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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 Anġlu Farrugia jindirizza konferenza stampa li matulha ppreżenta s-seba' volum tal-ktieb intitolat *Is-Sedja Titkellem*. F'dan il-volum wieħed isib ir-*rulings* kollha li ngħataw minn meta Malta kisbet l-Indipendenza fl-1964, sal-2013. Preżenti għall-konferenza stampa kien hemm id-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg, il-Whip Parlamentari tal-Gvern l-Onor. Byron Camilleri, il-Whip tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Robert Cutajar u l-Onor. Ivan Bartolo.

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addresses a press conference during which he presented the seventh volume of the series *Is-Sedja Titkellem*. This volume brings together the rulings given since Malta gained independence in 1964, until 2013. Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg, Government Whip Hon. Byron Camilleri, Opposition Whip Hon. Robert Cutajar and Hon. Ivan Bartolo.

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**Ritratti**/*Photos***:**
Parlament ta' Malta/DOI

# Daħla

Għandi pjaċir inwasslilkom it-18-il ħarġa tal-perjodiku *mill-Parlament*, it-tieni mill-bidu ta' din il-leġiżlatura li bdiet fl-24 ta' Ġunju 2017. Sa issa saru 67 seduta fil-Parlament ġew ippreżentati mhux inqas minn 84 mozzjoni inkluż dawk għall-Ewwel Qari tal-liġijiet u waħda tal-Oppożizzjoni, flimkien ma' 7 abbozzi ta' liġi, madwar 3,200 mistoqsija parlamentari, 7 deċiżjonijiet tas-Sedja u 10 liġijiet li ġew mgħoddija mill-Parlament.

Saret ukoll ħidma intensiva f'dik li hija diplomazija parlamentari fejn min-naħa tiegħi mexxejt delegazzjoni parlamentari f'Kuba f'Settembru. Din kienet l-ewwel darba li l-Parlament Kuban stieden parlament nazzjonali Ewropew, dak Malti, għal żjara bilaterali. Matul iż-żjara ġew diskussi l-EU-Cuba Association Agreement kif ukoll il-possibilità li jkun hemm skambju ta' esperti mediċi, speċjalment fil-ġlieda kontra l-kanċer, bejn Kuba u Malta. Din il-proposta qiegħda tiġi segwita mill-Ministeru tas-Saħħa taħt id-direzzjoni tad-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa l-Onor. Chris Fearne.

F'Ottubru il-Parlament Malti ħa sehem attiv fl-Assemblea Ġenerali tal-IPU li nżammet f'San Pietruburgu, u f'Novembru fil-Konferenza Parlamentari annwali tal-Commonwealth li saret fl-ewwel ġimgħa ta' Novembru ġewwa l-Bangladexx. F'din il-konferenza inizjattiva tad-delegazzjoni Maltija għal stqarrija tal-Konferenza dwar is-sitwazzjoni tar-refuġjati Rohingya fil-Bangladesh ġiet approvata b'mod unanimu.

F'Diċembru, ħadt sehem fl-10 *Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum* fil-Kungress Amerikan fejn is-suġġetti ewlenin kienu kif wieħed jiġġieled is-*cyber terrorism* u l-bżonn ta' *intelligence sharing* bejn il pajjiżi. F'Diċembru wkoll irrappreżentajt lis-CPA, fil-kapaċità tiegħi ta' President tas-*Small Branches* tas-CPA, fil-Konferenza Parlamentari tal-WTO li nżammet ġewwa Buenos Aires, l-Arġentina.

F'din il-ħarġa ta' *mill-Parlament*, tistgħu taqraw aktar dwar dawn il-laqgħat, u laqgħat oħra li pparteċipaw fihom il-Membri Parlamentari. Barra minn hekk ssibu informazzjoni dettaljata dwar diversi laqgħat interparlamentari organizzati mill-Parlament Malti, inkluż dawk taħt il-kappa tal-IPU, CPA u ECPRD, kif ukoll esebizzjonijiet imtellgħa fil-binja tal-Parlament.

F'din il-ħarġa ssibu wkoll żewġ artikli tassew interessanti, wieħed minn Prof. George Cassar dwar il-partiti politiċi fl-ewwel Parlament Malti fl-1921 wara li Malta ngħatat il-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner, u ieħor mill-Prof. William Zammit, liema artiklu jkompli ma' dak fil ħarġa preċedenti dwar disinnji politiċi li kienu jidhru kontra Gerald Strickland qabel l-elezzjoni tal-1932.

