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PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

# mill-PARLAMENT

Perjodiku maħruġ mill-Uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker

*Periodical issued by the Office of the Speaker*





L-Ispeaker, flimkien mas-Sinjura Farrugia u numru ta' uffiċjali tal-Parlament jagħtu d-demm fiċ-Ċentru Nazzjonali tat-Trasfużjoni tad-Demm.

*The Speaker, together with Mrs Farrugia and a number of parliamentary officials, donate blood at the National Blood Transfusion Centre.*

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## DAHLA

## Foreword

Minbarra t-taqsimiet regolari din il-ħarġa ta' mill-Parlament qiegħda twasslikom ukoll artiklu interessanti ħafna dwar l-istorja tal-Ombudsman Parlamentari fl-20 sena ta' ħidma tiegħu, u artiklu ieħor interessanti dwar il-migrazzjoni u l-attività politika u soċjali tul is-sekli 19 u 20.

Din il-ħarġa tkopri wkoll numru ta' attivitajiet li l-Parlament Malti kien involut fihom, li minnhom insemmi tnejn. Waħda hija meta għall-ewwel darba fl-istorja tal-Parlament Malti ospitajna żewġ Presidenti tal-istituzzjonijiet Ewropej – il-President tal-Kunsill Ewropew Donald Tusk u l-President tal-Parlament Ewropew Martin Schulz – li indirizzaw lill-Kamra f'seduta waħda. It-tieni hija l-involviment tal-Parlament Malti fiċ-CHOGM 2015. Għall-ewwel darba l-kandidati li kkontestaw għall-kariga ta' Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Commonwealth kellhom djalogu mas-soċjetà ċivili bħala parti mill-Commonwealth People's Forum tal-2015. Dan id-dibattitu verament interessanti nżamm fil-Parlament u kien imxandar b'mod dirett kemm fuq il-*parliamentary tv channel* kif ukoll *streamed* fuq l-internet, fejn gie segwit minn eluf ta' nies mill-pajjiżi kollha tal-Commonwealth. Barra minn hekk il-comuniqé finali taċ-CHOGM għamel referenza għall-CAPAC, li hija għaqda ta' kumitati tal-kontijiet pubbliċi tal-Commonwealth li għet imwaqqfa proprju f'Malta f'Ġunju 2015 u li l-President tagħha huwa l-Onor. Tonio Fenech.

Matul dawn l-aħħar tliet xhur is-Sedja ħarġet numru ta' pubblikazzjonijiet fosthom it-tielet volum ta' Is-Sedja Titkellem, l-ewwel pubblikazzjoni li qatt ħarġet f'Malta dwar id-diplomazija parlamentari *The Voice of Parliamentary Diplomacy* b'introduzzjoni tal-eks Kummissarju Ewropew u eks Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin Joe Borg, kif ukoll pubblikazzjoni dwar il-futur tas-settur kulturali u kreattiv f'Malta.

Barra minn hekk, kellna pubblikazzjoni b'mod kongunt mal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman *The State's Duty to Inform*. Din il-pubblikazzjoni hija gabra ta' diskussjonijiet li saru bejn numru ta' Ombudsmen Ewropej waqt konferenza li nżammet fil-Parlament Malti dwar l-importanza li jkun hemm aktar trasparenza f'kull livell ta' amministrazzjoni u d-dritt li min jitlob l-informazzjoni jingħata kemm jista' jkun l-informazzjoni li jkun qed jitlob. Dan iwassalni għal dak li qalet is-Sedja f'okkazjonijiet oħra, li fejn hemm nuqqas ta' informazzjoni, hemm aktar lok għal tħassib dwar jew suspetti ta' korruzzjoni.

Ninsab sodisfatt ukoll illi fost id-diversi konferenzi u attivitajiet li nżammu fil-Parlament Malti, kien hemm il-Parlament tal-Persuna b'Diżabilità li sar għall-ewwel darba fil-Kamra tal-Parlament u mhux f'kamra tal-kumitati peress li issa l-Parlament jokkupa binja kollha kemm hi aċċessibbli għal persuni b'diżabilità.

Matul ix-xahar ta' Diċembru kellna wkoll diversi esibizzjonijiet li ġew imtelligħa fil-foyer tal-Parlament, fosthom esibizzjoni ta' diversi pitturi u xoghlijiet ta' artisti Maltin bi tnejn għal-irkant b'risq id-Dar tal-Providenza li hija tant għal qalb il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin.

L-aħħar attività f'Diċembru kienet żjara minn grupp ta' impjegati ta' dan il-Parlament, flimkien miegħi u ma' marti Carmen, liċ-Centru Nazzjonali tat-Trasfużjoni tad-Demm ġewwa Gwardamangia, fejn tajna d-demm. Certament dan huwa att nobbli għal dawk li għandhom bżonn biex ikomplu jgħixu.

Fil-bidu tal-2016 il-ħidma tal-Parlament ser tibda bid-dibattitu fuq l-Abbozz ta' Liġi dwar l-awtonomija tal-Parlament, abbozz li fl-opinjoni tiegħi huwa l-pass naturali li jmiss fit-tisħiħ tad-demokrazija f'pajjiżna. Dwar dan nittama li ż-żewġ naħat jimpjenjaw ruħhom sabiex l-abbozz finali jkun wieħed li jagħmel għeġ l'il din l-oġġa istituzzjoni.

In addition to regular sections this eleventh issue of the periodical mill-Parlament includes a very interesting article on the history of the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the work it has been carrying out since its establishment 20 years ago, and another interesting article on migration and the political and social activities during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

This issue covers also a number of events involving Parliament; I mention two. Firstly, the Maltese Parliament welcomed for the first time in its history two Presidents who are both at the helm of EU institutions – the President of the European Council Donald Tusk and the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz – who addressed the House in a single sitting. Secondly, Parliament played two important roles during the 2015 CHOGM held in Malta. For the first time, the candidates for the position of Commonwealth Secretary General participated in a social dialogue with civil society, organised as part of the 2015 Commonwealth People's Forum. This very interesting debate was held in Parliament and was both broadcast live on the parliamentary tv channel as well as streamed online, where it was followed by thousands of viewers across the Commonwealth countries. Apart from this, the CHOGM's final communiqué included a reference to CAPAC, which is an association that brings together the Commonwealth's Public Accounts Committees that was established in Malta in June 2015 and that is presided by Hon. Tonio Fenech.

Furthermore during the past three months through my Office I have published a number of publications including the third volume of *Is-Sedja Titkellem*, the first local publication on parliamentary diplomacy entitled *The Voice of Parliamentary Diplomacy*, which includes an introduction by former EU Commissioner and former Foreign Affairs Minister Joe Borg, and a publication on the future of the cultural and creative sectors in Malta.

Apart from this, my Office also issued a joint publication with the Office of the Ombudsman entitled *The State's Duty to Inform*. This publication includes the discussions that took place between several European Ombudsmen in a conference held in the Maltese Parliament on the importance of increasing transparency at all administrative levels and the right to be given information which is requested. This leads me to what I have said on other occasions, namely that, where there is lack of information there is more cause for concern or suspicion of corruption.

I am satisfied that among the various conferences and activities which were held in the Maltese Parliament, the Parliament for Persons with Disabilities was held for the very first time in the Chamber and not in one of the committee rooms as Parliament is now fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

During the month of December, Parliament organised a number of exhibitions in its foyer, including a number of exhibits by local artists in preparation for an auction, with the proceeds going to the Dar tal-Providenza, which we are so fond of.

The last activity in December was a visit to the National Blood Transfusion Centre in Gwardamangia by a group of parliamentary staff who joined me and my wife Carmen to donate blood. No doubt that this is a very noble act for the benefit of those who require it.

In the beginning of 2016, Parliament will resume with a debate on a Bill leading to Parliament's autonomy, which I believe constitutes the next natural step in Malta's democratic development. I hope that both sides of the House will work towards having a final bill which truly does justice to the highest institution in this country.

## L-OMBUDSMAN PARLAMENTARI - IL-KUXJENZA TAL-AMMINISTRAZZJONI PUBBLIKA - 20 SENA FIS-SERVIZZ TAĊ-ĊITTADIN

Din is-sena timmarka l-għoxrin anniversarju mit-twaqqif tal-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman. Fl-1995, ir-rappreżentanti tal-poplu, b'vot unanimu, irrikonoxxew li ċ-ċittadin kien jeħtieġ li jkollu istituzzjoni awtonoma u indipendenti fi ħdan is-servizz tal-Parlament, mhux biss biex isservi bħala mezz ta' ħarsien għad-drittijiet tiegħu, imma wkoll biex tkun mezz ieħor fis-sistema ta' *checks and balances* li l-pajjiż jeħtieġ biex iżomm l-Eżekuttiv kontabbli għall-amministrazzjoni tiegħu.

F'dawn l-għoxrin sena ta' ħidma sfiqa biex jiggarrantixxi l-jedd fundamentali tal-individwu għal amministrazzjoni pubblika tajba, l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman kien ta' għajnuna għal eluf ta' individwi li rrikorrew għandu għal rimedju kontra allegati ingustizzji. L-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman f'dawn is-snin ta' servizz li serva wkoll biex iqarrebb liċ-ċittadin aktar lejn l-amministrazzjoni pubblika u jgħinha tifhem kif taġixxi b'mod ekwu u korrett.

Minbarra dan, f'dawn l-aħħar snin, l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman wessa' l-parametri tal-ġurisdizzjoni tiegħu billi għamel dejjem aktar enfasi fuq ir-rwol tiegħu ta' għodda effikaċi biex itejjeb l-amministrazzjoni pubblika.

### Istituzzjoni dinamika

L-ewwel darba li f'pajjiżna saret referenza għal 'Ombudsman' kien fl-1971, meta wieħed mill-partiti ewlenin f'pajjiżna inkluda l-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman fil-manifest elettorali tiegħu għall-elezzjoni ġenerali tal-istess sena. Wara 24 sena, fil-31 ta' Lulju 1995, il-Parlament b'mod unanimu ħatar l-ewwel Ombudsman, is-Sur Joe Sammut, biex iservi bħala kummissarju għall-investigazzjonijiet amministrattivi. L-Ombudsman Parlamentari ngħata l-istatus ta' uffiċjal tal-Parlament u jgawdi mill-istess drittijiet, privileġġi u sigurtà tal-ħatra li għandhom l-Imħallfin tal-Qrati Superjuri. L-awtonomija u l-indipendenza tal-istituzzjoni kompliet tiġi assigurata mhux biss bil-mod kif jinħatar l-Ombudsman, bl-approvazzjoni ta' mhux inqas minn żewġ terzi tal-Membri Parlamentari, imma wkoll bil-mod kif l-istituzzjoni tiġi ffinanzjata. Il-finanzi tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman jiġu approvati kull sena mill-Parlament wara li l-Ombudsman iressaq l-Ombudsplan, li

jlenka l-pjan tiegħu għas-sena li tkun ġejja. Dan il-finanzjament, li hu parti mill-Fond Konsolidat, imbagħad jiġi amministrat minnu b'mod indipendenti.

Wara l-ħatra tal-ewwel Ombudsman bdiet il-ħidma biex jitwaqqaf l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman. Il-Liġi tal-Ombudsman f'pajjiżna hija mfassla fuq dik ta' New Zealand. L-Ombudsman ta' New Zealand ta' dak iż-żmien, Sir John Robertson, mhux biss għen lill-Gvern fit-tfassil tal-liġislazzjoni, imma wkoll assista fit-twaqqif tal-istrutturi u l-proċeduri użati mill-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman.

Fil-15 ta' Novembru 1995, l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman fetaħ uffiċjalment għall-pubbliku u bdew jintlaqgħu l-ewwel ilmenti. Aktar ma beda jgħaddi ż-żmien, l-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman bdiet tgawdi minn fiduċja u rispett miċ-ċittadin. Dan ġie kkonfermat ukoll minn diversi stħarriġ tal-opinjoni pubblika li saru matul is-snin. Skont l-aktar wieħed riċenti li sar din is-sena jirriżulta li aktar minn 81% ta' dawk li ħadu sehem f'dan l-istħarriġ għandhom fiduċja fl-istituzzjoni.

L-istituzzjoni kompliet tiżviluppa matul is-snin. Wara l-ħatra fl-2005, tat-tieni Ombudsman, il-Prim Imħallef Emeritu Joseph Said Pullicino, kompliet il-ħidma biex il-kariga tal-Ombudsman tkun *entrenched* fil-Kostituzzjoni ta' pajjiżna. Dan il-pass importanti seħħ fit-18 ta' Lulju 2007 meta l-Parlament, b'mod unanimu, approva l-emenda Kostituzzjonali li biha l-Ombudsman ingħatatlu l-protezzjoni mill-ogħla liġi tal-pajjiż. Dik l-emenda assigurat li fil-pajjiż dejjem ikun hemm l-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman biex tiproteġi liċ-ċittadin.

Wara dak il-pass importanti, kien qed jinħass il-bżonn li jkun hemm tibdil fil-liġi tal-Ombudsman bl-għan li jkun hemm sinerġija bejn istituzzjonijiet awtonomi oħra mwaqqfa b'liġi, bħall-Uffiċjal tal-Verifika tal-MEPA u l-Ombudsman tal-Università. Għalhekk, l-Ombudsman Said Pullicino ressaq numru ta' proposti biex tintlaħaq konverġenza bejn dawn l-istituzzjonijiet u l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman. Dawn il-proposti ġew aċċettati mill-Gvern u daħlu fis-seħħ wara li l-Parlament approva l-Att XVIII tal-

## L-OMBUDSMAN PARLAMENTARI - IL-KUXJENZA TAL-AMMINISTRAZZJONI PUBBLIKA - 20 SENA FIS-SERVIZZ TAČ-ĊITTADIN (KONT.)

2010 li emenda l-Att dwar l-Ombudsman tal-1995. Dawn l-emendi ħolqu struttura li permezz tagħha l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman seta' jkollu fi ħdanu Kummissarji għall-Investigazzjonijiet Amministrattivi f'setturi speċifici biex ikompli jtejbu l-mod ta' kif isiru l-investigazzjonijiet f'setturi li jeħtieġu ċerta speċjalizzazzjoni. Dan it-tibdil daħal fis-seħħ f'Awgust 2012, bil-ħatra tas-Sur Charles Messina bħala Kummissarju għas-Saħħa, u l-Perit David Pace bħala Kummissarju għall-Ambjent u l-Ippjanar li ħa post l-Uffiċċjal tal-Verifika tal-MEPA. Aktar tard, f'Jannar tal-2014, ir-rwol ta' Ombudsman tal-Università nbidel f'dak ta' Kummissarju għall-Edukazzjoni u f'din il-kariga nħatar il-Professor Charles Farrugia li sa dakinhar kien jokkupa l-kariga ta' Ombudsman tal-Università.

Dan it-tibdil wassal għal sfidi fl-operat tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman. Dawn l-isfidi kienu jinkludu l-bżonn ta' titjib fir-rizorsi kif ukoll nuqqas ta' spazju biex il-Kummissarji l-godda jkunu jistgħu jeżerċitaw il-funzjonijiet tagħhom. Għalhekk inbdiet ħidma parallela biex isir ristrutturar fl-operat amministrattiv u wkoll biex il-bini eżistenti jikber sabiex ikun jista' jingħata l-aqwa servizz liċ-ċittadin.

Biex ikun hemm sinerġija u koordinament bejn l-Ombudsman u l-Kummissarji, ġew imfassla numru ta' linji gwida ta' kif joperaw il-Kummissarji fl-istruttura eżistenti tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman. L-emendi fil-liġi ħasbu biex il-Kummissarji jkunu huma wkoll awtonomi u indipendenti fl-investigazzjonijiet tagħhom u jkollhom l-istess dmirijiet, poteri u sigurtà tal-kariga bħall-Ombudsman Parlamentari. L-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman kien jeħtieġ li jipprovdi r-rizorsi amministrattivi u investigattivi, flimkien ma' kull support ieħor meħtieġ. Biex tinzamm uniformità fil-mod kif isiru l-investigazzjonijiet, kull ilment kien jeħtieġ li jigi indirizzat lill-Ombudsman Parlamentari u hu jassenja l-ilment lill-Kummissarji skont il-ħtieġa u s-settur. L-Ombudsman Parlamentari ngħatalu wkoll id-dritt li jirrevedi l-Opinjonijiet Finali tal-Kummissarji meta jkun hemm ksur tar-regoli tal-ġustizzja naturali waqt l-investigazzjoni jew żball gravi ta' fatt jew liġi. Sfidi mhux faċli, iżda ppjanar tajjeb u rieda li titwettag din il-viżjoni wasslu biex fl-2013 beda ristrutturar tal-

operat amministrattiv u fl-istess sena nbeda x-xogħol infrastrutturali fuq il-binja eżistenti u estensjoni ġdida. Dan kollu wassal biex illum, fl-20 sena anniversarju, l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman hu mgħammar b'faċilitajiet godda u moderni meħtieġa biex jingħata l-aqwa servizz liċ-ċittadin. Dawn il-faċilitajiet ġew inawgurati mill-President ta' Malta, l-E.T. s-Sinjura Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, fil-preżenza tal-Prim Ministru u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni.

### Fejn wasalna illum u t-triq 'il quddiem

#### Tishiħ Kostituzzjonali

Kien ċertament mument storiku għall-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman meta l-Kamra tad-Deputati unanimament approvat l-emenda fil-Kostituzzjoni li biha assigurat li għandu jkun hemm dejjem fil-pajjiż istituzzjoni li tirrispondi lill-Parlament, bil-funzjoni li tiddefendi liċ-ċittadin billi tinvestiga l-korrettezza tal-aġir tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika. Kien pass li mhux biss saħħaħ l-awtonomija u l-indipendenza ta' din l-istituzzjoni imma wkoll ta' f'idejn iċ-ċittadin għodda aktar effikaċi biex jiddefendi ruħu kontra l-ingustizzja u l-malamministrazzjoni.

