-rwol li għandha Malta fiż-żamma tal-paċi minħabba l-istatus newtrali tagħha, u l-possibiltajiet ta' aktar skambji bejn il-Parlament Malti u x-Shoura Council tal-Arabja Sawdija.

Parteċipazzjoni fis-66 Laqgħa Plenarja tal-GRECO

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia ħa sehem fis-66 Laqgħa Plenarja tal-GRECO (Grupp ta' Stati kontra l-Korruzzjoni tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa) li saret ġewwa Strasbourg fi Franza bejn it-8 u t-12 ta' Dicembru taħt il-Prezidenza tal-Kroat Marin Mrčela. F'din il-laqgħa plenarja, li fiha Malta kienet irrappreżentata minn uffiċjali mill-Uffiċċju tal-Avukat Ġenerali, ġie diskuss u fejn ġie approvat ir-rapport tal-GRECO dwar Malta li sar wara iż-żjara tal-istess GRECO f'Malta bħala parti mill-Fourth Evaluation Round bejn it-23 u s-27 ta' Gunju ta' din is-sena.

Matul iż-żjara ġewwa Strasbourg l-Ispeaker iltaqa' wkoll mas-Sja Tania Carabott, Deputat Rappreżentant Permanenti fil-Kunsill tal-Ewropa.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

131st Assembly of the IPU



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Between 12 and 16 October Hon. Carmelo Abela and Hon. Michael Gonzi took part in the 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) which was organised in Geneva. This gathering brought 744 Members of Parliament from 141 countries all over the world to discuss global peace, security and human rights, amongst other issues.

Hon. Abela spoke about shaping a new system of water governance and the promotion of parliamentary action on water and argued that good water governance is especially important for small countries and it impacts both the citizens and public finances. Hon. Gonzi intervened about the issue of corporate investment in sustainable development, during a joint session with the World Investment Forum. He directed a question to the panel on how a small island with limited resources like Malta could attract investment whilst at the same time ensuring that small and medium-sized enterprises remain competitive and profitable.

The 131st Assembly of the IPU elected Mr Saber Chowdhury from Bangladesh, as the successor of Mr Abdelwahed Radi as President of the IPU.

Bilateral visit to Saudi Arabia

Between 23 and 25 November the Speaker led a parliamentary delegation, including Hon. Anthony Bezzina and Hon. Joseph M. Sammut, to Saudi Arabia. During the visit the delegation held several meetings with dignitaries from Saudi Arabia and discussed several issues including: the relationship between the two countries, the international situation in the context of the situation in Libya and the advancement of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, the role played by Malta in peacekeeping in view of its neutral status, and the possibilities of further exchanges between the Maltese Parliament and the Shoura Council of Saudi Arabia.



*Speaker
Anglu Farrugia
meets
Ms Tania Carabott
at Malta's
Permanent
Representation
to the
Council of Europe
in Strasbourg*

Participation in the 66th Plenary Meeting of GRECO

Speaker Anglu Farrugia took part in the 66th Plenary Meeting of GRECO (Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe) which was held in Strasbourg, France, between 8 and 12 December under the Presidency of the Croatian Marin Mrčela. In the plenary meeting, in which Malta was represented by officials from the Office of the Attorney General, the report on Malta drawn up by GRECO following the visit of the same GRECO to Malta as part of the Fourth Evaluation Round between 23 and 27 June of this year, was discussed and approved.

During the visit in Strasbourg Speaker Anglu Farrugia met with Ms Tania Carabott, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe.

Hidma Parlamentari

Parliamentary Work

April 2013 – Dicembru 2014

April 2013 – December 2014

Seduti fil-Plenarja	224	Plenary Sitzings
Laqgħat tal-Kumitati Permanenti	211	Meetings of Standing Committees
Stqarrijiet Ministerjali	30	Ministerial Statements
Mozzjonijiet	195	Motions
Mozzjonijiet Privati	21	Private Members' Motions
Mozzjonijiet għall-Ewwel Qari ta' Abbozzi ta' Ligi	87	Motions for First Reading of Bills
Ligijiet mgħoddija mill-Parlament	63	Acts enacted by Parliament
Ligijiet approvati b'votazzjoni	9	Acts approved upon division
Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari	13,555	Parliamentary Questions
Dokumenti mqiegħda fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra	4,222	Documents laid on the Table of the House
Diskorsi tal-Aggornament	156	Adjournment Speeches
Deċizjonijiet tas-Sedja	38	Rulings by the Chair
Membri Parlamentari li siefri fuq xogħol parlamentari	236	Members of Parliament on parliamentary duties abroad
Delegazzjonijiet parlamentari barra minn Malta	121	Parliamentary delegations abroad
Delegazzjonijiet immexxija mill-Ispeaker/Deputy Speaker	34	Delegations led by the Speaker/ Deputy Speaker