Filwaqt li nittama li kulħadd kellu l-opportunità jqatta' ftit ġranet ta' mistrieħ fil-festi li għadhom kif ġew fi tmiemhom nieħu din l-okkażjoni sabiex nawguralkom sena mimlija risq u hena.

Anġlu Farrugia

## Foreword

I have the pleasure to bring to you the 18th issue of the periodical *mill-Parlament*, the second in this legislature, which started on 24 June 2017. To date 67 parliamentary sittings were held; no less than 84 motions, including motions for First Reading and one Opposition motion, were presented, as well as 7 bills, around 3,200 parliamentary questions were presented, 7 rulings were given by the Chair and 10 Acts were enacted by Parliament.

Much work has also been done with regard to parliamentary diplomacy, including by the parliamentary delegation I led to Cuba in September. This was the first time that the Cuban Parliament invited a European national parliament, the Maltese Parliament, for a bilateral visit. Talks focused on the EU Cuba Association Agreement as well as the possibility of an exchange of medical experts between Cuba and Malta, especially in the fight against cancer. This proposal is being followed up by the Ministry for Health under the direction of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Hon. Chris Fearne.

In October, the Maltese Parliament participated actively in the IPU General Assembly which took place in St Petersburg, and in November in the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Bangladesh. In this Conference a proposal of the Maltese delegation for the Conference to adopt a statement on the situation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh was adopted unanimously.

In December, I took part in the 10th Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum at the US Congress, where the main themes discussed were ways of fighting cyber terrorism and the need for intelligence sharing between countries. Also in December, I represented the CPA, in my role of President of the Small Branches of the CPA, at the WTO Parliamentary Conference which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In this issue of *mill-Parlament*, you can read more about these visits, and other visits in which Members of Parliament have taken part. Furthermore, you can find detailed information concerning the various inter parliamentary meetings organised by the Maltese Parliament, including those falling within the IPU, the CPA and ECPRD, as well as exhibitions set up in the Parliament building.

In this issue, you can also read two very interesting articles, one by Prof. George Cassar concerning the political parties in in the Maltese Parliament in 1921 after Malta was granted the Amery Milner Constitution, and another article by Prof. William Zammit, continued from the previous issue, on anti-Gerald Strickland political cartoons produced in the run up to the 1932 election.

Whilst hoping that everyone had the opportunity to have a well deserved rest during the festive season which has just come to an end, I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

Anġlu Farrugia

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament

## Parlament taż-Żgħażagħ 2017

Id-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg fetħet u ppresidiet l-edizzjoni ta' din is-sena tal-Parlament taż-Żgħażagħ, li ġie organizzat fit-13 ta' Settembru. Din l-attività annwali, organizzata mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażagħ, toffri liż-żgħażagħ ta' bejn l-età ta' 13 u 35 sena l-opportunità li jipparteċipaw f'sessjoni li fiha jiddibattu numru ta' temi magħżula minnhom stess, u ġġib fi tmiemha proċess ta' ħidma ta' diversi xhur. Is-sessjoni kienet indirizzata wkoll mill-President tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażagħ Michael Piccinino.

Il-grupp magħmul miż-żgħażagħ ta' etajiet bejn it-13 u t-18-il-sena ddiskuta tliet temi: il-kultura u l-innovazzjoni, iż-żgħażagħ u x-xogħol, u t-tibdil fil-klima. Dawn ikkonkludew li sabiex tiġi promossa t-tolleranza u mnaqqsa d-diskriminazzjoni, it-tfal għandhom jitgħallmu dwar reliġjonijiet differenti u li għandu jkun hemm aktar postijiet fejn nies ta' reliġjonijiet differenti jistgħu jipprattikaw il-fidi tagħhom, inkluż ċentri li jlaqqgħu nies ta' fidi differenti. Bħala mezz sabiex jitjieb l-ambjent dawn iż-żgħażagħ ipproponew li jiġu introdotti pieni aktar ħorox għall-estrazzjoni illegali tal-ilma mill-ispieri, għandu jkun hemm tined solari fil-postijiet ta' parkeġġ u postijiet fejn jiġu ċċarġjati vetturi elettroniċi. Iż-żgħażagħ ipproponew ukoll li tinbidel it-tariffa tal-postijiet fejn jiġu ċċarġjati vetturi elettriċi u li persuni li jixtru vetturi elettriċi bejn l-2018 u l-2020 jingħataw €100 fix-xahar għal tliet snin li jistgħu jintefqu f'dawn l-istazzjonijiet. Proposta mmirata lejn it-tnaqqis tal-problema tat-traffiku kienet li tingħata għotja lill-impjegati li jagħmlu *carpooling*. Fil-qasam taż-żgħażagħ u x-xogħol, iż-żgħazagħ ipproponew li studenti li jiksbu l-ogħla marki jingħataw opportunitajiet ta' impjieg permanenti u li għandu jkun hemm politika li tipprojbixxi lill-*managers* u lil min iħaddem milli jikkuntattjaw lill-impjegati barra mis-sigħat tax-xogħol.