Dak il-pass hu, però, l-ewwel ġebba tal-pedament li fuqu jeħtieġ li tinbena l-istruttura ta' qafas kostituzzjonali b'saħħtu, magħmul minn diversi elementi, biex jassigura li l-Parlament ikollu l-aqwa u l-aħjar strumenti biex jivverifika l-aġir tal-Eżekuttiv. Dan biex jassigura li l-amministrazzjoni pubblika tkun qiegħda taġixxi konformament mal-liġijiet li huwa japprova.

F'diskors li kien għamel l-Ombudsman Parlamentari waqt it-Tielet Forum tal-President, kien ippropona li fid-dibattitu dwar ir-riforma Kostituzzjonali ssir analiżi strutturali ta' kif tista' tinholq rabta qawwija bejn il-Parlament u awtoritajiet kostituzzjonali li għandhom il-funzjoni essenzjali ta' skrutinju tal-azzjonijiet tal-Eżekuttiv, bħall-Ombudsman u l-Awditur Ġenerali. Fost dawn il-proposti, kien hemm li l-Ombudsman għandu jkollu l-istess protezzjoni kostituzzjonali bħal ma għandu l-Awditur Ġenerali. Fil-fatt waqt li l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman ġie rikonoxxut fil-Kostituzzjoni, l-Ombudsman innifsu ma jgawdix

## L-OMBUDSMAN PARLAMENTARI - IL-KUXJENZA TAL-AMMINISTRAZZJONI PUBBLIKA - 20 SENA FIS-SERVIZZ TAĊ-ĊITTADIN (KONT.)

L-istess protezzjoni kostituzzjonali li jgawdi l-Awditur Ġenerali bid-dispożizzjonijiet kostituzzjonali li jirregolaw il-metodu tal-ħatra u t-tneħħija, iż-żmien tal-ħatra u l-garanziji relattivi. L-Ombudsman igawdi dawn il-garanziji permezz tal-liġi ordinarja.

L-Ombudsman issuġġerixxa wkoll li jinħoloq mekkanizmu li bih awtoritajiet Kostituzzjonali, bħal dik tal-Ombudsman, mhux biss jirrappurtaw lill-Kamra tad-Deputati r-riżultat tal-investigazzjoni tagħhom iżda wkoll jiġi assigurat li jkun hemm proċeduri stabbiliti biex, meta jkun jimmerita hekk, dawn ir-rapporti jiġu dibattuti minn Kumitat tal-Kamra li jieħu konjizzjoni tal-mertu. B'dan il-mod l-aġir tal-Gvern ikun soġġett għall-iskrutinju tal-opinjoni pubblika.

Dawn ir-riformi, jekk iseħħu, ikunu jfissru qabza kbira fil-kwalità tal-ħarsien taċ-ċittadin kontra kull abbuż ta' poter u arbitrarjetà. Ikunu jfissru wkoll tišhih tal-awtonomija tal-Parlament u tad-distinzjoni netta li għandu jkun hemm bejnu u bejn il-poteri l-oħra tal-Istat.

Il-Kostituzzjoni jeħtieġ li tenfasizza r-rwol tal-Parlament bħala espressjoni tal-volontà ta' poplu sovrani; Parlament li mhux biss għandu l-funzjoni primarja li jilleġiżla għall-ġid komuni imma wkoll li jassigura li l-liġijiet li jagħmel ikunu amministrati tajjeb. It-tišhih ta' awtoritajiet Kostituzzjonali u oħrajn meħtieġa biex jivverifikaw l-aġir tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika u jassiguraw li din hi konformi mal-volontà tar-rappreżentanti tal-poplu, żgur jagħti lill-Parlament għodda b'saħħitha u valida biex iwettaq sewwa din il-funzjoni ta' verifika tal-kontabilità tal-Eżekuttiv.

### Tišhih Istituzzjonali

L-emendi tal-2010 għall-Att dwar l-Ombudsman prattikament bidlu l-istruttura tal-Uffiċċju billi awtorizzaw il-ħatra mill-Ombudsman ta' Kummissarji speċjalizzati għall-investigazzjoni ta' ilmenti f'oqsma vitali ta' attività soċjali fil-pajjiż. Kienu emendi strumentali biex l-ilmenti fl-oqsma tas-saħħa, tal-edukazzjoni u tal-ambjent u l-ippjanar jiġu investigati bi professjonalità minn uffiċjali ta' esperjenza kbira fil-qasam ta' kompetenza tagħhom.

Wara tliet snin ta' hidma fl-istruttura tal-Uffiċċju

tal-Ombudsman, il-Kummissarji integraw sewwa fl-operat tal-Uffiċċju u flimkien mal-Ombudsman qegħdin jipprovdu servizz komprensiv fl-investigazzjoni tal-ilmenti. Il-konsultazzjoni mal-Ombudsman hi kontinwa u llum jista' jingħad li l-opinjoni finali tagħhom huma wkoll riżultat ta' dan l-ispirtu pożittiv ta' *team work* li nħoloq bejn Kummissarji li jaħdmu b'mod awtonomu u l-Ombudsman li jservi bħala punt ta' referenza dwar punti ta' liġi u proċedura li jistgħu jinqalgħu. Finalment l-Ombudsman jibqagħlu d-dritt li jirrevedi opinjonijiet finali ta' dawn il-Kummissarji fejn dan hu permess bil-liġi u meta jintalab li jagħmel hekk minn min ikun għamel l-ilment.

Din is-sinergija li nħolqot bl-applikazzjoni korretta tal-liġi u r-regolamenti li jirregolaw il-funzjonijiet tal-Kummissarji, hi kkumplimentata u msaħħa mill-fatt li l-Kummissarji jutilizzaw is-servizzi tal-Uffiċjali Investigaturi u tal-istaff amministrattivi tal-Ombudsman. Kollox ma' kollox, dan huwa eżerċizzju pożittiv illi hu maħsub li jkompli jiżviluppa.

Il-ħatra tal-Kummissarji qed ikollha effett ferm pożittiv fuq l-operat tal-Uffiċċju. L-element ta' speċjalizzazzjoni mhux biss qed iwassal għal żieda fin-numru ta' ilmenti imma wkoll fl-għoti ta' servizz professjonali u awtorevoli fl-investigazzjoni u fl-opinjoni finali. Kien hemm, saħansitra, okkażjonijiet fejn l-Ombudsman awtorizza aktar minn Kummissarju wieħed biex jiffokaw fuq ilment partikolari li jkun jeħtieġ investigazzjoni minn diversi aspetti li jaqgħu fil-kompetenza tagħhom.

### Ir-relazzjoni mal-Parlament

Konxju mir-rwol kostituzzjonali tiegħu bħala Uffiċjal tal-Parlament, l-Ombudsman ifittex li jwettaq il-kompitu li jkun medjatur bejn iċ-ċittadin u l-Eżekuttiv mhux biss billi jinvestiga ilmenti dwar allegazzjonijiet ta' ingustizzja u amministrazzjoni ħażina mill-amministrazzjoni, imma wkoll billi, minn żmien għal żmien, jieħu inizjattivi biex ikun strument utli għat-titjib u t-tiġdid tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika. Dan fejn jidhirlu meħtieġ u spiss kif suġġerit lilu mill-fatti li joħorġu mill-investigazzjonijiet tiegħu, kif ukoll minn dak li jkun

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qed iseħħ fl-amministrazzjoni tal-ħwejjeg pubbliċi. F'dawn l-aħħar xhur l-Ombudsman ippreżenta numru ta' rapporti lill-Parlament biex jiġu analizzati, fosthom proposti ta' kif tista' tissaħħaħ l-Istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman, żewġ dokumenti dwar it-twaqqif f'Malta ta' Istituzzjoni Nazzjonali dwar id-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem, u oħrajn relatati mal-oqsma tas-saħħa bħal dak riċenti dwar l-Intitolament ta' Mediciċini b'xejn skont l-Att dwar is-Sigurtà Soċjali.

Dan apparti li fl-aħħar snin fl-Ombudsplan, li sal-lum għadu l-uniku dokument imqiegħed fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra li l-Parlament jiddiskuti, l-Ombudsman iffoka fuq xi aspetti tal-Amministrazzjoni Pubblika f'sens wiesa', aspetti li, fil-fehma tiegħu, jimmeritaw attenzjoni u riflessjoni kemm mir-rappreżentanti tal-poplu kif ukoll mis-soċjetà ċivili.

Meta jagħmel hekk l-Ombudsman ikun qed jaqdi funzjoni importanti - dik li jkun il-kuxjenza tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika - billi janalizza sitwazzjonijiet li jeħtieġ jiġu indirizzati u jirrakkomanda dak li hemm bżonn isir. Dan biex jiġi assigurat li ċ-ċittadin igawdi bis-sħiħ il-jedd tiegħu għal amministrazzjoni pubblika tajba.

Għad baqa' xi jsir. Kif ippropona l-Ombudsman f'diversi okkażjonijiet, hemm lok li jiġi studjat il-ħolqien ta' mekkaniżmu li joħloq sinerġija bejnu u bejn il-Parlament li permezz tiegħu jkun jista' jgħib għall-attenzjoni tal-Kamra kwistjonijiet serji li jkunu qed joħolqu kuntrast bejnu u bejn l-Amministrazzjoni jew li jkunu punti ta' kontroversja fil-pajjiż dwar x'għandha tkun amministrazzjoni pubblika tajba jew dwar kif għandhom jiġu indirizzati u definiti punti ta' dritt amministrattiv li jirregolaw aspetti fundamentali tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika. Kwistjonijiet bħal dawn spiss jinċidu fuq il-grad ta' trasparenza u kontabilità li l-amministrazzjoni pubblika hi marbuta li tosserva u twettaq.

**Proposti biex tissaħħaħ l-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman**  
Wara li nbidlet l-amministrazzjoni, f'Marzu tal-2013, il-Gvern talab lill-Ombudsman biex iħejji proposti dwar kif tista' tiġi msaħħa l-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman. F'eżerċizzju wiesa' mibni fuq l-esperjenza ta' matul is-

snin kemm ilu mwaqqaf l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman u wkoll il-ħtiġijiet tal-lum, l-Ombudsman ressaq numru ta' proposti intizi biex l-għodda mogħtija liċ-ċittadin fl-1995, tiġġedded u tissaħħaħ.

### **Id-dritt fundamentali għal amministrazzjoni pubblika tajba**

Fost dawn il-proposti l-Ombudsman ippropona li fil-Kostituzzjoni għandu jiddaħħal b'mod konkret id-dritt fundamentali għal amministrazzjoni pubblika tajba. Jekk dan iseħħ ikun ifisser li ċ-ċittadini jkollhom għodda legali effettiva sabiex jeżerċitaw dan id-dritt u b'hekk ikunu jistgħu jzommu lill-awtorità pubblika responsabbli u kontabbli għall-azzjonijiet tagħha permezz ta' proċessi ġudizzjarji jew proċessi oħra.

### **Ħatra ta' Ombudsman Parlamentari**

Kif inhi l-liġi llum, mhuwiex stabbilit b'mod adegwat x'jiġri fiż-żmien meta l-kariga ta' Ombudsman tkun vakanti. Huwa ċar li mhux sewwa li din il-kariga tibqa' vakanti għal żmien twil, għaliex b'hekk iċ-ċittadini jkunu qed jiġu mċaħħda mid-dritt tagħhom li jirrikorru lejn din l-istituzzjoni. Bil-għan li tiġi assigurata kontinwità meta jkun wasal iż-żmien li jinħatar Ombudsman ġdid, ġie propost li jkun hemm provvediment statutorju li jipprovdli għal ħatra temporanja f'din il-kariga sensittiva. Dan meta l-persuna li tkun tokkupa l-kariga u li t-terminu statutorju tagħha jkun intemm, ma jkunx ippreparat jew ma jkunx jista' jkompli sakemm jinħatar is-suċċessur tiegħu.

Dwar il-proċess ta' ħatra ta' Ombudsman ġdid, ġie propost li l-President ta' Malta jkollu sehem attiv fil-proċess tal-għażla ta' Ombudsman ġdid fir-rwol ta' medjatur. Din il-funzjoni tista' tkun ukoll estiża għal karigi oħra ewlenin. Dan ir-rwol huwa essenzjali meta l-Prim Ministru u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni ma jirnexx ilhomx jaqblu dwar il-persuna li jidhrilhom li tgawdi l-approvazzjoni meħtieġa ta' żewġ terzi tal-Membri tal-Kamra tad-Deputati. Jekk jiġri dan, ikun ta' ġid jekk il-President ikollu s-setgħa illi jissottometti għall-kunsiderazzjoni tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, lista ta' tliet persuni li fl-opinjoni tiegħu huma kompetenti għal din il-kariga.

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### **Deputat Ombudsman**

Fil-Kostituzzjoni jew fl-Att dwar l-Ombudsman għandu jkun hemm provvediment dwar il-ħatra ta' Deputat Ombudsman li jaġixxi minflok l-Ombudsman Parlamentari meta jkun hemm il-ħtieġa. Wieħed mill-Kummissarji maħtura fi ħdan l-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman jista' jiġi delegat mill-President, meta huwa possibbli wara konsultazzjoni mal-Ombudsman, sabiex jinħatar Deputat Ombudsman. Dan is-suggeriment huwa msejjes fuq l-istess prinċipju li tipprovi l-Kostituzzjoni dwar il-ħatra ta' Deputat Awditur Ġenerali.

### **Konverġenza ma' istituzzjonijiet oħra**

F'dawn l-aħħar snin nibtu numru konsiderevoli ta' istituzzjonijiet imwaqqfa b'liġi, li huma awtonomi jew kważi awtonomi sabiex jissorveljaw oqsma speċifiċi soċjali, ekonomiċi jew attivitajiet oħra li l-Parlament deherlu li għandhom jiġu regolati fl-interess ta' ċittadini u s-soċjetà in ġenerali.

Ma hemm ebda struttura legiſlattiva li hija standard u uniformi biex tirregola dawn l-istituzzjonijiet. Kull waħda minnhom hija regolata mil-liġi li biha twaqqfet u mfassla fuq il-ħtiġijiet tagħha. Awtoritajiet bħall-Kummissarju għat-Tfal, il-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Diżabilità, il-Kummissarju għas-Saħħa Mentali u oħrajn qed jagħmlu xogħol eċċellenti fl-oqsma rispettivi tagħhom, iżda ma jistax jingħad illi dawn jistgħu joffru liċ-ċittadin l-istess livell ta' ħarsien bħal meta jirrikorru għand l-Ombudsman Parlamentari. Uħud minn dawn l-istituzzjonijiet esprimew it-tħassib tagħhom dwar il-fatt illi m'għandhomx l-istess livell ta' indipendenza u awtonomija mill-Eżekuttiv li jippermettulhom jaqdu l-funzjonijiet tagħhom b'libertà u serenità.

Għalhekk l-Ombudsman ippropona li jsir studju sabiex jiġi determinat jekk uħud minn fost dawn l-awtoritajiet jistgħux jiġu b'xi mod utilment integrati mal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman, waqt li jzommu l-awtonomija li jgawdu fl-eżerċizzju tal-funzjonijiet proprji tagħhom.

### **Użu sħiħ mill-funzjonijiet eżistenti tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman**

L-aħjar mod kif il-qafas istituzzjonali tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman jista' jiġi msaħħaħ, bla dubju huwa billi jsir użu sħiħ mill-funzjonijiet li għalihom ġie mwaqqaf. L-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman ġie stabbilit bħala awtorità nazzjonali, fdata bir-rwol li tinvestiga l-azzjonijiet amministrattivi tal-Eżekuttiv u l-awtoritajiet pubbliċi. Skont l-Artiklu 13 tal-Att dwar l-Ombudsman, l-Ombudsman jista' jintalab minn xi Kumitat tal-Kamra tad-Deputati jew mill-Prim Ministru sabiex jistħarreg materji li jkunu ġew riferuti lilu. Dan l-artiklu illum għandu relevanza akbar minħabba l-fatt illi l-Parlament qiegħed jikkunsidra jekk għandux iwaqqaf Kumitat biex jirċievi petizzjonijiet minn persuni li jħossuhom aggravati minn azzjonijiet meħuda minn Membri tal-Kamra. Kull investigazzjoni mwettqa mill-Ombudsman, issa awtorità kostituzzjonali, għandha l-karatteristika ta' awtonomija u indipendenza, li tbeġhedha kompletament mill-inflwenza politika u partigġjana. Għaldaqstant, żvilupp f'din id-direzzjoni jkun ukoll konsistenti mal-proposti istituzzjonali dwar it-tiſiħ tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman bħala awtorità għas-servizz ta' Parlament awtonomu, li lejha huwa responsabbli.

### **Twessigh tal-mandat eżistenti tal-Ombudsman għal servizzi essenzjali illum forniti mis-settur privat**

Diversi setturi fil-qasam ekonomiku bdew jagħtu servizz essenzjali li qabel kien provdut mill-Gvern jew l-aġenziji u l-awtoritajiet tiegħu. B'riżultat ta' dan il-proċess ta' privatizzazzjoni, dawn ma baqgħux jaqgħu taħt il-ġurisdizzjoni tal-Ombudsman.

Attivitajiet ekonomiċi illi bħalissa jiġu provduti mis-settur privat iżda li xorta waħda għandhom element qawwi ta' obbligu għas-servizz li jingħata lill-pubbliku, għandhom ikunu skrutinizzati u sorveljati minn entità indipendenti. Din għandha tassigura li l-konsumatur jingħata l-aħjar servizzi li l-leġiżlatur iqis li huma essenzjali għas-soċjetà.

Għalhekk ġie suggerit illi l-mandat tal-Ombudsman jitwessa' sabiex ikopri fih l-għoti ta' servizzi essenzjali mis-settur privat. Din il-proposta kienet waħda mit-temi li l-aktar ġew diskussi fis-seminars organizzati għall-Ombudsmen Ewropej.

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Għandu jkun enfazzat illi l-proposta dwar it-twessigh tal-ġurisdizzjoni tal-Ombudsman għas-settur privat, li jipprovi servizz essenzjali, għandha tkun limitata għall-għoti tas-servizz innifsu u kif il-konsumatur huwa affettwat bil-kwalità u l-effiċjenza mogħtija. L-Ombudsman ma għandu jkollu ebda ġurisdizzjoni li jindaħal, u wisq anqas li jinvestiga t-tmexxija u l-affarijiet interni tal-entità li tipprovi s-servizz. Din l-entità privata għandha tibqa' libera li taġixxi bħala waħda kummerċjali mingħajr l-indħil u l-kontroll tal-gvern.

### L-infurzar tar-rakkomandazzjonijiet

L-Ombudsman jemmen illi r-rakkomandazzjonijiet tiegħu għandhom jibqgħu ma jorbtux. Ma jemminx illi għandha tinbidel din il-kwalità essenzjali ta' persważjoni. Kieku r-rakkomandazzjonijiet tiegħu jkollhom saħħa li jiġu infurzati, il-qofol tan-natura tal-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman tinbidel f'waħda ta' Qorti.

Huwa fatt li l-maġġoranza kbira tar-rakkomandazzjonijiet tal-Ombudsman Parlamentari jiġu implimentati mill-awtoritajiet fi żmien relattivament qasir. Kien hemm u ser ikun hemm dejjem, numru żgħir ta' każijiet fejn l-amministrazzjoni tonqos milli timplimenta r-rakkomandazzjonijiet tal-Ombudsman, minkejja d-deċiżjoni tiegħu li l-ilment ikun ġustifikat.

Biex jagħti aktar saħħa lill-opinjoni finali tiegħu, l-Ombudsman irrakkomanda illi l-I-speaker għandu jirreferi dawk ir-rapporti tal-Ombudsman li hekk jimmeritaw lil dak il-Kumitat Permanenti tal-Kamra li hu jidhirlu xieraq, u din il-prassi għandha tkun provduta statutorjament fl-Ordni Permanenti tal-Kamra. Finalment għandha tkun il-Kamra tad-Deputati li tiddetermina jekk l-opinjoni tal-Ombudsman, li huwa wieħed mill-Uffiċċjali tagħha, u r-rakkomandazzjonijiet li huwa jagħmel sabiex tiġi rimedjata ingustizzja amministrattiva, jimmeritawx illi jkunu diskussi aktar fil-fond u tiddeċiedi jekk kenux korretti u għalhekk għandhom jiġu sostnuti. Jekk Kumitat tal-Kamra jkun tal-fehma li għandu jiddiskuti aktar il-merti tal-każ, jista' wkoll jibgħat għall-Ombudsman u l-Kummissarji, u għall-awtorità pubblika involuta fl-ilment, biex jidhru quddiemu u

jispegjaw il-pożizzjoni rispettiva tagħhom.

### Riferenza għall-Qorti jew Tribunal

F'hafna każijiet fejn ikun hemm nuqqas ta' qbil bejn l-amministrazzjoni pubblika u l-Ombudsman dwar it-twettiq tar-rakkomandazzjonijiet magħmula fl-opinjoni finali tiegħu, ikun hemm interpretazzjoni differenti ta' dispożizzjonijiet li jirregolaw id-diskrezzjoni amministrattiva, jew dwar jekk l-istrument leġislattiv jistax jiġi infurzat jew huwiex applikabbli.

Ġie propost li f'każijiet fejn ikun hemm kunflitt, dan għandu jiġi riżolt bi proċess ġudizzjarju waqt li tiġi sospiza l-investigazzjoni sakemm jiġu fi tmiemhom dawn il-proċeduri. L-Ombudsman irrakkomanda illi l-Att dwar l-Ombudsman għandu jipprovi għal tali riferenza lill-awtorità ġudizzjarja, preferibbilment lejn it-Tribunal tar-Revizjoni Amministrattiva. Ir-riferenza għandha ssir fi żmien qasir li għandu jkun stabbilit bil-liġi u li jibda jgħodd mid-deċiżjoni tal-Ombudsman.

### Tiġi żviluppata sinerġija bejn l-Ombudsman u l-Qrati

Għalkemm l-Ombudsman isostni illi mhux tal-parir li l-Opinjoni Finali tiegħu tkun infurzata f'qorti, għandu mnejn ikun opportun li din tittiehed in-konsiderazzjoni fi proċedimenti tal-qorti li jkunu qegħdin jiddeterminaw l-istess mertu bejn il-persuna li tkun ressqet l-ilment u l-amministrazzjoni pubblika. F'dawn il-każijiet wieħed jista' jikkonsidra li l-Opinjoni Finali u r-rakkomandazzjonijiet tal-Ombudsman ikunu jistgħu jiġu pprezentati fil-kawża bħala evidenza esperta miż-żewġ partijiet fil-kwistjoni. Il-Qorti jkollha s-setgħa li tevalwa dik id-deċiżjoni fid-deliberazzjonijiet tagħha, l-istess kif tagħmel meta tkun qed tikkonsidra l-opinjoni tal-esperti li jkunu tressqu bħala xhieda.

Dawn il-proposti saru f'dokument bil-ħsieb li jkunu sottomessi għall-konsultazzjoni pubblika. Wieħed jispera li l-fora politika, is-settur privat u s-soċjetà ċivili jirreaġixxu għal dawn il-proposti u oħrajn, u jsiru rakkomandazzjonijiet kif dawn jistgħu jiġu mwettqa. Dawn il-proposti sal-lum għad ma kellhomx rispons mill-amministrazzjoni. Madankollu, wieħed jifhem li dawn jittieħdu in-konsiderazzjoni meta jkun il-waqt.

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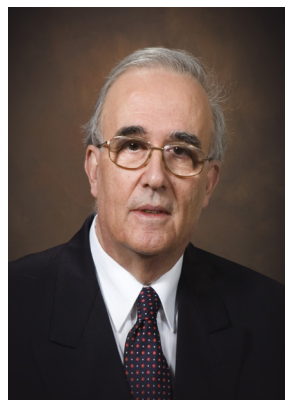
### Konkluzjoni

#### Futur mibni fuq l-esperjenza pożittiva

Il-passat, għaldaqstant, anke jekk mhux perfett, huwa wieħed inkuraġġanti għall-futur. L-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman f'Malta hi rikonoxxuta, kemm lokalment kif ukoll internazzjonalment, bħala strument effettiv li jassigura amministrazzjoni pubblika ġusta u korretta f'soċjetà demokratika. Jeħtieġ, għalhekk, li nkomplu nibnu fuq dak li nbena fil-passat. Dan jista' u għandu jsir billi fuq kollox tissaħħaħ l-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman biex jiġi assigurat li tibqa' dejjem aktar viċin min isofri ingustizzja b'rizultat ta' abbuż ta' poter jew diskriminazzjoni impropria; tibqa' mezz dejjem aktar effettiv ta' verifika tal-aġir tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika fis-sens wiesa', u tkun strument effikaċi ta' kif l-amministrazzjoni pubblika tista' tiġi mtejbja fl-interess tal-ġid komuni.

#### It-triq 'il quddiem

Il-pajjiż għandu għalfejn ikun kburi illi kien hemm dejjem kunsens fil-Kamra tad-Deputati dwar il-ħtieġa li l-istituzzjoni tal-Ombudsman tingħata appoġġ biex twettaq kif jixraq il-funzjonijiet tagħha. Hu minnu li sal-lum għadha ma nstabitx soluzzjoni għal kif tista' tinħoloq sinerġija effettiva bejn l-Ombudsman u l-Parlament ħalli l-opinjonijiet finali tiegħu, fejn meħtieġ, jiġu kkunsidrati mill-Parlament biex ikunu aktar effettivi. Mill-banda l-oħra, m'hemmx dubju li kien b'rizultat dirett ta' dan l-appoġġ unanimu tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, li tul dawn is-snin l-Uffiċċju seta' jagħmel tibdil sostanzjali fl-operat tiegħu li ppermetteliu jagħmel qabza ta' kwalità fis-servizz li jipprovdi liċ-čittadin.



*Il-Prim Imħallef Emeritu  
Dr Joseph Said Pullicino  
Ombudsman Parlamentari*

*Il-Prim Imħallef Emeritu  
Joseph Said Pullicino studja  
fil-Liċeo u fl-Università ta'  
Malta fejn fl-1958 iggradwa  
b'Baċellerat (Hons) fl-Istorja  
u fl-1961 b'Dottorat fil-Liġi.*

*Il-Prim Imħallef Emeritu Joseph Said Pullicino kien appuntat Kummissarju tal-Gustizzja u aktar tard Chairman ta' waħda mill-Kummissjonijiet għall-Investigazzjoni tal-Inġustizzji, kariga li huwa okkupa għal diversi snin anke wara li nħatar Imħallef fl-1990. Huwa qeda l-funzjoni tiegħu ta' Imħallef l-aktar fil-Qorti Civili fejn kien jippresiedi fuq kawżi kostituzzjonali li kienu jinvolvu d-drittijiet tal-bniedem. F'Lulju tal-1995 ħa l-ġurament bħala Prim Imħallef u f'din il-kariga ppresieda fil-Qorti Kostituzzjonali, fil-Qorti tal-Appell, il-Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali u qrati oħra.*

*Għal tmien snin kien ir-rappreżentant ta' Malta fuq il-Kummissjoni ta' Venezia dwar id-Demokrazija permezz tal-Liġi (Venice Commission for Democracy through law) tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. Bħala Prim Imħallef kien ukoll ex officio Vici President tal-Kunsill dwar l-Amministrazzjoni tal-Gustizzja.*

*Wara li rtira f'Jannar tal-2002, inħatar Chairman tal-Awtorità tax-Xandir u dam f'din il-kariga sa Diċembru 2005. Fit-12 ta' Diċembru 2005 il-Kamra tad-Deputati ħatritu b'vot unanimu bħala Kummissarju Parlamentari għall-Investigazzjonijiet Amministrattivi magħruf bħala l-Ombudsman. Fil-11 ta' Marzu tal-2011, għal darba oħra b'vot unanimu, ġie kkonfermat it-tieni mandat tiegħu bħala Ombudsman.*

## THE PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN – THE CONSCIENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 20 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

This year marks the 20th anniversary since the establishment of the Ombudsman Institution. In 1995, the people's representatives voted unanimously in favour of an autonomous and independent institution within Parliamentary services, not simply as a means to safeguard their rights, but as a further means within the system of checks and balances to ensure that the Executive is held accountable for its administration.

During these twenty years, the Office of the Ombudsman has worked hard to ensure the individual's fundamental right of having access to good public administration and has helped thousands of individuals who have sought its help against alleged injustices. Throughout these years, the Office of the Ombudsman has also brought the individual closer to public administration and assisted the latter in a correct and equitable manner.

Furthermore, in these last years, the Office of the Ombudsman has broadened the parameters within its jurisdiction by placing further emphasis on its role as an efficient tool in improving public administration.

### **A dynamic Institution**

Reference to an 'Ombudsman' was first made in 1971, when one of the country's main political parties included the Ombudsman Institution in its electoral manifesto for the general election of the same year. After 24 years, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1995, the Parliament unanimously appointed the first Ombudsman, Mr Joe Sammut, to serve as a Commissioner for Administrative Investigations. The Parliamentary Ombudsman was granted the status of an Officer of Parliament with the same rights, privileges, and security of appointment as that of High Court Judges. The autonomy and independence of this institution was reinforced not only by the way in which the Ombudsman is elected, which requires the approval of no less than two thirds of the Members of Parliament, but also through the way in which it is financed. The finances of the Office of the Ombudsman are approved on a yearly basis by Parliament following the Ombudsman's presentation of the Ombudsplan which outlines the following

year's activities. Such financing, which form part of the Consolidated Fund, are administered by the Ombudsman as he deems appropriate.

Following the appointment of the first Ombudsman, work was started on the setting up of the Office of the Ombudsman. Our Ombudsman Act is based on that of New Zealand. The then Ombudsman of New Zealand, Sir John Robertson, not only helped the Government of Malta in drawing up the legislation, but also assisted in establishing the structures and procedures used by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Office of the Ombudsman was officially opened to the public on 15 November 1995 when the first complaints were received. The public's faith in and respect towards the Ombudsman Institution increased throughout the years. This was confirmed by a number of studies on public opinion carried out over the years. In the most recent study, conducted this year, 81% of participants claimed to have faith in the Institution.

The Institution has continued to evolve over the years. Following the appointment, in 2005, of the second Ombudsman, the Chief Justice Emeritus Joseph Said Pullicino, efforts continued to be made for the role of the Ombudsman to be entrenched in our country's Constitution. This important development took place on 18 July 2007 when Parliament unanimously approved an amendment to the Constitution providing the Ombudsman protection by the country's highest law. This amendment ensured that the citizens of this country would always be protected by the Ombudsman Institution.

Following this important development, the need was felt for a change in the law of the Ombudsman with the intention of creating a synergy between other autonomous institutions set up by law, such as the Audit Officer of MEPA and the University Ombudsman. Therefore, Ombudsman Said Pullicino put forward a number of proposals for a convergence between these institutions and the Office of the Ombudsman. The Government accepted these proposals which came into force following the approval by Parliament

## THE PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN – THE CONSCIENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 20 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

of Act XVIII of 2010 which amended the Ombudsman Act of 1995. These amendments provided the Office of the Ombudsman with the necessary structure to have dedicated Commissioners for Administrative Investigations specific to certain sectors which require specialised skills, thus improving the investigations within these sectors. These changes entered into force in August 2012, with the appointment of Mr Charles Messina as Health Commissioner, and Perit David Pace as Commissioner for Environment and Planning which replaced the Auditor Officer of MEPA. Later, in January 2014, the office of the University Ombudsman was replaced by the Education Commissioner to which Professor Charles Farrugia, who previously occupied the position of University Ombudsman, was appointed.

These changes presented new challenges for the running of the Office of the Ombudsman. These included the need for an improvement in resources and to cater for the lack of space in which the new Commissioners could carry out their duties. Therefore, work started simultaneously on restructuring administrative operations and on extending the existing premises to offer citizens the best possible service.

In order for there to be synergy and coordination between the Ombudsman and the Commissioners, a number of guidelines were created outlining how the Commissioners would work within the existing structure of the Office of the Ombudsman. Amendments to the law also provided for the Commissioners to be autonomous and independent in their investigations and to have the same duties, powers and security of tenure as the Parliamentary Ombudsman. The Office of the Ombudsman remained responsible for providing administrative and investigative resources, together with any other support necessary. To ensure uniformity across the methods used for investigations, every complaint has to be addressed to the Parliamentary Ombudsman who then assigns the complaint to the appropriate Commissioner. The Parliamentary Ombudsman was also granted the right to review the Final Opinion of the Commissioners in case of an infringement of the

rules of natural justice during an investigation or a grave error in the facts or law.

Despite these challenges, through good planning and a will to carry out this vision, work commenced in 2013 on the restructuring of the administrative operations, while at the same time work started on the infrastructure of the existing building and the new extension in the same year. As a result of this, today, on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Office of the Ombudsman is equipped with new, modern facilities required to offer citizens the best possible service. These facilities were inaugurated by the President of Malta, H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition on 5 November 2015.

### **Where we are today and the way forward**

#### **Constitutional Strengthening**

It was a historical moment for the Ombudsman Institution when the House of Representatives voted unanimously in favour of amendments to the Constitution ensuring that our citizens will always be protected by an institution which is accountable to Parliament and whose function is to investigate the correctness of public administration. This important step not only helped strengthen the autonomy and independence of this Institution, but it gave the citizen a more efficient means by which to defend itself against injustices and maladministration.

This was the first step towards laying the foundation for a strong constitutional infrastructure, bringing together diverse elements which will ensure that Parliament has at its disposal the best instruments for verifying the behaviour of the Executive. This guarantees that public administration conforms to the laws it has approved.

In his speech during the President's Third Forum, the Parliamentary Ombudsman proposed that as part of the debate about the reforms to the Constitution, a structural analysis is done of how a strong bond may be created between the Parliament and the

## THE PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN—THE CONSCIENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 20 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

constitutional authorities responsible for scrutinizing Executive behaviour, such as the Ombudsman and the General Auditor. One of the proposals that was put forward was that the Ombudsman should benefit from the same constitutional protection as the Auditor General. In fact, although the Constitution recognises the Office of the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman himself, unlike the Auditor General, is not protected by provisions in the Constitution which regulate the way he is appointed or removed, the term of his appointment and related guarantees. The Ombudsman enjoys these guarantees under ordinary law.

The Ombudsman also proposed that a mechanism be put in place by which Constitutional authorities, such as the Ombudsman, not only report their findings to the House of Representatives, but there should be procedures in place so that, when it is indicated, his reports are discussed by the House Committee, which will consider the relative merits. In this way the Government's actions will be under public scrutiny.

The introduction of these reforms would be a major improvement towards safeguarding citizens against abuse of power and arbitrariness. These would also mean a strengthening of the Parliament's autonomy and a clear distinction between it and the other powers of the State.

The Constitution needs to emphasize the role of Parliament as an expression of the people's will; a Parliament with not only the primary function of creating legislation for the common good but one which ensures that the laws it passes are well administered. The strengthening of the Constitutional authorities and other authorities which are necessary for verifying that the behaviour of public administration conforms to the will of the people's Representatives will be an essential and important tool in verifying the Executive's accountability.

### **Institutional Strengthening**

The 2010 amendments to the Ombudsman Act brought fundamental changes to the structure of the Office by authorising the Ombudsman to appoint

specialized Commissioners dedicated to investigating complaints from vital social sectors within our country. These amendments were instrumental in ensuring that high standards of investigations by competent officers could be carried out within the fields of health, education and environment and planning.

After three years of structural work within the Office of the Ombudsman, the Commissioners have successfully integrated into the workings of the Office and together with the Ombudsman are providing a comprehensive service through investigating complaints in these specialised sectors. There is continuous consultation with the Ombudsman towards a final opinion which is the result of a positive spirit of team work between the Commissioners who work autonomously and the Ombudsman who serves as a point of reference for judicial and procedural queries. Ultimately, the Ombudsman still has the right to review the Commissioners' final opinions where allowed by law on request of the person who has put forward the complaint.