Iż-żgħażagħ ta' bejn id-19 u l-35 sena ddiskutew is-saħħa sesswali u riproduttiva, id-deċentralizzazzjoni u d-divoluzjoni f'Għawdex u l-immigrazzjoni u l-protezzjoni umanitarja. Dwar Għawdex, iż-żgħażagħ ikkonkludew li għandu jkun hemm pjan ħolistiku, speċjalment għal Marsalforn u x-Xlendi, fejn qed isir żvilupp b'rata mgħaġġla sabiex tintlaħaq id-domanda turistika. Saħqu wkoll li l-Gvern għandu jipprovdi inizjattivi ta' *teleworking* sabiex il-ħaddiema Għawdxin ikunu jistgħu jaħdmu minn Għawdex stess. Dwar it-tema tal-integrazzjoni, iż-żgħażagħ saħqu li meta immigranti u refuġjati jwelldu t-tfal f'Malta, dawn it-tfal għandhom jingħataw residenza u ċittadinanza Maltija. Huma sejħu għall-iżvilupp ta' organizzazzjonijiet li jippromwovu l-interessi tal-immigranti biex l-immigranti jkunu jistgħu jipparteċipaw fil-proċess politiku, u li l-immigranti u r-refuġjati li jħallsu t-taxxa u l-bolla għandhom jirċievu pensjoni. Fil-qasam tas-saħħa riproduttiva, iż-żgħażagħ sejħu għal konsultazzjoni aperta dwar l-abort, ipproponew li jiġi ċċensurat il-wiri tal-film 'The Silent Scream' lil żgħażagħ ta' 14-il sena u ħeġġew li jinfetaħ *sperm bank*.

# Youth Parliament 2017

Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg presided over this year's edition of the Youth Parliament, which took place on 13 September. This annual activity, organised by the National Youth Council, offers young people between the ages of 13 and 35 the opportunity to participate in a session in which they debate a number of themes chosen by themselves, thereby bringing to a close several months of work. The session was also addressed by the President of the National Youth Council Mr Michael Piccinino, following an introductory speech by the Deputy Speaker.

The group aged between 13 and 18 years discussed three themes: culture and innovation, youth and work, and climate change. As means to promote tolerance and reduce discrimination, the young participants concluded that children should learn about different religions and that there should be more places of worship for different religions, including multifaith centres. On improving the environment, it was proposed that harsher fines for the illegal extraction of water from boreholes should be introduced, as well as solar canopies in parking places and vehicle charging stations. The group also proposed a downward revision of the fee for charging electric vehicles and that those who invest in an electric car between 2018 and 2020 be given €100 monthly for three years to spend at such stations. A proposal aimed at reducing traffic jams regarded grants for car-pooling employees. In the area of youth and employment, the group proposed that students who achieve the highest grades be provided with permanent job opportunities and that there should be a policy that does not allow the employer or manager to contact employees outside their working hours (the right to disconnect).

Young participants aged between 19 and 35 years discussed sexual and reproductive health, decentralisation and devolution of Gozo and immigration and humanitarian protection. Regarding Gozo, the group concluded that there should be a holistic plan, especially for Marsalforn and Xlendi, which are being developed at a fast rate to keep up with the touristic demand. They also called on Government to provide more teleworking and remote-working initiatives so that Gozitans can work from Gozo. Turning to integration, the young participants proposed that children born to migrants or refugees in Malta be given Maltese citizenship and residency. They called for the development of organisations that promote migrants' concerns so they can take part in the political process, and that migrants and refugees who pay their social contribution and tax receive a pension. In the field of reproductive health, the youths called for open consultation regarding abortion, proposed that the film 'The Silent Scream' no longer be shown to 14 year olds and advocated for the opening of a sperm bank.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Seminar tal-ECPRD imlaqqa' fil-Kamra tad-Deputati