This synergy is the result of the correct application of laws and regulations which regulate the Commissioners' duties, and which is complemented and strengthened by the Commissioners' use of the services of the Official Investigators and the administrative staff of the Ombudsman. All in all, this has been a positive experience which will be further developed.

The appointment of the Commissioners is having a highly positive effect on the operations of the Office. Having specialised sectors has not only led to an increase in the number of complaints but has also enhanced the professional and authoritative nature of the investigations being carried out and on the final opinion. There have been occasions when the Ombudsman has even authorised more than one Commissioner to focus on a complaint which requires investigation from various angles within the Commissioners' competences.

## THE PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN – THE CONSCIENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 20 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

### **The Ombudsman's relation with Parliament**

Aware of his constitutional role as an Officer of Parliament, the Ombudsman seeks to fulfil his role as mediator between the citizen and the Executive by not only investigating complaints about allegations of injustices and bad administration, but also, from time to time, by taking his initiative to act as a catalyst for the improvement and innovation of public administration. This is done when necessary and is often the result of findings which have come to light through his investigative work, and also from what is happening within the administration of public affairs.

In recent months the Ombudsman has presented Parliament with a number of reports for analysis, amongst which are proposals on strengthening the Ombudsman Institution, two documents about the founding in Malta of a National Human Rights Institution, and other reports related to the health sector such as the recent document about the Entitlement to Free Medicines based on the Social Security Act.

Moreover, during the last few years in his annual Ombudsplan, which to date is the only document which is presented before Parliament for discussion, the Ombudsman has focused on some aspects of Public Administration in a broad context, aspects which, in his opinion, merited the attention of the people's representatives and also of civil society.

In doing so the Ombudsman is fulfilling an important role – of being the conscience of public administration – by analysing situations which need to be addressed and making recommendations as to what needs to be done. This is done in order to guarantee that citizens are receiving the full benefits of their right to good public administration.

There remains work to be done. As proposed by the Ombudsman on various occasions, there is the need to look into the creation of a mechanism which will create a synergy between him and Parliament by means of which he will be able to bring to the attention of the House serious cases which bring to the fore disagreements between himself and

the Administration or issues which are seen as being controversial within the country about what constitutes good public administration or how administrative rights which regulate fundamental aspects of public administration should be addressed and defined. These cases often encroach on the level of openness and accountability that the public administration is expected to observe and implement.

### **Proposals for strengthening the Ombudsman Institution**

Following the change in administration, in March 2013, the Government asked the Ombudsman to prepare a number of proposals on how to strengthen the Ombudsman Institution. Following a consultation exercise based on the experience gained over the years since the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman, and considering present needs, the Ombudsman put forward a number of proposals with the intention of renewing and strengthening the tools given to the citizen in 1995.

### **The fundamental right to good public administration**

Amongst his proposals, the Ombudsman suggested that the fundamental right to good public administration should be entrenched in the Constitution. If this amendment is included it will equip the citizens with an effective legal tool with which to exercise their right and will enable them to hold the public authority responsible and accountable for its actions through judicial and other available processes.

### **The appointment of a Parliamentary Ombudsman**

Current laws do not give adequate official guidelines as to what should happen should there be a period within which the position of Ombudsman is vacant. It is understood that this position should not remain vacant for an extended period, since this would amount to denying citizens their fundamental right to make use of this Institution. In order to ensure continuity when a new Ombudsman is due to be appointed, a proposal has been made for the statutory provision of a temporary appointment to this sensitive role. This will be necessary when the statutory term of the person occupying the role has

## THE PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN – THE CONSCIENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 20 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

come to an end, and he is either unwilling or unable to continue within this role until a successor has been appointed.

As regards the appointment of a new Ombudsman, a proposal has been put forward for the President of Malta to actively participate as mediator in the selection process of the new Ombudsman. This function can also be extended to other principal posts. This role is essential when the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition fail to reach a consensus as to the person whom they believe will enjoy the required approval of two thirds of the House of Representatives. Should this situation arise, the President should be able to submit for consideration, before the House of Representatives, a list of three persons who in his opinion would be suitable for this role.

### **Deputy Ombudsman**

The Constitution or the Ombudsman Act should include provisions for the appointment of a Deputy Ombudsman to act on behalf of the Parliamentary Ombudsman when necessary. The President may delegate one of the Commissioners working within the Office of the Ombudsman, when possible following consultation with the Ombudsman, to act as Deputy Ombudsman. This suggestion is based on the same principles provided in the Constitution in relation to the appointment of a Deputy Auditor General.

### **Convergence with other institutions**

In recent years a considerable number of institutions have been established in terms of the law, which are autonomous or semi-autonomous to survey specific social, economic, or other activities which the Parliament saw fit to regularise in the interest of the citizen and society in general.

There is no standard or uniform legislative structure that regulates these institutions. Each one is regulated by the laws by which it was established and which are based on its specific needs. Authorities such as the Commissioner for Children, the National Commission Persons with Disability, the Commissioner for

Mental Health and others are carrying out excellent work in their respective fields, however they cannot offer citizens the same level of protection as the Parliamentary Ombudsman. Some of these institutions have raised concerns about not being able to perform their duties with liberty and serenity given the absence of a secure level of independence and autonomy from the Executive.

Therefore, the Ombudsman proposed that a study should be carried out to determine whether it is possible for some of these authorities to be integrated into the Office of the Ombudsman, whilst retaining their autonomy in the carrying out of their duties.

### **Making full use of existing functions of the Ombudsman**

The best way in which the institutional framework of the Office of the Ombudsman may be strengthened is, without doubt, by making full use of existing functions for which it was established. The Office of the Ombudsman was established as a national authority entrusted with the role of investigating administrative actions of the Executive and public authorities. According to article 13 of the Ombudsman Act, the Ombudsman may be asked by a Committee of the House of Representatives or by the Prime Minister to examine matters which have been referred to him. This article is of greater relevance today given the fact that Parliament is considering whether or not it should set up a Committee the function of which would be to receive petitions from persons who feel aggravated as a result of actions taken by Members of the House. Every investigation carried out by the Ombudsman, now a constitutional authority, is characterised by autonomy and independence, which distances it from political or partisan influences. Therefore, any development in this direction would be consistent with the institutional proposals about strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman as an authority at the service of an autonomous Parliament, towards which it is responsible.

## THE PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN – THE CONSCIENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 20 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

### **Broadening the Ombudsman's existing mandate to essential services forming part of the private sector**

A number of economic sectors are now offering essential services that were previously provided by the Government or its agencies and authorities. As a result of this privatisation, these no longer fall under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.

Economic activities that are now being provided by the private sector, but which still have a strong element of obligation as a public service, should be scrutinised and surveyed by independent entities. This should guarantee that the consumer receives the best service deemed essential to society by the legislator.

It was therefore suggested that the mandate of the Ombudsman should be broadened to incorporate the provision of essential services by the private sector. This proposal was one of the themes discussed at length during seminars organised for the European Ombudsmen.

It is important to emphasize that the proposal to broaden the Ombudsman's jurisdiction in relation to the provision of essential services by the private sector, should be limited to the service itself and how the quality and efficiency of the given service affect the consumer. The Ombudsman should have no jurisdiction to interfere, or investigate the internal workings of the entity providing the service. The private entity should remain at liberty to act as a commercial body without governmental interference or control.

### **Enforcing the recommendations**

The Ombudsman is of the opinion that his recommendations should not be binding. He does not believe that the essential quality of persuasion should be changed. If the Office of the Ombudsman had the authority to enforce its recommendations it would become a Judicial Office.

The vast majority of recommendations made by the Parliamentary Ombudsman are in fact implemented by the authorities within a relatively short time. There

has been and there always will be, a small number of cases in which the administration fails to implement the Ombudsman's recommendations, despite his decision that the complaint was justified.

To strengthen his final opinions, the Ombudsman recommended that the Speaker should refer those reports of the Ombudsman, that in his opinion are of merit, to the appropriate Standing Committee of the House, and that there should be a statutory provision to this effect in the Standing Orders of the House. Finally, it should be the House of Representatives which determines whether the Ombudsman's opinion, who is one of its Officials, and his recommendations to remedy an administrative injustice, should be discussed in more detail and decide whether these were correct and should therefore be upheld. If the Committee of the House believes that further discussion on the merits of the case is necessary, the Ombudsman and Commissioners, and the public authority involved in the complaint, could be called upon to appear before it and explain their respective positions.

### **Referral to a Court or Tribunal**

In many cases where there is a lack of agreement between the public administration and the Ombudsman regarding the implementation of the recommendations made in his final opinion, this is usually the result of different interpretations of the dispositions which regulate administrative discretion, or whether the legislative instrument can be enforced or is applicable.

A suggestion has been put forward that where there is conflict, this should be resolved through a judiciary process with the investigation being suspended until the proceedings have been completed. The Ombudsman recommended that the Ombudsman Act should provide for such a referral to a judicial authority, preferably towards an Administrative Review Tribunal. Such reference should be made within a short time period established by law which commences from the date of the Ombudsman's decision.

## THE PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN – THE CONSCIENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 20 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

### Developing a synergy between the Ombudsman and the Courts

Although the Ombudsman maintains his belief that his Final Opinion should not be enforced by a court of law, it may be beneficial for this to be taken into consideration during the judicial procedures in which the merit of the case between the person who put forward the complaint and the public administration is being determined. In such cases the Ombudsman's final opinion and the recommendations of the Ombudsman may be presented as expert evidence from both parties involved. The court will be able to evaluate this decision during deliberations, following the same procedure used when considering expert opinions put forward by witnesses.

The intention behind gathering these proposals in a document is to submit them for public consultation. One hopes that the political fora, the private sector and civil society will react to these proposals and others, with recommendations as to how these proposals can be carried out. To date there has been no administrative response to these proposals. However, it is understood that these will be taken into consideration at the appropriate time.

### Conclusion

#### A future built on positive experience

Therefore the past, even if not perfect, is an encouraging one for the future. The Ombudsman Institution in Malta is recognised both locally and internationally, as an effective instrument in ensuring good and proper public administration within a democratic society. It is therefore necessary to continue to build on the foundations of the past. This can and should be above all done through the strengthening of the Ombudsman Institution which should work on behalf of those who have suffered an injustice as the result of an abuse of power or improper discrimination; it should remain as a more effective means of verifying the behaviour of public administration in a broad sense, and as an efficient instrument in improving public administration in the interest of a common good.

### The way forward

This country should be proud that there has always been a consensus in the House of Representatives in lending support to the Ombudsman Institution to carry out its functions. In spite of this, to date a solution has not yet been found as to how an effective synergy can be created between the Ombudsman and the Parliament so that his final opinion, where necessary, can be considered by Parliament in order to render it more effective. On the other hand, it is the unanimous support of the House of Representatives which has made it possible, during the last few years, for the Office to carry out substantial changes in the way it operates which have resulted in a vast improvement in the quality of the services provided to the citizens.



Chief Justice Emeritus  
Joseph Said Pullicino  
Parliamentary Ombudsman

His Honour Chief Justice Emeritus Joseph Said Pullicino studied at the Lyceum and the Royal University of Malta where he graduated B.A (Hons.) in History in 1958 and Doctor of Laws in 1961.

Chief Justice Emeritus Said Pullicino was appointed Commissioner of Justice and later Chairman of one of the Commissions for the Investigation of Injustices, a post he retained for a number of years even after his appointment of judge in 1990. He sat mainly in Civil Courts where he also presided over constitutional cases involving human rights. He was sworn Chief Justice in July 1995 and in this position he presided over the Constitutional Court, the Court of Appeal, the Court of Criminal Appeal and other courts. He was for eight years Malta's representative on the Venice Commission for Democracy through Law at the Council of Europe. As Chief Justice he was ex officio Vice President of the Council for the Administration of Justice.

After his retirement in January 2002, in April of that year he was appointed Chairman of the Malta Broadcasting Authority, a position he held up to December 2005. On 12 December 2005 he was, by unanimous resolution of the House of Representatives, appointed Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations known as the Ombudsman. On 11 March 2011, again by unanimous resolution, he was reconfirmed for another term as Ombudsman.

## L-EMIGRAZZJONI – ATTIVITÀ POLITIKA U SOĊJALI KONTINWA F'MALTA TAS-SEKLI DSATAK U GĦOXRIN

Il-moviment ta' nies mill-Gżejjer Maltin għal partijiet oħra tad-dinja, l-iktar biex ifittxu x-xogħol, kien, sa minn bosta sekli ilu, proċess kontinwu tal-attività umana. Madankollu, l-emigrazzjoni saret ferm iktar sinifikanti u evidenti mis-seklu dsatak 'il quddiem. Dan ġara primarjament minħabba l-problema tal-qgħad u n-numru dejjem jikber tal-popolazzjoni, realtà li l-awtoritajiet kolonjali Brittanniċi bdew jieħdu aktar bis-serjetà sa mill-1820. Kien evidenti li l-ekonomija ma setgħetx tlaħħaq maż-żieda kostanti fil-popolazzjoni. Il-Knisja Kattolika lokali u l-Maltin infushom ma kienu jaċċettaw l-ebda referenza għall-kontroll tat-twelid. L-unika soluzzjoni li kienet tidher possibbli kienet l-emigrazzjoni. Madankollu, din il-proposta ġiet milqugħa biss b'ċerta riserva. Il-Gvernaturi Hastings (1824-26) u Ponsonby (1827-36), kif ukoll Giorgio Mitrovich fost oħrajn, kienu favur. Min-naħa l-oħra kien hemm dawk li ħasbu li din is-soluzzjoni kienet waħda krudili u mhux naturali.

L-ewwel tentattiv qawwi seħħ fl-1826, meta ftit mijiet ta' Maltin ittantaw xortihom fil-gżira Jonika ta' Ċefalonija, qrib il-Greċja. Madankollu sal-1833, dan l-esperiment falla u l-ħaddiema Maltin ġew akkużati li huma bla ħila u dgħajfa. F'dawn l-ewwel deċennji tas-seklu dsatak, kull xorta ta' attentat sabiex l-emigrazzjoni tiġi ffinanzjata mill-fondi pubbliċi falla. Il-Maltin kellhom għalhekk isibu fondi minn sorsi privati sabiex jemigraw. Vjaġġ lejn Tripli jew Tuneż fuq xprunara kien jiswa madwar żewġ xelini. Jekk wieħed kien ikun jixxiet jivvjaġġa sa Konstantinopli jew l-Eġittu, dan kien ikollu jħallas tnax-il xelin jew iżjed, il-prezz kien jiddependi mill-kundizzjonijiet tat-temp. L-emigranti Maltin kienu jafu li f'każ li l-mawra tagħhom tfalli, dawn setgħu jiġu megħjuna sabiex jirritornaw f'pajjiżhom permezz ta' fondi pubbliċi. Matul dan il-perjodu, konsli Brittanniċi fil-Mediterran appoġġjaw finanzjarjament lil dawk l-emigranti Maltin li kienu foqra, bla xogħol jew morda temporanjament f'każ li dawn xtaqu jibqgħu fl-art barranija għal xi ftit iktar żmien. Bejn l-1818 u l-1832, bejn 1,000 u 2,000 emigrant ħallew xtut art twelidhom sabiex imorru f'artijiet oħra, numri li kważi rdoppjaw bejn l-1833 u l-1836. Il-pajjiżi fejn marru kienu jinkludu l-Alġerija, Tuneż, l-Eġittu, il-Gżejjer Jonji, Konstantinopli, il-Greċja u Tripli, fejn sal-1842

l-immigranti Maltin kienu jlaħħqu l-20,000. Għal ħafna minn dawn l-avventura barra minn pajjiżhom ma rnexxietx, u madwar 1,000 kienu jirritornaw kull sena, u ħafna minnhom kienu jiġu lura foqra l-istess bħalma kienu telqu.



Vincenzo Bugeja

L-emigrazzjoni baqgħet imrażzna minħabba n-nuqqas ta' interess min-naħa tal-Gvern Inġliż fi skemi li jtaffu l-qgħad u l-pressjonijiet ikkawżati minn popolazzjoni eċċessiva. Il-proposti magħmula mill-Gvernatur Richard More O'Ferrall (1847-51) ġew imblukkati minn Londra u ma kien hemm l-ebda inizjattiva privata fil-perjodu bejn l-1842 u l-1865. Il-Maltin li xtaqu jemigraw setgħu jagħmlu dan imma mingħajr l-ebda għajjnuna organizzata u uffiċjali. Wara l-1865, ir-rata tal-emigrazzjoni kompliet tvarja.

## L-EMIGRAZZJONI – ATTIVITÀ POLITIKA U SOĊJALI KONTINWA F’MALTA TAS-SEKLI DSATAX U GHOXRIN

Perjodi pożittivi u oħrajn negattivi fl-ekonomija ta’ Malta ġiegħlu lin-nies jaħsbu b’mod differenti fuq l-immigrazzjoni – id-deċiżjonijiet li ħadu kienu jiddependu fuq kif kienet sejra l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż f’kull perjodu partikolari. Xi minn daqqiet bejn l-1860 u l-1880, in-numru ta’ dawk li ġew lura Malta spiss qabeż in-numru ta’ dawk li kienu qed iħallu x-xtut Maltin. Bejn l-1861 u l-1890, kien hemm medja ta’ madwar 110 emigranti kull sena. Sal-aħħar tal-1880, madwar 50,000 Malti kienu qed jgħixu f’postijiet tul il-kosta tal-Mediterran. Ħafna telqu lejn pajjiżi li jvarjaw mill-Alġerija sa Konstantinopli, filwaqt li oħrajn marru jgħixu ġewwa Sqallija, Franza u Spanja. Uħud, saħansitra marru jgħixu ġewwa l-Amerika u l-Awstralja. Diversi emigranti foqra ma kellhomx għażla oħra ħlief li jerggħu jirritornaw lejn Malta.

L-awtoritajiet Maltin ma kinux jieħdu pjaċir b’dawk l-immigranti li kienu qed jirritornaw lura f’pajjiżhom, minħabba li dawn kienu ser ikomplu jżidu mal-problemi lokali li t-tluq tagħhom kien qed jipprova jtaffi. Fl-1880, l-Awstralja kienet meqjusa bħala lokalità potenzjali, iżda din il-proposta ġiet ikkritikata mill-Partit Anti-Riformista, immexxi minn Dott. Fortunato Mizzi li ra din l-idea bħala parti mill-iskema ta’ Londra li timponi l-lingwa Ingliża fuq dawk il-Maltin li xtaqu jmorru hemm. Uħud mill-Maltin, tabilhaqq ivvjagġaw lejn l-Awstralja iżda din l-avventura kienet l-aħħar inizjattiva sinifikanti ta’ emigrazzjoni fis-seklu dsatax.

Is-sitwazzjoni nbidlet drastikament fis-seklu għoxrin. Il-problema tal-popolazzjoni eċċessiva u l-qgħad kienu saru realtà iktar kerha fil-bidu tas-seklu u fl-1907 l-Aġent Gvernatur Sir Harry Barron waqqaf il-Kumitat għall-Emigrazzjoni Malti magħmul minn għaxar membri, b’Dott. Charles Mattei bħala s-segretarju. Madankollu, dan il-Kumitat ma kienx wieħed effettiv għax la kellu fondi x’joffri u lanqas xi forma ta’ poter. Seta’ biss isib l-informazzjoni u jipprezentaha lill-emigranti prospettivi. Il-Knisja Maltija ħasbet biex twaqqaf l-organizzazzjoni tagħha stess bl-isem ta’ Il-Lega tal-Appostolat tat-Talb, iżda apparti li ħolqot bank u kkorrispondiet ma’ organizzazzjonijiet Kattoliċi barranin, ftit aktar minn hekk seta’ jsir. Din ukoll, kellha ftit li xejn poter u ma kellha ebda fondi.



**Instituto Vincenzo Bugeja f’Santa Venera**

Fl-1913 it-Ten. Gvernatur Sir John Clauson waqqaf l-Uffiċċju għall-Infurmazzjoni dwar l-Emigrazzjoni bħala parti mill-fergħa tal-passaporti fil-Belt Valletta, bl-għan uniku li jipprovdi t-tagħrif, għax ma kellux fondi. Il-Gvern f’Malta wkoll żamm lura milli jagħti għajnuna finanzjarja lil dawk li xtaqu jemigraw iżda li ma kellhomx il-mezzi meħtieġa. L-unici fondi kellhom jġgu minn sorsi privati. Kien hemm żewġ filantropi li spikkaw. Vincenzo Bugeja (1820-90) waqqaf il-‘Bugeja Emigration Fund’ li fih ħalla sors ta’ għajnuna finanzjarja wara mewtu. Madankollu, sal-1912 dan il-fond kien tbatall minħabba li bosta kienu dawk li għamlu użu minn dan is-sors. Imbagħad kien hemm Giovanni Di Nicolò Pappaffy (1792-1886) li waqqaf il-Fond Pappaffy fl-1886 b’donazzjoni ta’ £10,000. Mill-imgħax ta’ dan il-fond, sal-1961 ġew meġġuna 554 emigrant. Sal-ewwel snin tas-seklu għoxrin, xi Maltin bdew jivvjagġaw lejn l-Amerika, il-Kanada u l-Awstralja; qabdet tendenza li l-emigranti jmorru lejn pajjiżi li jitekellmu bl-Ingliż. Hekk kif faqqgħet l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija l-emigrazzjoni waqfet, iżda din reġgħet qabdet ir-ritmu hekk kif spicċat il-gwerra.

## L-EMIGRAZZJONI – ATTIVITÀ POLITIKA U SOĊJALI KONTINWA F'MALTA TAS-SEKLI DSATAK U GĦOXRIN

Fl-1919, twaqqaf il-Kumitat tal-Emigrazzjoni, ippesedut minn Joseph Howard, filwaqt li Henry Casolani kien is-segretarju u l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv. Aktar 'il quddiem Joseph Howard kellu jsir l-ewwel Prim Ministru ta' Malta (1921-1923). L-emigrazzjoni kienet imfixkla minħabba l-illitteriżmu għoli ta' ħafna mill-emigranti u għalhekk fl-1919 infethu klassijiet speċjali sabiex jipprovdu edukazzjoni bażika. Minħabba attendenza batuta, din l-inizjattiva twaqqfet fl-1921. Sal-1928, kien tnienda ċ-Ċentru għat-Taħriġ tal-Emigranti, li kien jinsab fl-Istitut Tekniku Bugeja, ġewwa l-Ħamrun (illum Santa Venera). Peress li l-Awstralja, il-Kanada u l-Amerika kellhom bżonn biss nies tas-sengħa, immigranti li ma kinux imħarrġa f'xi sengħa ma kellhom l-ebda ċans li jiġu aċċettati f'dawn il-pajjiżi. Il-Kanada u l-Awstralja għall-ewwel ma aċċettawx Maltin. F'Marzu tal-1938 l-Awstralja rrikonoxxiet il-Maltin bħala Brittanniċi, u b'hekk taffiet il-kundizzjonijiet stretti li kienet tapplika għal emigranti oħrajn.

L-emigrazzjoni għall-Awstralja twaqqfet temporanjament matul it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, madankollu reġgħet qabdet wara l-gwerra, bl-Awstralja, l-Amerika u l-Kanada jkunu l-aktar destinazzjonijiet imfittxija. Il-gvernijiet Maltin għenu eluf ta' emigranti prospettivi finanzjarjament billi, per eżempju, taw għotijiet ta' flus lil familji fejn il-membri prinċipali li kien iġib il-flus id-dar kien kien emigra jew billi ffinanzjaw skemi ta' passagġi assistiti. Il-Knisja lokali għenet ukoll lill-emigranti, bit-twaqqif tal-Kummissjoni Emigranti fis-snin ħamsin, li kienet topera minn Palazz Carafa sal-1972, u din kienet tgħin lill-emigranti jippreparaw lilhom infushom għall-ħajja f'pajjiż barrani.

L-emigrazzjoni bdiet tonqos mill-1966 u llum ir-rata hi baxxa ħafna. Mhux talli hekk, imma l-emigranti li telqu minn Malta fl-imgħoddi qegħdin jagħzlu li jerrġgħu jirritornaw f'pajjiżhom, Malta u Għawdex, u jibqgħu jgħixu hemm.



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## EMIGRATION – AN ONGOING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MALTA

The movement of some people from the Maltese islands to various parts of the world, especially to seek employment, has been an ongoing human activity since many centuries ago. However migration became much more significant and evident from the nineteenth century. This was primarily prompted by the problem of unemployment and excessive population numbers, which the British colonial authorities began to take more seriously from the 1820s. It was evident that the economy could not keep up with the steady rise in the population. The local Catholic Church and the Maltese themselves did not accept any reference to birth control. The only solution open seemed to be emigration. However this proposal was met with mixed feelings. Governors Hastings (1824-26) and Ponsonby (1827-36) and others, including Giorgio Mitrovich, were in favour. On the other hand there were those who thought that this solution was cruel and unnatural.

A first robust attempt was made in 1826 when a few hundred Maltese tried their luck in the Ionian island of Cephalonia near Greece. By 1833, however, this experiment had failed and the Maltese workers were blamed of lacking ability and of being weak. In these first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century all attempts to finance emigration from public funds had failed. The Maltese had to seek funds to emigrate from private sources. A trip to Tripoli or Tunis on a Maltese-owned speronara cost about 2 shillings. If one wished to travel to Constantinople or Egypt then he would need to pay 12 shillings or more, depending on climatic conditions. Maltese migrants knew that if their stay failed they could be helped to come back through public funds. During this period British consuls in the Mediterranean supported financially those Maltese migrants who were impoverished, unemployed or temporarily sick, if they wished to stay on in a foreign land for some more time. Between 1818 and 1832, about 1,000 to 2,000 migrants left Maltese shores for new lands, with numbers nearly doubling between 1833 and 1836. Countries of destination included Algeria, Tunis, Egypt, the Ionian Islands, Constantinople, Greece, and Tripoli, where there were 20,000 Maltese migrants in all in 1842. Many failed in their adventures in foreign lands, and about

1,000 returned each year, many coming back as poor as they had departed.

Emigration remained hampered by the lack of interest on the part of the British Government in schemes to relieve unemployment and pressures of overpopulation. Proposals made by Governor Richard More O’Ferrall (1847-51) were blocked by London and there were no private ventures in the 1842-1865 period. Maltese who wished to emigrate had to do so without official or organized help. After 1865 the rate of emigration continued to fluctuate. Economic booms and slumps in Malta caused people to think differently about migrating – decisions depended on how Malta was doing economically at each particular period. At times during the 1860s and 1880s immigration often exceeded the number of those leaving Maltese shores. Between 1861 and 1890 there was an average of about 110 emigrants per year. By the late 1880s, about 50,000 Maltese had settled along the Mediterranean coast. Many went to places ranging from Algeria to Constantinople, while others settled in Sicily, France, and Spain. A few even went to the USA and Australia. Many poverty-stricken migrants had no choice but to return to Malta.

The Maltese authorities did not welcome returned migrants, as these would add to the local problems, which their departure had helped to relieve. In the 1880s Australia was considered to be a potential locality but this proposal was opposed by the Anti-Reformist Party led by Dr Fortunato Mizzi who saw this idea as part of London’s scheme to impose the English language on the Maltese who wished to go there. Some Maltese did indeed travel to Australia but this adventure was the last significant emigration initiative in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The situation drastically changed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The problem of over-population and unemployment became a grimmer reality at the turn of the century and in 1907 the Acting Governor, Sir Harry Barron set up the Maltese Emigration Committee composed of ten members with Dr Charles Mattei as secretary. Yet it had no funds to offer and no real power to make it

## EMIGRATION – AN ONGOING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MALTA (CONT.)

effective. It could only seek information and present it to prospective Maltese migrants. The Maltese Church thought of setting up its own organization called the League of the Apostleship of Prayer but, besides creating a Penny Bank and corresponding with Catholic organisations in other lands, little else could be done. It too had no real power and no funds.

In 1913 Lt. Gov. Sir John Clauson set up the Emigration Information Office as part of the passport branch in Valletta with the sole purpose of providing information, since it lacked funds. The local government too kept back from handing out financial help to those wishing to emigrate but who did not have the necessary means. Any funds had to come from private sources. Two philanthropists stood out. Vincenzo Bugeja (1820-90) set up the Bugeja Emigration Fund as a source of financial help after his death. However, by 1912 the fund had been depleted as too many had tapped this source. There was then Giovanni Di Nicolò Pappaffy (1792-1886) who set up the Pappaffy Fund in 1886 with a donation of £10,000. From the fund's interest, 554 migrants had been helped by 1961. By the first years of the 20th century some Maltese began to travel to the USA, Canada, and Australia, with the trend to go to these English-speaking lands picking up with the years. With the outbreak of World War One, emigration stopped but it was again revived when the war ended.

In 1919 a new Emigration Committee was set up, chaired by Joseph Howard, while Henry Casolani was secretary and executive officer. Joseph Howard would later become the first Prime Minister of Malta (1921-1923). Emigration was hindered by the high illiteracy of most migrants and special classes were started in 1919 to provide basic education. Owing to poor attendance, this initiative was discontinued in 1921. By 1928 the Migrants Training Centre, housed at the Bugeja Technical Institute at Hamrun (now St Venera), had been launched. As Australia, Canada, and the USA needed only skilled persons, unskilled migrants had no chance of being accepted in these countries. Canada and Australia at first did not accept

the Maltese. It was only in March 1938 that Australia recognized the Maltese as British, thus relieving the stringent conditions applied to other emigrants.



**Giovanni Di Nicolò Pappaffy – a bust found at The Mall, Floriana.**

*(ritratt ta' Frank Vincentz)*

Migration to Australia was temporarily stopped during World War Two but it picked up again and more intensely after the war, with Australia, the USA, and Canada being the most popular destinations. Maltese governments helped thousands of prospective migrants financially such as by granting allowances to families whose breadwinner had

## EMIGRATION – AN ONGOING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MALTA (CONT.)

emigrated and by assisted passage schemes. The local Church also assisted migrants, setting up an Emigrants Commission in the 1950s which operated from Palazzo Carafa up to 1972, helping migrants to prepare themselves for life in foreign countries.

Emigration began to decline from 1966 and is today very low with many former migrants choosing to return and resettle in Malta and Gozo.



*Joseph Howard*



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## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT

### Notte Bianca

Fil-lejla tat-3 ta'Ottubru, il-bibien tal-Parlament infetħu għall-pubbliku bħala parti mill-attivitajiet tan-Notte Bianca, fejn il-Belt Valletta tinxtegħel għal ċelebrazzjoni ta' nies, kultura u arti. Din hija l-ewwel sena li l-binja l-ġdida tal-Parlament infetħet għall-pubbliku għan-*Notte Bianca* u laqgħet iktar minn 6,000 viżitatur fi spazju ta' seba` sigħat. Il-viżitaturi setgħu jaraw l-esibizzjoni dwar il-proġett ta' Bieb il-Belt li giet imtelligħa mill-uffiċċju tal-Perit Renzo Piano, li kien responsabbli għad-dizinn tal-proġett ta' Bieb il-Belt, inkluż il-binja l-ġdida tal-Parlament. Din l-esibizzjoni kienet tinkludi numru ta' ritratti kif ukoll mudelli tal-istrutturi f'fażijiet differenti tal-proġett. Wirja oħra li ttelegħet fl-istess ħin kienet *Science in the House* bħala parti mir-raba' edizzjoni ta' *Science in the City*, li għandha l-għan li sservi ta' pont bejn ir-riċerkaturi u l-Membri Parlamentari. Il-viżitaturi ġew milqugħa minn uffiċjali tal-Parlament, li spjegaw il-funzjonijiet tal-Parlament u kif inhi mqasma l-binja tal-Parlament binja għas-Sala tal-Parlament u ieħor għall-amministrazzjoni, fejn wieħed isib l-uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker, l-uffiċċji tal-Gvern u tal-Oppozizzjoni l-uffiċċji tal-*istaff* tal-Parlament u anke l-kmamar tal-Kumitati. Il-viżitaturi kellhom ukoll l-opportunità li jingħaqdu fi'gruppi li ġew mdawra mal-postijiet principali tal-binja minn membri tal-*istaff* tal-Parlament.

### Żjara ta' kortesija mill-Organizzazzjoni Nisa Professjonisti fin-Negozju

Fit-8 ta' Ottubru l-Ispeaker irċieva żjara ta' kortesija mill-membri tal-Organizzazzjoni Internazzjonali tan-Nisa Professjonisti fin-Negozju. L-Ispeaker enfasizza l-importanza tar-rwol tan-nisa f'pożizzjonijiet ta' responsabilità, u li Malta tista' tikklassifika bħala eżempju prattiku ta' dan, meta wieħed jikkunsidra li l-Kap tal-Istat hija t-tieni mara li tokkupa din il-kariga, filwaqt li fil-ġudikatura, numru konsiderevoli ta' nisa huma maħturin bħala maġistrati u mħallfin. Il-Parlament Malti għandu disa' membri parlamentari nisa, u erbgħa minn sitt membri tal-Parlament Ewropew ukoll huma nisa. L-Ispeaker esprima x-xewqa li l-Gvern itejjeb il-partecipazzjoni tan-nisa fid-dinja tax-xogħol billi joffri iżjed miżuri favur il-familja. L-Ispeaker faħħar ix-xogħol volontarju li tagħmel din l-assocjazzjoni, li għandha l-għan li tkompli ssaħħaħ il-partecipazzjoni tan-nisa fid-dinja tax-xogħol, kif ukoll li n-nisa jidhlu għal rwoli ta' tmexxija, kemm politika kif ukoll amministrattiva.



## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

### Courtesy Call by the Business Professional Women

On 8 October the Speaker received a courtesy call from members of the International Organisation Business Professional Women. The Speaker emphasised the importance of the role of women in headship positions, and that Malta could classify as a practising example of this, as the Head of State is the second female person to hold this Office, whilst in the Judiciary, a considerable number of women are also appointed as magistrates and judges. The Maltese Parliament has nine female Members of Parliament, and four out of six Members of the European Parliament are also women. The Speaker expressed his wish that government enhances women's participation in the workplace through family friendly measures. The Speaker lauded the work of this voluntary association that aims to further strengthen the role and participation of women at work, as well as in leading roles, both on a political basis and also on administrative one.

### Notte Bianca

On the night of 3 October, the doors of the Parliament of Malta opened to the public as part of the annual Notte Bianca event where the cityscape of Valletta is lit up with a nocturnal celebration of people, culture and arts. This is the first year that the new Parliament building was open to the public during Notte Bianca, receiving over 6,000 visitors in the space of seven hours. The visitors were free to explore the exhibition regarding the City Gate project organised by the office of Architect Renzo Piano who was responsible for the design of the new Parliament building. The exhibition presented a number of pictures as well as model structures at the different phases of the project. Another exhibition which was held simultaneously was Science in the House as part of Science in the City, the aim of which is to serve as a bridge between researchers and Members of Parliament, and which is in its fourth edition. Upon arrival, visitors were greeted by a parliamentary official who welcomed them and explained the functions of Parliament and described how the building is laid out – one block housing the plenary Chamber and the other, the administration block, comprising the office of the Speaker, the offices of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, the Government and the Opposition rooms, the offices of the parliamentary officials, as well as the Committee rooms. Visitors also had the opportunity to join a guided tour taking them to all principal areas of the parliament building.