Fl-14 u l-15 ta' Settembru l-Kamra tad-Deputati organizzat seminar taħt il-kappa taċ-Ċentru Ewropew għar-Riċerka u d-Dokumentazzjoni (ECPRD) li ttratta l-ICT fil-parlamenti. Is-seminar, li laqqa' 50 espert tal-IT minn 35 parlament mill-Istati Membri tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, ittratta l-implikazzjonijiet tal-pressjonijiet baġitarji fuq l-investiment fis-servizzi tal-ICT fil-Parlamenti, speċifikament *document management systems, common data formats*, it-tranżizzjoni għal parlament diġitali, u x-xandir ta' dibattiti parlamentari.

Fid-diskors tal-ftuħ l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia tkellem dwar il-mixja tal-Parlament mill-Palazz tal-Gran Mastri għal bini ġdid mibni apposta għall-Parlament li jinsab fid-daħla tal-belt kapitali, liema mixja għenet liċ-ċittadini biex japprezzaw aħjar id-distinzjoni bejn il-Parlament u l-fergħat l-oħra tal-amministrazzjoni. L-Ispeaker saħaq li din il-mixja ġabet magħha opportunitajiet ġodda, fosthom il-possibbiltà li jiġu implimentati teknoloġiji ġodda tal-ICT, bħall-introduzzjoni ta' xandiriet diretti tas-seduti parlamentari fuq stazzjon tat-televiżjoni dedikat għal hekk. L-Ispeaker Farrugia tenna wkoll il-fehma tiegħu dwar l-importanza tal-kooperazzjoni interparlamentari.

Fl-indirizz tiegħu, l-Iskrivan tal-Kamra Raymond Scicluna nnota li n-netwerk tal-ECPRD huwa sikwit is-sors ewlieni ta' informazzjoni dwar il-prattika u l-proċedura parlamentari għall-Parlament Malti. Is-Sur Scicluna tkellem dwar il-proċess amministrattiv li bih wieħed jippjana u jipprijoritizza l-introduzzjoni ta' teknoloġiji ġodda sabiex jintlaħqu l-aspettattivi dejjem akbar tal-Membri Parlamentari u l-pubbliku, fid-dawl tar-restrizzjonijiet baġitarji.

## Żjara mill-Kummissarji fl-Uffiċċju tal-Ombudsman Parlamentari

L-Ombudsman Parlamentari is-Sur Anthony Mifsud laqqa' lill-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati ma' żewġ kummissarji ġodda waqt żjara fil-Parlament fid-19 ta' Settembru. Preżenti waqt iż-żjara kien hemm il-Perit Alan Saliba, li kien appuntat Kummissarju għall-Ambjent u l-Ippjanar, is-Sur Charles Caruana Carabez, li kien appuntat Kummissarju għall-edukazzjoni u s-Sur Charles Messina, li t-terminu tiegħu bħala Kummissarju għas-Saħħa reġa' ġie mġedded. L-Ispeaker, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, feraħ lill-kummissarji għall-ħatra tagħhom u awguralhom kull suċċess fix-xogħol tagħhom.

## ECPRD Seminar hosted by the House of Representatives

On 14 and 15 September the House of Representatives hosted a seminar organised by the European Centre for Research and Documentation (ECPRD) in the area of interest of ICT in Parliaments. The Seminar, bringing together 50 IT experts from 35 parliamentary chambers from the Council of Europe Member States, focused on the implications of budgetary pressures on investment in ICT services in Parliaments, dealing specifically with document management systems and common data formats, the transition to a paperless parliament and the broadcasting of parliamentary debates.

Opening the Seminar, Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia spoke about Parliament's move from the Grand Master's Palace to a new purpose-built building at the entrance to the capital city, which move has helped citizens to better appreciate the distinction between Parliament and the other branches of the administration. This move, Speaker Farrugia said, also brought about new opportunities notably the possibility of implementing new ICT-dependent technologies, such as the introduction of live parliamentary broadcasts on a dedicated TV channel. Speaker Farrugia reiterated his strong belief in the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation.

In his address, Clerk of the House Mr Raymond Scicluna noted that the ECPRD network is often the primary source of information on parliamentary practice and procedure for the Maltese Parliament. Mr Scicluna spoke about the administrative process of planning and prioritising the introduction of new services to meet the ever-growing expectations of MPs and the public in the light of budgetary constraints.