**NOTTE  
BIANCA**  
IS-SIBT 3 TA' OTTUBRU, VALLETTA

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### Żjara ta' kortesija mill Istitut tal Ġurnalisti Maltin

Fit-12 ta' Ottubru l-Ispeaker irċieva żjara ta' kortesija minn membri tal-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin, immexxija miċ-Chairman tal-Istitut is-Sur Karl Wright. L-Ispeaker għamel referenza għall-istazzjon televiżiv tal-Parlament, li beda jxandar *free-to-air* mingħajr restrizzjonijiet mit-12 ta' Ottubru 2015. L-Ispeaker wera l-apprezzament tiegħu lil dawk kollha li kienu involuti f'dan il-proġett li ddeskriva bħala pass 'il quddiem fid-demokrazija ta' Malta. Iż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew il-possibilità ta' kollaborazzjoni bejn l-uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker u l-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin. Iċ-Chairman tal-Istitut ipprezenta lill-Ispeaker kopja tal-ktieb *When Judges Dissent*. Għal din iż-żjara kienu preżenti wkoll is-Sur Charles Flores, is-Sur Charles Camenzuli u s-Segretarju tal-Istitut tal-Ġurnalisti Maltin, is-Sur Tony Barbaro Sant.

### Dibattitu Nazzjonali dwar is-saħħa sesswali u t-tnaqqis tal-età tal-kunsens sesswali

Fit-22 ta' Ottubru l-Ispeaker indirizza numru ta' studenti universitarji li pparteċipaw f'dibattitu nazzjonali organizzat mill-Kunsill Studenti Universitarji (KSU) fil-Parlament. Id-diskussjoni ttrattat is-saħħa sesswali u t-tnaqqis tal-età tal-kunsens sesswali. L-Ispeaker fakkar liż-żgħażaġh li hija l-istituzzjoni tal-Parlament li tgħaddi l-ligijiet tal-pajjiż u hija din l-istess istituzzjoni li hija responsabbli mill-iskrutinju tal-gvern meta jkunu qed jiġu implimentati dawn il-legiżlazzjonijiet. L-Ispeaker fakkar ukoll li iktar kmieni din is-sena, il-Kumitati Permanenti dwar is-Saħħa, l-Affarijiet Soċjali u tal-Familja, ingħaqdu flimkien biex jisingħu l-opinjoni ta' diversi esperti f'dan il-qasam. Il-kumitati huma mistennija jipprezentaw ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet tagħhom fil-bidu tal-2016. Fost il-kelliema li indirizzaw lil dawk preżenti kien hemm id-Deputati l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg, l-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia, l-Onor. Deborah Schembri, kif ukoll il-Kummissarju għat-Tfal is-Sinj. Helen D'Amato.



## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES ( CONT.)

### National debate on sexual health and lowering of the age of sexual consent

On 22 October the Speaker addressed a number of University students who participated in a national debate organised by the University Student Council (KSU), in the Parliament building. The discussion concerned sexual health and the lowering of the age of sexual consent. Speaker Farrugia reminded the attendees that it is Parliament that passes the laws of our country, and it is this same Institution that is responsible for the scrutiny of government when implementing this same legislation. The Speaker also recalled that earlier during this year, the Standing Committees on Health, Social Affairs and Family Affairs came together to listen to the various opinions of a number of experts and interested parties in this field. The committees are expected to present their recommendations early in 2016. Members of Parliament Hon. Claudette Buttigieg, Hon. Godfrey Farrugia and Hon. Deborah Schembri as well as the Commissioner for Children, Ms Helen D'Amato addressed the participants.

### Courtesy visit from the Institute of Maltese Journalists

On 12 October the Speaker received a courtesy visit from members of the Institute of Maltese Journalists, led by its Chairman Mr Karl Wright. The Speaker made reference to the Parliamentary TV station, which started to broadcast free-to-air without any restrictions as of 12 October 2015. The Speaker renewed his thanks to those who were involved in this endeavour which, he said, has moved forward the pace of democracy in Malta. The two sides discussed possible collaboration between the office of the Speaker and the Institute of Maltese Journalists. The Chairman of the Institute presented the Speaker with the book *When Judges Dissent*. Mr Charles Flores, Mr Charles Camenzuli and the Secretary to the Institute of Maltese Journalists, Mr Tony Barbaro Sant, were also present.



## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### L-istazzjon televiżiv tal-Parlament issa qed ixandar fuq *free-to-air*

Mit-12 ta' Ottubru kull ċittadin Malti ngħata l-possibilità li jsegwi l-proċeduri parlamentari li jsiru fil-Kamra tad-Deputati *live* fuq it-televiżjoni. Dan sar possibbli billi l-Parlament ingħata stazzjon *free-to-air*, li permezz tiegħu ċ-ċittadin ma għandux bżonn servizz tat-TV privat bi ħlas sabiex ikun jista jsegwi minn daru dak li qed jiġri fil-Parlament. Dan qed jiġi kkunsidrat bħala żvilupp importanti fit-trasparenza tal-proċeduri tal-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż, u allura żvilupp importanti fil-proċess demokratiku tal-Parlament Malti.



### Żjara ta' Kortesija mir-Rappreżentanti Konsolari ta' Malta

Fit-8 ta' Ottubru l-Ispeaker irċieva grupp ta' rappreżentanti konsolari barranin f'Malta. Hu wera l-apprezzament tiegħu għas-servizz imprezzabbli li jipprovdu lil ċittadini tal-pajjiżi li jirrappreżentaw f'Malta. L-Ispeaker aċċenna għall-importanza tad-diplomazija parlamentari u semma l-laqqgħat li jkollu matul is-sena meta jirċievi dinjitarji barranin. Hu għamel referenza wkoll għall-konferenzi internazzjonali li jiġi mistieden jippartecipa fihom u jindirizza, kif ukoll dawk il-laqqgħat barra minn xtutna, li l-Membri Parlamentari jattendu għalihom fuq bażi regolari.



### Laqgħa tal-Grupp ta' Ombudsmen tas-Settur Pubbliku (PSOG)

Fil-5 ta' Novembru, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia ippresieda laqgħa tal-Grupp ta' Ombudsmen tas-Settur Pubbliku (PSOG) li giet organizzata fil-Parlament. Fl-indirizz tal-ftuħ, l-Ispeaker tkellem dwar l-importanza tal-kontabilità u t-trasparenza, li għandhom rwol importanti ħafna fix-xogħol ta' kull amministratur, speċjalment meta x-xogħol tagħhom jikkonċerna individwi li r-responsabilità tagħhom hi d-difiża taċ-ċittadin kontra l-abbuż tal-poter u l-amministrazzjoni ħażina. Din hi waħda mir-raġunijiet ewlenin għaliex l-Ombudsmen għandhom rwol importanti fi ħdan il-Parlament tagħom li jzommu lill-Eżekuttiv kontabbli.



## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Parliament TV broadcasting free-to-air

As of 12 October, every citizen has been given the possibility of following parliamentary procedures in the House of Representatives live on TV. This has become possible through the attainment of Parliament's own free-to-air channel which means that a private TV service subscription at a cost is not needed by the citizens to follow parliamentary procedures through television facilities in their homes. This is considered an important development in the transparency of the procedures of the highest institution of the country and thus, an important development in the democratic process of the Parliament.

Free  
-AIR

### Meeting of the Public Sector Ombudsmen Group (PSOG)

On 5 November, Speaker Anglu Farrugia chaired a meeting of the Public Sector Ombudsmen Group (PSOG) held at Parliament. In his opening speech, the Speaker stressed on the importance of accountability and transparency, which play a very important role in the lives of each and every administrator, especially when it comes to individuals whose main responsibility is the defence of citizens against abuse of power and maladministration. This is one of the reasons why Ombudsmen are invaluable to their respective parliaments in holding the Executive to account.



### Courtesy call by foreign consular representatives in Malta

On 8 October, the Speaker received a group of foreign Consular Representatives in Malta. He expressed his appreciation for the invaluable service which they provide and which is of benefit to the citizens of the countries they represent in Malta. Speaker Farrugia emphasised the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and mentioned the various meetings which he has throughout the year when he receives foreign dignitaries. He also referred to the international conferences which he is invited to participate in and address and also to the meetings abroad which Members of Parliament regularly attend.

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### Prezentazzjoni tal-Ktieb *Hekk Nafhom Jien*

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rċieva żjara ta' kortesija mill-eks-Membru Parlamentari Dr Tonio Borg, awtur tal-ktieb *Hekk Nafhom Jien*. Dr Borg ipprezenta lill-Ispeaker kopja tal-ktieb li hu kollezzjoni ta' rakkonti ta' numru ta' persuni li Dr Borg iltaqa' jew ħadem magħhom tul il-karriera tiegħu. L-Ispeaker faħħar ix-xogħol ta' Dr Borg, li jinkludi wkoll kitbiet dwar l-esperjenza tiegħu meta kien membru parlamentari.



### Tnedija tal-Ktieb *Iċ-Ċirasa*

Fl-24 ta' Ottubru l-Onor. Mario Galea nieda l-ktieb tiegħu *Iċ-Ċirasa* fil-foyer tal-Parlament. Dan il-ktieb fih gabra ta' aktar minn 160 ġrajja umoristika li ġraw lil diversi deputati miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra tad-Deputati u lill-awtur innifsu. Il-ktieb fih ukoll prasar li l-membri parlamentari jagħmlu lil xulxin meta jkunu 'l bogħod mill-cameras u mill-attenzjoni tal-pubbliku.

F'diskors li għamel, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia faħħar ix-xogħol tal-awtur u tal-pubblikaturi u qal li fl-aħħar sentejn u nofs mexxa tliet attivitajiet b'rabta ma' kotba li jinvolvu lil politiċi. Hu qal li b'hekk qed jibgħat messaggġ ċar li l-Parlament hu wieħed ħaj u miftuħ għall-poplu.



### Żjara ta' kortesija mis-Segretarju Ġenerali tal-OSCE

Fid-9 ta' Novembru l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rċieva żjara ta' kortesija mis-Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Organizzazzjoni għas-Sigurtà u Kooperazzjoni fl-Ewropa (OSCE) Lamberto Zannier. Iż-żewġ dinjitarji semmew il-kontribuzzjoni li Malta tat lill-Organizzazzjoni sa mit-twaqqif tal-OSCE b'mod speċjali fil-Kapitlu tal-Mediterran fl-Att Finali ta' Helsinki tal-1975. Huma għamlu referenza wkoll għall-ħtieġa li jiġi appuntat Rappreżentant Speċjali tal-OSCE fil-Mediterran fid-dawl ta' avvenimenti riċenti li seħħew fir-reġjun tan-nofsinar. Tkellmu wkoll fuq kwistjonijiet ta' interess għaż-żewġ naħat, fosthom il-problema tal-migrazzjoni, it-terroriżmu u d-drittijiet tal-bniedem. Is-Sur Zannier, li kien appuntat Segretarju Ġenerali tal-OSCE fl-1 ta' Lulju 2011, kien akkumpajnat mis-Sur Emilliano Alessandri, mis-Sezzjoni tal-Koperazzjoni Esterna tal-Uffiċċju tal-istess Segretarju Ġenerali. Preżenti għal-laqgħa kien hemm ukoll l-Ambaxxatur ta' Malta għall-OSCE, is-Sur Keith Azzopardi.

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Presentation of book *Hekk Nafhom Jien*

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit from former Member of Parliament Dr Tonio Borg, author of the book *Hekk Nafhom Jien*. Dr Borg presented the Speaker with a copy of the book which is a collection of memoirs of a number of persons who Dr Borg met or worked with during his career. The Speaker lauded Dr Borg's work that also includes writings about his experience as a member of parliament.

### Courtesy visit from the OSCE Secretary General

On 9 November, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit by the Secretary General of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Lamberto Zannier. The two dignitaries highlighted the contribution which Malta has given to the Organisation throughout the years since the setting up of the OSCE (previously CSCE), particularly to the Mediterranean Chapter in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. They referred to the importance of appointing an OSCE Special Representative for the Mediterranean in view of the recent events unfolding in the Southern region. They also discussed other issues of mutual interest such as the problem of migration, terrorism and human rights. Mr Zannier, who was appointed Secretary General of the OSCE on 1 July 2011, was accompanied by Mr Emiliano Alessandri, Office of the Secretary General, External Co-operation Section. Also present was Malta's Ambassador to the OSCE, Mr Keith Azzopardi.



### Launch of Book *Iċ-Ċirasa*

On 24 October Hon. Mario Galea launched his book *Iċ-Ċirasa* in an event at the Parliament foyer. This book comprises a collection of over 160 humorous anecdotes concerning several Members from both sides of the House and the author himself. The stories include practical jokes that parliamentarians play on each other when they are away from the cameras and the attention of the public.

Speaking during the event, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia praised the work of the author and of the publishers and said that in the last two and a half years he led three activities related to the launch of books involving politicians. He said that in this way he is sending a clear

## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### Martin Schulz, Donald Tusk jiltaqgħu mal-Ispeaker u jindirizzaw il-Parlament Malti

Il-President tal-Parlament Ewropew Martin Schulz u l-President tal-Kunsill Ewropew Donald Tusk, żaru lill-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati fl-10 ta' Novembru. Matul il-laqgħa bejn l-Ispeaker Farrugia u l-President Schulz, iż-żewġ naħat tennew l-importanza li jissaħħaħ ir-rwol tal-parlamenti nazzjonali. F'dan ir-rigward, l-Ispeaker spjega l-proposta tiegħu ta' proġett pilota bejn tlieta sa ħames parlamenti nazzjonali żgħar, bl-għan li jiġi msaħħaħ ir-rwol ta' parlamenti nazzjonali lil hinn minn dak li hu definit fit-Trattat ta' Liżbona. Matul il-laqgħa mal-President Tusk, iż-żewġ dinjitarji ddiskutew il-fenomeni tal-migrazzjoni, li kien wieħed mis-sugġetti fuq l-aġenda tal-Valletta Summit li kellu jinżamm fil-ġranet ta' wara. Huma esprimew it-tama li tinstab soluzzjoni dejjiema bejn il-pajjiżi membri tal-UE u l-pajjiżi Afrikani għal din il-kwistjoni. Fil-ftuħ tas-seduta speċjali, fejn iż-żewġ presidenti indirizzaw lill-Kamra, l-Ispeaker Farrugia qal li l-Ewropa hi mdawra b'pajjiżi maħkumin minn gwerer li jwasslu għal instabilità u li jġiegħlu liċ-ċittadini ta' dawn il-pajjiżi jfittxu refuġju fl-Ewropa. Hu qal li l-influssi tal-migrazzjoni ma jidhrux li ser jonqsu fiż-żmien li ġej u žied jgħid li l-Valletta Summit qed jiġi organizzat fi żmien fejn il-Mediterran qed jesperjenza l-aġħar tragedji umani li qatt ra. Il-President tal-Parlament Ewropew Martin Schulz, il-President tal-Kunsill Ewropew Donald Tusk, il-Prim Ministru l-Onor. Joseph Muscat u l-Mexxej tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Simon Busuttil indirizzaw lill-Kamra waqt din is-seduta speċjali, li kienet l-ewwel seduta speċjali li nżammet fil-binja l-għdida tal-Parlament.

### Żjara ta' kortesija mill-Kandidati għal Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Commonwealth u d-Direttur tal-Fondazzjoni tal-Commonwealth

Fil-25 ta' Novembru, l-Ispeaker irċieva żjara ta' kortesija mill-kandidati għall-pożizzjoni ta' Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Commonwealth: is-Sinjura Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba (Botswana), is-Sur Ronald Sanders (Antigua and Barbuda) u l-Barunessa Patricia Scotland (Dominica), li kienu akkumpanjati miċ-Chairman tal-Fondazzjoni tal-Commonwealth, is-Sur Anand Satyanand u d-Direttur tal-Fondazzjoni tal-Commonwealth, is-Sur Vijay Krishnarayan. Id-dinjitarji enfasizzaw ir-relazzjonijiet tajbin li jeżistu bejn Malta u l-Commonwealth. Huma tkellmu wkoll dwar il-kontribuzzjoni li Malta tat lill-organizzazzjoni. L-Ispeaker irrimarka li l-Parlament Malti ser jospita d-djalogu bħala sinjal tal-impenn tiegħu lejn il-Commonwealth u t-twemmin fil-potenzjal tal-Commonwealth bħala forza ta' ġid globali. Il-kandidati kienu akkumpanjati mill-membri tal-Commonwealth People's Forum u t-Taskforce taċ-CHOGM, fosthom Ms Myn Garcia, Deputat Direttur tal-Fondazzjoni tal-Commonwealth u Ms Jacqueline Micallef Grimaud, Chairperson tal-Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF).



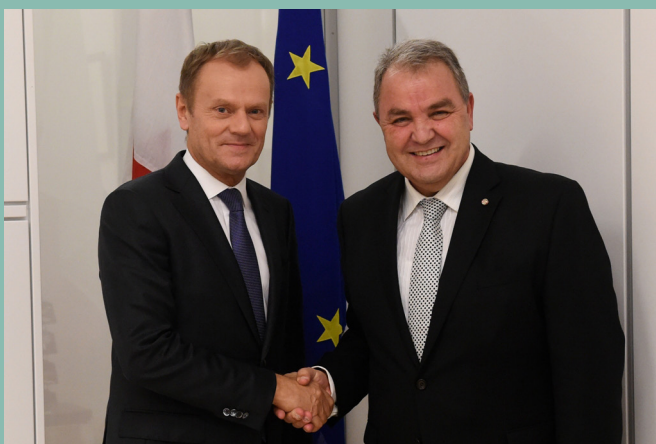
## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Courtesy call from Commonwealth Secretary General candidates and Commonwealth Foundation Director

On 25 November the Speaker received a courtesy visit by the Candidates for the post of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, namely Mrs Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba (Botswana), Sir Ronald Sanders (Antigua and Barbuda) and Baroness Patricia Scotland (Dominica), who were accompanied by the Chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation, Sir Anand Satyanand, and the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, Mr Vijay Krishnarayan. The dignitaries reiterated the excellent relations that exist between Malta and the Commonwealth. They highlighted the contribution which Malta has given to the Organisation. The Speaker pointed out that the Maltese Parliament will be hosting the citizens' dialogue as a sign of the commitment it has to the Commonwealth and its belief in the Commonwealth's potential to be a force for global good. The candidates were also accompanied by members of the Commonwealth People's Forum and the CHOGM Taskforce, namely Ms Myn Garcia, Deputy Director, Commonwealth Foundation and Ms Jacqueline Micallef Grimaud, Chairperson, Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF).

### Martin Schulz, Donald Tusk meet the Speaker, address Maltese Parliament

President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz and President of the European Council Donald Tusk, called on the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 10 November. During the meeting between Speaker Farrugia and President Schulz, the two dignitaries highlighted the importance of strengthening the role of national parliaments. In this regard, Speaker Farrugia voiced his proposal for a pilot project among three to five small national parliaments, with the aim of enhancing the roles of national parliaments beyond what is defined in the Lisbon Treaty. During the meeting with President Tusk, both sides discussed the issue of migration, which was to be on the agenda of the Valletta Summit to be held in the days to follow. They expressed the hope that a lasting solution to this issue will be found between the EU Member States and African countries. At the opening of the special sitting where the two presidents addressed the House, Speaker Anglu Farrugia said that Europe is surrounded by war-torn countries that bring about instability which leads people from these countries to seek new pastures in Europe. He said it does not look like the migration flows are going to decrease any time soon and added that the Valletta Summit was organised at a time when the Mediterranean was experiencing some of the worst human tragedies it has ever witnessed. European Parliament President Martin Schultz, European Council President Donald Tusk, Prime Minister Hon. Joseph Muscat and Leader of the Opposition Hon. Simon Busuttil addressed the House during this Special sitting, being the first one held in the new Parliament building.



## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### **(Commonwealth People's Forum 2015): Djalogu bejn il-Kandidati għal-Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Commonwealth u s-Socjetà Ċivili**

Fil-25 ta' Novembru l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia Ippresieda d-Djalogu bejn il-Kandidati għal-Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Commonwealth u s-Socjetà Ċivili fi ħdan il-(Commonwealth People's Forum) 2015. Din hija l-ewwel darba li sar djalogu bejn il-kandidati li kkompetew għall-kariga ta' Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Commonwealth u socjetà ċivili u għal din il-laqgħa ppartecipaw il-fuq il fuq minn 150 delegat. Ir-rwol ta' Segretarju Ġenerali jinkludi responsabilitajiet li jestendu iżjed mit-tmexxija tas-Segretarjat tal-Commonwealth. Is-Segretarju Ġenerali huwa l-kelliem u promotur ewlieni tal-Commonwealth u għalhekk għandu jkollu għarfien sod tal-kontribuzzjoni tas-socjetà ċivili fejn tidhol il-Commonwealth. Dan id-djalogu serva ta' opportunità għal kull kandidat sabiex jaqsam il-perspettivi fir-rigward tar-rwol tas-socjetà ċivili f'Commonwealth kontemporanja. L-għan kien li l-partecipazzjoni attiva tal-istess socjetà ċivili f'kull aspekt tax-xogħol tal-Commonwealth titpoġġa fuq l-aġenda tas-Segretarju Ġenerali li jrid jiġi inkarigat. Fost il-partecipanti attendew u kkontribwixxew ukoll għad-diskussjoni l-Onor. Carmelo Abela, Ministru għall-Intern u Sigurtà Nazzjonali u membru tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-Common Parliamentary Association kif ukoll l-Onor. Tonio Fenech, President tal-CAPAC, l-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Kumitati tal-Kontijiet Pubbliċi tal-Commonwealth.

### **Wirja dwar il-Commonwealth u Niesha: Dijaspura, Identità u Memorji**

Fis-27 ta' Novembru l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia nieda l-wirja 'Il-Commonwealth u Niesha: Dijaspura, Identità u Memorji - Tluq, Identità, Memorja, Nostalgia u Ritorn'. Waqt li introduċa l-wirja, l-Ispeaker Farrugia qal li l-Commonwealth aċċellerat il-moviment tan-nies bis-saħħa ta' opportunitajiet ġodda u li bil-mod tagħha, il-Commonwealth tat sehemha fl-iżvilupp tal-identità nazzjonali u personali tagħna. Huwa žied li kien hemm Maltin li emigraw lejn pajjiżi oħrajn, sewwa sew kif għamlu oħrajn li immigraw lejn Malta għall-istess raġunijiet. Il-wirja ttellgħet fil-foyer tal-binja tal-Parlament u kienet miftuħa għall-pubbliku.



## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Exhibition on the Commonwealth and its People: Diasporas, Identities, Memories

On 27 November Speaker Anġlu Farrugia inaugurated an exhibition on 'The Commonwealth and its People: Diasporas, Identities, Memories; Departure, Identity, Memory, Nostalgia and Return'. During a brief introduction Speaker Farrugia said that the Commonwealth accelerated movement of people through new opportunities and that in its own way, the Commonwealth has also played a part in shaping our national and personal identity. He added that the Maltese have moved to other countries, as have persons from other countries moved to Malta for the same reasons. The exhibition was set up at the foyer of the Parliament building and was open for viewing by the public.

### Commonwealth People's Forum 2015: Dialogue between Commonwealth Secretary-General Candidates and Civil Society

On 25 November Speaker Anġlu Farrugia chaired a Dialogue between Commonwealth Secretary-General Candidates and Civil Society Organisations, as part of the Commonwealth People's Forum 2015. This is the first time that candidates vying for the position of the next Secretary-General of the Commonwealth have engaged with a civil society audience. Indeed, it is the first time that they have been afforded an opportunity to be on the same platform, with the participation of over a 150 delegates. The role of Secretary-General includes responsibilities that extend beyond the running of the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Secretary-General is a spokesperson for the Commonwealth as a whole and a key advocate and therefore needs to have a firm understanding of the contribution that civil society can make to the workings of the Commonwealth. The dialogue was an opportunity for each of the candidates to share their perspectives on the place of civil society in a contemporary Commonwealth. The aim was to place the active participation of civil society in all aspects of the Commonwealth's work on the agenda of the next Secretary-General. Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Home Affairs and National Security and Member of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), and Hon. Tonio Fenech, Chairman of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committes (CAPAC), also participated in the dialogue.



## ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

### Konferenza Organizzata mill-Parliamentarians for Diabetes Global Network

Membri Parlamentari minn 'il fuq minn 60 pajjiż, inkluż Malta, iltaqgħu għewwa Vancouver, il-Kanada, sabiex jiddiskutu l-ispiza umana, soċjali u ekonomika tad-dijabete. Il-Konferenza giet organizzata mill-Parliamentarians for Diabetes Global Network. Il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Simon Busuttil, Viċi President tan-Network, u l-Membri Parlamentari l-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia u l-Onor. Clyde Puli pparteċipaw f'din il-konferenza, li fl-għeluq tagħha addottat dikjarazzjoni li sejthet għal azzjoni iktar attiva kontra din l-epidemija li taffettwa madwar 440 miljun ruħ madwar id-dinja. Din id-dikjarazzjoni torbot firmatarji sabiex jipprijoritizzaw il-Miri tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti għas-Saħħa Globali għad-dijabete sabiex jittejjbu l-prevenzjoni, id-djanjożi u l-kura biex jitnaqqas in-numru ta' persuni li jbatu mid-dijabete u l-kumplikazzjonijiet, kif ukoll l-imwiet bikrija ta' dawk li jbatu minn din il-kundizzjoni. "Għandna obbligu li nagħtu l-aħjar trattament possibbli lin-nies morda bid-dijabete u biex intejjbu l-prevenzjoni f'każijiet oħra", qal l-Onor. Busuttil. L-Onor. Farrugia ppreżenta rapport dwar is-sitwazzjoni attwali tad-dijabete f'Malta.



### Il-Parlament tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità

"Kull vjaġġ jibda b'pass wieħed. Flimkien nistgħu naħdmu lejn futur bl-aħjar interess għalija, għalik u kull persuna umana, huma min huma, huma fejn huma, u irrISPETTIVAMENT mill-istat tagħhom." Dan kien kumment li għamel l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia fid-diskors tal-ftuħ tas-seduta ddedikata lil persuni b'diżabilità. L-Ispeaker tenna li din is-sessjoni kienet ser tkun waħda memorabbli għax kienet it-tnax-il laqgħa annwali, u l-ewwel li giet organizzata fis-sala tal-Parlament, grazzi għall-aċċessibilità pprovduta fil-bini l-ġdid tal-Parlament. L-Ispeaker qal ukoll li l-Parlament irid jiżgura li jsir kull sforz sabiex il-Parlament, bħala l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż jorgannizza aktar laqgħat ta' din ix-xorta fl-ispirtu ta' rispett għall-prinċipji tal-imparzjalità u l-ugwaljanza.

### Konferenza dwar ir-rwoli tal-Parlamenti Nazzjonali u l-Parlament Ewropew fl-Arkitettura Ewropea

Fil-11 ta' Diċembru l-Parlament ta' Malta ospita konferenza dwar ir-rwol tal-parlamenti nazzjonali u l-Parlament Ewropew fl-arkitettura Ewropea. Il-Konferenza kienet organizzata mill-Kamra tad-Deputati u l-Uffiċċju tal-Parlament Ewropew f'Malta. Fil-ftuħ tal-Konferenza l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia qal li hemm lok ta' aktar kooperazzjoni bejn il-parlamenti nazzjonali u l-Parlament Ewropew, kif tixhed il-proċedura tal-'kartuna ħadra'. L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia qal li l-parlamenti għandhom mingħajr iktar dewmien jaħdmu flimkien sabiex jimtela l-vojt li hemm fir-relazzjoni bejn il-parlamenti u l-istituzzjonijiet tal-UE. L-Ispeaker enfasizza li dan hu neċessarju sabiex il-parlamenti nazzjonali jindirizzaw id-defiċit demokratiku u jibgħu rilevanti għaċ-ċittadini. Il-konferenza kienet indirizzata wkoll mis-Sinjura Christine Verger, Direttriċi għar-Relazzjonijiet mal-Parlamenti Nazzjonali fil-Parlament Ewropew, l-Onor. Luciano Busuttil, Membru Parlamentari u President tal-Kumitat Permanenti għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, Dr Peter Agius, Kap tal-Uffiċċju tal-Parlament Ewropew f'Malta u s-Sur Kenneth Curmi, Rappreżentant tal-Parlament Malti fil-Parlament Ewropew.

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Parliament for Persons with Disability

“Every journey begins with a single step. Together, we can work towards having a better future in my best interest, in yours, and every human being, whoever they may be, wherever they may be and irrespective of the status of each and every one of us.” This was the opening remark of the Speaker Anġlu Farrugia in his speech to open the Parliament sitting dedicated to persons with disability. The Speaker stated that the session was to be a memorable one since it was the twelfth annual meeting, and the first which was organised in the parliamentary chamber, thanks to the accessibility available in the new parliament building. The Speaker also stated that the Parliament should ensure that every effort is made for the Maltese Parliament, the highest institution of the country, to hold further such meetings in full respect of the principles of impartiality and equality.



### Conference on the Roles of the National Parliaments and the European Parliament in the European Architecture

On 11 December the Parliament of Malta hosted a conference on the “Roles of the National Parliaments and the European Parliament in the European Architecture”. The Conference was organised by the House of Representatives and the Office of the European Parliament in Malta. In his opening remarks, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia stated that there is scope for greater collaboration between national parliaments and the European Parliament, such as what is being done with the ‘green card’ procedure. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia said that parliaments need to work together without further delay to fill the gaps which can be identified in the relationship between parliaments and the EU institutions. He stressed that this is required in order for national parliaments to address this democratic deficit and remain relevant to citizens. The conference was also addressed by Ms Christine Verger, Director for Relations with National Parliaments in the European Parliament, Hon. Luciano Busuttil, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Dr Peter Agius, Head of the European Parliament Office in Malta and Mr Kenneth Curmi, Representative of the Maltese Parliament in the European Parliament.



### Conference organised by the Parliamentarians for Diabetes Global Network

Members of parliament from more than 60 countries, including Malta, met in Vancouver, Canada, to discuss the human, social and economic cost of diabetes. The conference was organised by the Parliamentarians for Diabetes Global Network. Opposition leader Hon. Simon Busuttil, Vice-President of the Network, and MPs Hon. Godfrey Farrugia and Hon. Clyde Puli participated in the Conference, at the end of which a declaration calling for tougher action against the epidemic that affects some 440 million people around the world was adopted. The declaration commits signatories to prioritise the United Nations Global Health Targets for diabetes to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment in order to reduce the number of people with diabetes and the expensive and unnecessary complications and early deaths of those with the condition. “We owe it to people with diabetes to give them the best treatment possible and to help prevent it in other cases,” Hon. Busuttil said. Hon. Farrugia presented a country report on the state of play in Malta on diabetes.

## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI

### Konferenza tal-Open Government Partnership's Legislative Openness Working Group

Id-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Ċensu Galea pparteċipa f'konferenza bl-isem 'Impenn favur it-Trasparenza: Pjanijiet ta' Azzjoni Parlamentari, Standards u Għodda'. Il-konferenza organizzata mill-Open Government Partnership's Legislative Openness Working Group, flimkien mal-Parlament tal-Ġeorgja, inżammet għewwa Tbilisi, il-Ġeorgja bejn l-14 u l-15 ta' Settembru.

F'numru ta' sessjonijiet għew diskussi t-temi tat-trasparenza tal-parlamenti, kif ukoll pjanijiet ta' azzjoni, standards u għodda biex parlamenti jkunu jistgħu jtejbju l-prestazzjoni tagħhom.



### Ir-Raba' Sessjoni tal-2015 tal-PACE

L-Onor. Joe Debono Grech mexxa delegazzjoni li inkludiet l-Onor. Charlò Bonnici, l-Onor. Beppe Fenech Adami u l-Onor. Joseph Sammut għar-Raba' Sessjoni tal-2015 tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa (PACE). Il-qofol tad-diskussjoni kkonċernat ir-rispons umanitarju u politiku għall-kriżi tal-immigrazzjoni fl-Ewropa u l-ħtieġa urgenti għal sistema ta' vera ta' aġil fl-Ewropa b'riżultat tar-Regolamenti ta' Dublin. Id-delegati attendew għas-sessjonijiet plenarji kif ukoll ħadu sehem fil-laqgħat tal-gruppi politiċi rispettivi tagħhom u pparteċipaw f'numru ta' laqgħat ta' kumitati. Dr Joseph Filletti, ir-Rappreżentant Permanenti ta' Malta għall-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, flimkien mad-deputat tiegħu, Ms Tania Carabott, itaqgħu mas-segretarju tad-delegazzjoni Maltija għal skambju ta' fehmiet dwar ċerti punti fuq l-aġenda tal-Assemblea.

### Konferenza Interparlamentari għas-CFSP/CSDP

Fil-5 u s-6 ta' Settembru, l-Onor. Jason Azzopardi u l-Onor. Luciano Busuttil ħadu sehem fil-Konferenza Interparlamentari għall-Politika Estera u ta' Sigurtà Komuni u tad-Difiza Komuni (CFSP/CSDP) organizzata mill-Presidenza tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea tal-Lussemburgu. L-Onor. Luciano Busuttil tkellem matul id-dibattitu fil-plenarja u ddeskriva l-kwistjonijiet ta' sigurtà li qed jaffaċċjaw l-Istati Membri tan-Nofsinhar tal-Unjoni Ewropea bħala karatterizzati mill-influssi tal-immigranti deħlin l-Ewropa.

L-Onor. Busuttil kien ukoll kelliem ewlieni fis-sessjoni ta' ħidma dwar l-istess suġġett ta' għestjoni aktar funzjonali tal-influssi tal-immigranti. Hu rrikonoxxa li l-pajjiżi ta' oriġini huma stati falluti, u tenna li jeħtieġ li jiġu indirizzati l-kawżi tal-immigrazzjoni primarji permezz ta' għajnuna finanzjarja għall-iżvilupp immirata lejn dawn il-pajjiżi.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Conference of the Open Government Partnership's Legislative Openness Working Group

Deputy Speaker Ċensu Galea took part in a conference entitled 'Committing to Openness: Parliamentary Action Plans, Standards and Tools'. The Conference, was organised by the Open Government Partnership's Legislative Openness Working Group in partnership with the Parliament of Georgia was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 14 and 15 September. The Conference consisted of a number of sessions examining transparency of parliaments as well as action plans, standards and tools to improve their performance.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Session for 2015 of the PACE

Hon. Joe Debono Grech led a delegation comprising Hon. Charlò Bonnici, Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami and Hon. Joseph Sammut to the 4<sup>th</sup> Session for 2015 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). The highlight of the discussion concerned humanitarian and political response to the migration crisis in Europe and the urgent need for a real European asylum system after the Dublin Regulations. The delegates attended the plenary sessions and took part in the meetings of their respective political groupings and participated in the proceedings of a number of committees meetings. Dr Joseph Filletti, the Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe along with his deputy Ms Tania Carabott called at the Office of the Parliamentary delegation for an exchange of views with the secretary of the delegation on certain items on the agenda of the Assembly.



### Interparliamentary Conference for the CFSP/CSDP

On 5 and 6 September Hon. Jason Azzopardi and Hon. Luciano Busuttill participated in the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP) organised by the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Hon. Luciano Busuttill spoke during the plenary debate outlining the security issues being faced by the southern EU member states, brought about by the mass migratory flows. Hon. Busuttill was also a keynote speaker in the workshop on the same subject entitled 'Towards a more functional management of migration flows'. Recognising that the countries of origin are mostly failed states, he reiterated that the causes of immigration need to be addressed through targeted efficient development aid.



## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

### Laqgħa tal-Presidenti tal-Kumitati dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali

Il-President tal-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali, l-Onor. Deborah Schembri, ħadet sehem fil-Laqgħa taċ-Chairpersons tal-Kumitati għall-Affarijiet Soċjali fil-Lussemburgu, liema laqgħa nżammet fil-qafas tad-dimensjoni interparlamentari tal-Presidenza tal-Kunsill tal-Lussemburgu. Il-laqgħa ffokat fuq il-kisba ta' 'klassifikazzjoni soċjali Triple A' għall-Ewropa u tat l-opportunità lill-esperti u l-partecipanti biex jiddiskuti s-soċjalizzazzjoni tas-Semestru Ewropew u l-valuri soċjali komuni. Esperti prezenti għal-laqgħa pprezentaw rapport *interim* dwar l-iżviluppi fil-kuntest tas-Semestru Ewropew u ddiskutew rakkomandazzjonijiet dwar metodi sabiex tissaħħaħ id-dimensjoni soċjali tagħha, inkluż l-idea li rakkomandazzjonijiet speċifiċi għall-pajjiżi m'għandhomx ikunu wisq preskrittivi u għandhom jippermettu lill-Istati Membri jsibu soluzzjonijiet għar-riformi li japplikaw għalihom, skont il-bżonnijiet speċifiċi tagħhom. Matul id-dibattitu, diversi esperti u delegati qablu li l-UE teħtiegħ tikkonsulta lill-parlamenti nazzjonali fi stadju aktar bikri fil-proċedura tas-Semestru Ewropew.