## Visit by Commissioners at the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman

Parliamentary Ombudsman Mr Anthony Mifsud introduced two newly appointed commissioners to the Speaker of the House of Representatives during a visit to the Parliament on 19 September. Present for the visit were Perit Alan Saliba, who was appointed Commissioner for the Environment and Planning, Mr Charles Caruana Carabez, who was appointed Commissioner for Education and Mr Charles Messina, whose appointment as Commissioner for Health has been extended once more. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia congratulated the commissioners on their appointment and wished them success in their work.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Konferenza annwali tal-MaltMUN

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati mexxa ċ-ċerimonja tal-għoti tal-premjijiet waqt il-konferenza annwali tas-Soċjetà Mudell tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti (MaltMUN) li saret fil-Kamra tad-Deputati bejn il-15 u s-17 ta' Settembru bit-tema "Il-Mewt tal-Fruntiera: Neliminaw il-Linji ta' Demarkazzjoni bejn l-Istati".

L-Ispeaker Farrugia faħħar l-inizjattiva tas-Soċjetà u l-impenn tagħha bħala organizzazzjoni ewlenija li tippromwovi l-parteċipazzjoni u l-impenn ta' professjonisti żgħażagħ. Huwa osserva li d-diskors dwar il-fruntieri territorjali fil-Mediterran kien polarizzat, b'enfasi fuq is-sigurtà u t-theddid terroristiku, u li dan jista' jkun kunflinġenti mal-prinċipji tal-moviment ħieles ta' persuni, servizzi u oġġetti. Huwa kompla jispjega li l-fruntieri kisbu dimensjoni spazjali li tmur lil hinn minn territorji fiżiċi fissi, u li jirriflettu l-iżviluppi soċjali u politiċi li mhumiex fissi. L-Ispeaker staqsa dwar kif il-professjonisti u l-membri parlamentari jistgħu jippromwovu t-tmiem tal-fruntiera mingħajr ma jaffettwaw b'mod negattiv is-sigurtà tal-pajjiż. L-Ispeaker ikkonkluda li d-diplomazija parlamentari u l-kooperazzjoni reġjonali fuq kwistjonijiet ta' interess komuni jipprovdu pjattaforma perfetta biex tiġi ppromossa l-kooperazzjoni u l-ftehim reċiproku bejn l-istati, li mbagħad jippermettu li jkun hemm skambji ekonomiċi, soċjali u ambjentali akbar bejn il-fruntieri.

Il-parteċipanti indirizzaw is-suġġett tal-fruntieri permezz tas-simulazzjoni tal-kumitati tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti, prinċipalment il-Kunsill tas-Sigurtà tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti, ir-Raba' Kumitat għall-Kwistjonijiet Politiċi Speċjali u d-Dekolonizzazzjoni, l-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tas-Saħħa u l-Kunsill Ekonomiku u Finanzjarju.

B'mod strateġiku, il-MaltMUN identifikat l-importanza li l-programmi tagħhom ikollhom approċċ multidixxiplinarju li jħaddan fih bosta partijiet interessati u li għalhekk il-programm tal-Konferenza integra diversi elementi interrelatati marbuta direttament jew indirettament mal-fruntieri u mad-demarkazzjonijiet territorjali.

# MaltMUN Annual Conference

The Speaker of the House of Representatives presided over the awards ceremony of the annual conference of the Malta Model United Nations Society (MaltMUN) hosted by the House of Representatives between 15 and 17 September with the theme 'Death of the Border: Eliminating Lines of Demarcation Between States'.

Speaker Farrugia welcomed the society's initiative and commitment to be a leading organisation in promoting greater participation and engagement by young professionals. He emphasised that the Mediterranean region is currently experiencing a polarisation in the discourse surrounding territorial borders, with issues pertaining to security and heightened terrorist threats conflicting with the principles of the free movement of people, services and goods. He went on to explain that borders have now acquired a spatial dimension that goes beyond physical territoriality, and therefore are more reflective of social and political developments rather than being fixed. The Speaker asked how professionals and members of Parliament could promote the death of the border, without negatively impinging on the security and personal safety of their nation state. The Speaker concluded that Parliamentary diplomacy and regional cooperation on issues of common concern provide the perfect platform to promote cooperation and mutual understanding across states and ultimately enable increased economic, social, and environmental exchanges across borders.

Participants addressed the topic of borders through the simulation of UN committees, mainly the UN Security Council, the Fourth Committee on Special Political and Decolonization, the World Health Organization, and the Economic and Financial Council.

The MaltMUN Society strategically identified the importance and centrality of a multi-disciplinary and multistakeholder approach integrating in their programme various inter-related elements directly or indirectly linked to borders and territorial demarcations.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Żjara mit-tfal ta' Skola Sajf 2017

L-Ispeaker, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, iltaqa' mat-tfal li attendew Skola Sajf fiċ-ċentri ta' Ħ'Attard, il-Fgura u San Pawl il-Baħar, flimkien mal-ġenituri u l-għalliema tagħhom, nhar it-18 ta' Settembru. Fid-diskors tiegħu, l-Ispeaker aċċena għar-rwol istituzzjonali tal-Parlament, fejn ir-rappreżentanti tal-poplu Malti, eletti f'elezzjonijiet ħielsa u demokratiċi, jipproponu liġijiet ġodda, jgħarblu emendi għal-liġijiet eżistenti, japprovaw l-estimi finanzjarji tal-Istat u ta' entitajiet pubbliċi, kif ukoll jeżaminaw bir-reqqa l-operat tal-Gvern. B'referenza għat-tfal ta' Skola Sajf, l-Ispeaker fakkar li matul il-ġranet tas-sajf, dawn it-tfal għażlu li jqattgħu parti mill-vaganzi tagħhom l-iskola, fejn f'kuntest pjuttost informali għamlu ħbieb ġodda u tgħallmu affarijiet ġodda. L-Ispeaker saħaq dwar l-importanza tal-leħen tat-tfal tal-iskola, li huma kapaċi jesprimu ruħhom sew, jagħmlu proposti u suġġerimenti bil-għan li titjieb il-qagħda tas-soċjetà tagħna. Huwa qal li dan minnu nnifsu huwa servizz lil ħaddieħor, u li kull servizz li nagħtu lis-soċjetà għandu jkun imnebbaħ mill-virtujiet ta' lealtà u mħabba lejn ħaddieħor. Is-Segretarju Parlamentari għaż-Żgħażagħ, Sport u Għaqdiet tal-Volontarjat l-Onor. Clifton Grima, is-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej u Djalogu Soċjali l-Onor. Aaron Farrugia, l-Onor. Alex Muscat u l-Whip Parlamentari tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. David Agius kienu preżenti għal-laqgħa u wieġbu mistoqsijiet magħmula mit-tfal.

## Il-Parlament jospita sessjoni tal-Fondazzjoni Nanniet Malta

Fid-29 ta' Settembru l-Ispeaker l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia ppresieda s-sessjoni tal-2017 tal-Parlament tan-Nanniet, sessjoni speċjali li fiha n-nanniet ikollhom l-opportunità li jiddibattu temi ta' interess għalihom mal-Membri Parlamentari. Peress li din kienet ir-raba' seduta tax-xorta tagħha, id-diskussjoni ffukat fuq ix-xogħol li twettaq fis-seduti ta' qabel u l-mod li bih il-Fondazzjoni tista' tkompli tiżviluppa sabiex tkun ta' benefiċċju għas-soċjetà. Fl-indirizz tiegħu, l-Ispeaker faħħar ix-xogħol li l-Fondazzjoni Nanniet Malta tagħmel fl-interess tan-nanniet Maltin u Għawdxin. Huwa fakkar li kienet grazzi għall-inizjattiva tal-Fondazzjoni Nanniet Malta li Malta tiċċelebra l-ġurnata ddedikata lin-nanniet fit-tieni Ħadd ta' Ottubru, u awgura li l-Ġurnata tan-Nanniet eventwalment tiġi rikonoxxuta fl-Ewropa. L-Ispeaker saħaq li l-Fondazzjoni Nanniet Malta għandha s-sapport tal-Kamra tad-Deputati u rringrazzja lin-nanniet għax-xogħol tagħhom fit-trobbija ta' uliedhom u talli qed jgħinu fit-trobbija tan-neputijiet. L-Ispeaker Farrugia kkonkluda li x-xogħol tal-ġenituri u n-nanniet, li jsir b'armonija u mħabba sinċiera, iħalli l-frott fl-ulied għax jagħtihom il-ħiliet neċessarji biex jibnu l-ħajja tagħhom.