### Laqgħa tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-CAPAC

Fl-20 ta' Ottubru, l-Onor. Tonio Fenech, President tal-Kumitat dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi, ħa sehem fil-laqgħa tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Commonwealth tal-Kumitati tal-Kontijiet Pubbliċi (CAPAC), li nżammet f'Londra. Matul din il-laqgħa l-Onor. Fenech, bħala President tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv, offra illi l-Parlament Malti jospita s-segretarjat tat-Taqsima ta' Koordinazzjoni tal-CAPAC (CCU). Din l-offerta għet milqugħa mill-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-CAPAC u t-tnedija uffiċjali tas-segretarjat għandha ssir fil-bidu tal-2016.

### Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tal-Assoċjazzjoni Afrikana tal-Lvant tal-Kumitati tal-Kontijiet Pubbliċi

Il-President tal-Kumitat dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi, l-Onor. Tonio Fenech, gie mistieden jindirizza l-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tal-Assoċjazzjoni Afrikana tal-Lvant tal-Kumitati tal-Kontijiet Pubbliċi li nżammet bejn il-25 u l-31 ta' Ottubru għewwa Khartoum, is-Sudan. It-tema tal-laqgħa kienet it-'Tisħiħ tas-Sorveljanza Koordinata għal Aktar Kontabilità'. Huwa għamel prezentazzjoni dwar l-importanza tal-kumitati tal-kontijiet pubbliċi (PACs) biex jipprevjenu tmexxija ħażina permezz tal-verifika fuq kwistjonijiet emergenti u l-verifika proattiva. Huwa spjega li l-vantaġġi ta' skrutinju proattiv huma li jkun jista' jiġi evitat infiq bla kontroll speċjalment fejn il-PACs huma wkoll kumitati għall-baġit, allura dan l-għan jkun diġà fil-kompetenza tagħhom. Min-naħa l-oħra, b'skrutinju proattiv, il-PACs jirriskjaw li jsiru ballun politiku; barra minn hekk huwa diffiċli tiġbor informazzjoni finanzjarja kredibbli meta l-proġetti jkunu għadhom fl-istadji ta' ppjanar u jista' jkun hemm nuqqas ta' kooperazzjoni mill-Gvern. Huwa kkonkluda li filwaqt li skrutinju proattiv mhux komuni, studji sistematiċi tal-konkluzjonijiet u rakkomandazzjonijiet tal-PAC jistgħu jgħinu sabiex ikunu identifikati kwistjonijiet emergenti għal skrutinju proattiv.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Meeting of Chairpersons of Social Affairs Committees

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Hon. Deborah Schembri participated in the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Social Affairs in Luxembourg held in the framework of the interparliamentary dimension of the Luxembourg presidency of the Council. The meeting focused on the attainment of a 'Triple A social rating' for Europe and it gave experts and participants an appropriate forum to discuss the socialisation of the European semester and common social values. Experts at the meeting presented an interim report on the developments in the context of the European Semester and discussed initial recommendations on ways to reinforce its social dimension, including the idea that country specific recommendations should not be too prescriptive and should allow the Member States to find their own paths to major reforms, according to their country's specific needs. During the debate, various experts and delegates agreed that the EU needed to consult national parliaments at an earlier stage in the European Semester procedure.

### Meeting of the CAPAC Executive Committee

On 20 October Hon. Tonio Fenech, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, took part in the Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC Ex Co) which was held in London. During this meeting, as Chairman of the CAPAC Executive Committee, Hon. Fenech submitted the bid of the Maltese Parliament to host the secretariat of the CAPAC Coordinating Unit (CCU). This offer was taken up by the CAPAC Executive Committee and the official takeover of the CCU is expected in the beginning of 2016.

### Annual General Meeting of the Eastern African Association of Public Accounts Committees

The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Hon. Tonio Fenech, was invited to address the Annual General Meeting of the Eastern African Association of Public Accounts Committees held between 25 and 31 October in Khartoum, Sudan. The theme of the meeting was 'Enhancing Coordinated Oversight for better Accountability'. Hon. Fenech gave a presentation on making public accounts committees (PACs) pre-emptive through auditing of emerging issues and pro-active auditing. He explained that the advantages of proactive scrutiny where PACs are also budget committees include averting disastrous spending, which fits well within their remit. On the other hand, it risks that PACs become political because it will involve them in policy and it can be difficult to get credible financial information when projects are still in planning stages and might face a lack of cooperation. He concluded that whilst proactive scrutiny is not common in any system, systematic follow-ups of PAC conclusions and recommendations can help to identify emerging issues for proactive scrutiny.

## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

### **Laqgħa tal-Assoċjazzjoni ta' Eks Membri Parlamentari tal-Istati Membri tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa**

Is-Sur Lino Debono u Dr Noel Buttigieg Scicluna attendew għal-Laqqgħa tal-Bureau tal-Assoċjazzjoni Ewropea tal-Eks Parlamentari taħt il-patroċinju tal-President tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. Din il-laqqgħa saret ġewwa l-gżira ta' Madeira, il-Portugall, bejn il-11 u l-14 Ġunju 2015. Wara li l-minuti tal-laqqgħa ta' qabel ġew approvati, kien hemm dibattitu dwar liema tema se tintgħażel għall-konferenza li jmiss. Id-delegazzjoni Maltija għażlet li tappoġġja s-sottomissjoni Ġermaniża bl-isem "Immigrazzjoni bħala sfida għas-Solidarjetà Ewropea u interess proprju infurmat", u se jkollha tipprepara l-ideat u preżentazzjoni tagħha bi preparazzjoni għal-laqqgħa li jmiss.

### **Laqgħa interparlamentari dwar is-'Sitwazzjoni fil-Mediterran u l-Ħtiegħa għal Approċċ Olistiku għall-Migrazzjoni'**

L-Onor. Silvio Parnis u l-Onor. Francis Zammit Dimech ipparteċipaw fil-laqqgħa interparlamentari dwar is-'Sitwazzjoni fil-Mediterran u l-Ħtiegħa għal Approċċ Olistiku għall-Migrazzjoni' organizzata mill-Parlament Ewropew ġewwa Brussell fit-23 ta' Settembru. Matul id-dibattitu, l-Onor. Zammit Dimech spjega kif Malta esperjenzat influż migratorju konsiderevoli mill-2002 b'numru kbir ta' immigrantijaqsmu l-Baħar Mediterran mill-Afrika, partikolarment mil-Libja. Hu tkellem dwar il-ħtiegħa li wieħed iħares lejn il-problema b'mod aktar wiesgħa u billi jieħu kont tas-solidarjetà Ewropea peress li Malta, l-Italja u l-Greċja esperjenzaw pressjonijiet tal-migrazzjoni straordinarja iżda ma rċevewx l-għajnuna meħtiegħa mill-Unjoni Ewropea. Hu appella wkoll li ssir distinzjoni bejn immigranti ekonomiċi u refuġjati. Fl-aħħar l-Onor. Zammit Dimech hegġegħ lill-parlamenti u l-gvernijiet sabiex jaħdmu flimkien fuq il-mekkaniżmi meħtiegħa biex tinstab

### **Laqgħa tal-Ħarifa tal-OSCE PA**

Fis-16 ta' Settembru, l-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Organizzazzjoni għas-Sigurtà u l-Koperazzjoni fl-Ewropa (OSCE PA) organizzat il-Laqqgħa tal-Ħarifa f'Ulaanbaatar, il-Mongolja, li għaliha attendew l-Onor. Michael Falzon (Kap tad-Delegazzjoni), l-Onor. Frederick Azzopardi u l-Onor. Franco Mercieca. It-temi tad-diskussjonijiet varjaw minn sigurtà reġjonali, il-ġlieda kontra t-terroriżmu u t-traffikar tal-bnedmin, għall-isfidi ekonomiċi fir-reġjun, is-sigurtà tal-ikel, it-tnaqqis tar-riskju tad-diżastri naturali u l-ġestjoni tal-ilma. Matul is-sessjoni plenarja, l-Onor. Falzon u l-Onor. Mercieca argumentaw li l-politiċi għandhom jerfgħu r-responsabilità politika tagħhom u jieħdu l-azzjonijiet neċessarji biex jiproteġu l-ħajja ta' eluf ta' nies vulnerabbli li qed jiġu mgieġħla jaħarbu minn pajjiżhom minħabba gwerra u persekuzzjoni. L-Onor. Azzopardi sostna li d-dritt għal-libertà tal-ħsieb, kuxjenza u reliġjon huwa minqux fl-Att Finali ta' Ħelsinki, iżda f'xi stati membri tal-OSCE stess, l-intolleranza reliġjuża qed tiżdied u dan jista' jkollu effett negattiv fuq l-istabbiltà u s-sigurtà tal-istess pajjiżi.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Meeting of the Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe

Mr Lino Debono and Dr Noel Buttigieg Scicluna attended the Bureau Meeting of the European Association of Former Parliamentarians under the Patronage of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The was held in the island of Madeira, Portugal between 11 and 14 June 2015. After the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, a debate followed about which theme will be chosen for the next colloquy. The Maltese delegation opted to support the German submission entitled “Immigration as a challenge for European Solidarity and enlightened self-interest”, and will have to prepare its submissions on this theme in preparation for the next colloquy.

### Inter-parliamentary committee meeting on the ‘Situation in the Mediterranean and the Need for a Holistic Approach to Migration’

Hon. Silvio Parnis and Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech participated in the inter-parliamentary committee meeting on the ‘Situation in the Mediterranean and the Need for a Holistic Approach to Migration’ organised by the European Parliament in Brussels on 23 September. Hon. Zammit Dimech explained how Malta has been experiencing a considerable migratory influx since 2002, with migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa, particularly Libya. There is a need to look at the problem in a broader manner and taking into account European solidarity as Malta, Italy and Greece have experienced extraordinary migratory pressures but have not received the necessary help from the EU. Calling for a distinction between economic migrants and refugees, Hon. Zammit Dimech urged parliaments and governments to swiftly agree upon the necessary mechanisms to find a lasting solution.

### Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA

On 16 September, Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA) organised the Autumn Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia which was attended by Hon. Michael Falzon (Head of Delegation), Hon. Frederick Azzopardi and Hon. Franco Mercieca. The themes of the discussions varied from regional security, the fight against terrorism and human trafficking to the economic challenges in the region, food security, disaster risk reduction and water management. During the plenary session, Hon. Falzon and Hon. Mercieca argued that politicians have to shoulder their political responsibility and take the necessary actions to protect the lives of thousands of vulnerable people who are compelled to flee their homeland due to war and persecution. Hon. Azzopardi remarked that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, yet in some OSCE member states, religious intolerance is on the rise and this could have a negative effect on said state’s stability and security.



## ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

### **Konferenza interparlamentari dwar l-istabilità, il-koordinazzjoni ekonomika u l-governanza**

L-Onor. Antoine Borg ħa sehem f'konferenza interparlamentari ta' jumejn dwar l-istabilità, il-koordinazzjoni ekonomika u l-governanza li saret fil-Lussemburgu fid-9 u l-10 ta' Novembru. L-għan tal-Konferenza, li titlaqqa' kull sitt xhur mill-parlament ta' dak l-Istat Membru li jkollu l-Prezidenza tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea, kien li jinholoq spazju għal djalogu dwar l-affarijiet ekonomiċi u finanzjarji attwali bejn il-Parlament Ewropew u l-parlamenti nazzjonali tal-istati membri tal-UE. It-temi fuq l-aġenda tal-Konferenza kienu d-dimensjoni soċjali tal-governanza ekonomika, l-iskrutinju parlamentari tal-governanza ekonomika Ewropea, il-kompetizzjoni ġusta tat-taxxa, u t-tkabbir u l-Unjoni Ekonomika u Monetarja. Il-kompetizzjoni fiskali ġusta hija suġġett sensittiv ħafna għal ħafna delegazzjonijiet u l-Onor. Antoine Borg intervjena biex jagħti vuċi fuq il-pożizzjoni ta' Malta bl-argument li l-politika fiskali taqa' taħt il-kompetenza esklussiva tal-istati membri individwali u l-isforzi biex jiġu armonizzati l-politika fiskali ser tikser il-prinċipju tas-sussidjarjetà. Huwa žied li Malta ma tappoġġjax l-introduzzjoni mandatorja tat-taxxa komuni fiskali korporattiva, però tappoġġja l-isforzi kollha sabiex tkun miġġielda kull forma ta' frodi fiskali.

### **Workshop dwar l-isfidi maħluqa minn sistema ta' ġustizzja kriminali preventiva għat-terroriżmu u għallieda terroristiċi barranin**

L-Onor. Clyde Puli u l-Onor. Joe Sammut attendew għal *workshop* dwar l-isfidi maħluqa minn sistema ta' ġustizzja kriminali preventiva għat-terroriżmu u għallieda terroristiċi barranin, li saret f'Bukarest, ir-Rumanija bejn id-9 u l-10 ta' Ottubru. Dan il-*workshop* kien organizzat mill-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Mediterran (PAM) flimkien mal-Uffiċċju tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti dwar id-Drogi u l-Kriminalità (UNODC). FI-intervent tiegħu l-Onor. Sammut irrikonoxxa li f'demokraziji, il-parlamentari huma eletti direttament mill-poplu u għalhekk għandhom rwol importanti li jaġixxu bħala l-mezz ta' komunikazzjoni bejn il-poplu u l-gvern. Għalhekk huma l-parlamentari li għandhom id-dmir jispjegaw lill-poplu l-ambitu u l-għan tal-liġijiet li jsiru fil-parlament fil-ġlieda kontra l-ħasil tal-flus. L-Onor. Sammut qal li madankollu rridu nkunu sensittivi għall-possibbiltà li dawn il-miżuri jkollhom impatt negattiv fuq in-negozji u l-opportunitajiet ta' investiment u sejjaħ għal approċċ bilanċjat li jħares lejn is-settur kummerċjali u l-kompetittività tal-istati. Waqt li tenna li l-flus li qegħdin jiffinanzjaw il-gruppi terroristiċi għandhom ikunu imblukkati, hemm bżonn ta' attenzjoni partikolari sabiex jiġi żgurat li n-negozji u l-investimenti ma jiġux ostakolati ħalli jippermettu li jkun hemm tkabbir ekonomiku.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

### Interparliamentary conference on stability, economic coordination and governance

Hon. Antoine Borg participated in a two-day interparliamentary conference on stability, economic coordination and governance which was held in Luxembourg on 9 and 10 November. The aim of the Conference, which is organised every six months by the Parliament of the Member State holding the EU Council Presidency, is to create a space for dialogue on current economic and financial affairs between the European Parliament and the national parliaments of the EU member states. The items on the agenda were the social dimension of economic governance, parliamentary scrutiny of the European economic governance, fair tax competition, and growth and the Economic and Monetary Union. Fair tax competition is a highly sensitive for many delegations and Hon. Antoine Borg intervened to voice Malta's position arguing that tax matters fall within the exclusive competence of individual member states and that efforts to harmonise tax policies will breach the principle of subsidiarity. He added that Malta does not support the introduction of a mandatory common consolidated corporate tax base, even though it supports all efforts to combat all forms of tax fraud.



### Workshop on the challenges posed by a preventive criminal justice response to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters

Hon. Clyde Puli and Hon. Joe Sammut attended a workshop on the challenges posed by a preventive criminal justice response to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters held in Bucharest, Romania between 9 and 10 October. This workshop was organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) in conjunction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In his contribution Hon. Sammut acknowledged that in a democracy parliamentarians are directly elected by the people and therefore hold an important role of acting as the medium between the people and the government. It is therefore the parliamentarian's duty to explain to the people the scope and purpose of the laws being enacted in parliament to counter money laundering. He remarked, however, that one must be sensitive to the possibility of negatively impacting businesses and investment opportunities and called for a balanced approach that safeguards the commercial sector and competitiveness of particular state. While reiterating that funding to terrorist groups should be blocked, particular attention should be paid to ensure that businesses and investment ventures are not hindered, in order to allow economic growth.

# SKAMBJU TA' AWGURI TAL-EWWWL TAS-SENA



## EXCHANGE OF NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS



## Hidma Parlamentari

April 2013 – Dicembru 2015

## Parliamentary Work

April 2013 – December 2015

Seduti fil-Plenarja	341	Plenary Sitzings
Laqgħat tal-Kumitati Permanenti	317	Meetings of Standing Committees
Stqarrijiet Ministerjali	50	Ministerial Statements
Mozzjonijiet	296	Motions
Mozzjonijiet Privati	31	Private Members' Motions
Mozzjonijiet għall-Ewwel Qari ta' Abbozzi ta' Ligi	136	Motions for First Reading of Bills
Ligijiet mgħoddija mill-Parlament	113	Acts enacted by Parliament
Ligijiet approvati b'votazzjoni	16	Acts approved upon division
Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari	22,520	Parliamentary Questions
Dokumenti mqiegħda fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra	6,284	Documents laid on the Table of the House
Diskorsi tal-Agġornament	240	Adjournment Speeches
Deċizzjonijiet tas-Sedja	63	Rulings by the Chair
Membri Parlamentari li siefru fuq xogħol parlamentari	364	Members of Parliament on parliamentary duties abroad
Delegazzjonijiet parlamentari barra minn Malta	184	Parliamentary delegations abroad
Delegazzjonijiet immexxija mill-Ispeaker/Deputy Speaker	46	Delegations led by the Speaker/ Deputy Speaker