## Visit by Skola Sajf 2017 children

Speaker Hon. Anġlu Farrugia met children from Skola Sajf centres in Attard, Fgura and St Paul's Bay, together with their parents and teachers on 18 September. In his speech, the Speaker highlighted Parliament's institutional role, where representatives of the Maltese population, elected in free and democratic elections, propose new laws, scrutinise amendments to existing laws, approve financial estimates for the State and State entities, and closely examine Government operations. The Speaker highlighted the importance of the voice of school children who can make proposals and suggestions for the improvement of our society. He said that this, in itself, is a service to others and that every service given to society should be inspired by the virtues of loyalty and love towards others. Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds and Social Dialogue Aaron Farrugia, as well as Opposition Whip Hon. David Agius and Hon. Alex Muscat were also present for this meeting and answered questions put by the children.

## Parliament hosts session of the Malta Grandparents' Foundation

On 29 September Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over the Grandparents' Parliament, a special sitting wherein grandparents debate with Members of Parliament. Since this was the fourth such sitting, discussions focused on the work done in previous sessions and the way in which the Foundation can continue to develop for the benefit of society. In his address, the Speaker praised the work that the Malta Grandparents' Foundation carries out in the interest of all Maltese and Gozitan grandparents. He recalled that it is thanks to an initiative by the Malta Grandparents' Foundation that Malta celebrates Grandparents' Day on the second Sunday of October, and augured that Grandparents' Day will eventually be recognised across Europe. The Speaker reiterated that the Malta Grandparents' Foundation has the support of the House of Representatives and thanked the grandparents for their work in bringing up their children and for helping in their grandchildren's upbringing. Speaker Farrugia concluded that parents' and grandparents' work, delivered through harmony and sincere love, enables children to build a future.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Wirja 'Science in the House'

Fid-29 ta' Settembru l-Ispeaker l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia fetaħ is-sitt edizzjoni tal-wirja 'Science in the House', li ttellgħet fil-bini tal-Parlament bħala parti minn 'European Researchers' Night/Science in the City'. Il-wirja kienet organizzata mill-Kamra Maltija tax-Xjenzati, il-University Research Trust (RIDT), u l-konsorzju European Researchers' Night - Science in the City, li wera forum tal-midja li turi r-riċerka xjentifika li twettqet fl-Università ta' Malta u istituzzjonijiet akkademiċi oħra f'Malta, u b'hekk ħalqet opportunità għal diskussjoni ma' membri parlamentari. It-tema ta' din is-sena, 'Futur: Ir-Riċerka tal-lum; Is-Soċjetà ta' Għada', inkorporat diversi suġġetti inkluż il-fotovoltajċi, il-fibrożi ċistika, il-ġenoma tal-Maltin, it-trattament ta' puplesija, il-kampijiet elettromanjetiċi, siti arkeoloġiċi Maltin, il-ġeoloġija tal-blat, it-tiftix għal ilma ħelu taħt il-baħar, il-fiżika kwantistika, u l-bijokimika molekulari. Fl-indirizz tiegħu l-Ispeaker iddeskriva l-wirja bħala tieqa għal fuq ir-riċerka u x-xogħol tal-akkademiċi Maltin. Huwa saħaq li l-wirja tista' tiġi meqjusa bħala rapport annwali tax-xogħol li r-riċerkaturi jagħmlu f'Malta, u li r-riżultati tax-xogħol tar-riċerkaturi jinkoraġġixxu aktar investiment fir-riċerka, it-tagħlim u l-innovazzjoni, b'hekk ir-riċerkaturi għandhom jingħataw is-sapport sabiex jesploraw l-ideat innovattivi tagħhom, partikolarment meta l-għan aħħari tar-riċerka hija li ttejjeb il-livell ta' għejxien tan-nies. Il-Professur Joseph Cilia, f'isem ir-Rettur tal-Università ta' Malta, u l-Professur Alex Felice, Chairman European Researchers' Night/Science in the City Consortium kienu preżenti għall-ftuħ tal-wirja.

## Dr Adrian Delia jieħu l-Ġurament ta' Lealtà bħala Membru Parlamentari

Dr Adrian Delia ħa l-ġurament ta' lealtà bħala Membru Parlamentari fl-4 ta' Ottubru. Dan kien possibbli wara li s-Sur Jean Pierre Debono ċeda s-siġġu tiegħu fis-7 distrett elettorali, li mtela għal żmien qasir minn Dr Peter Micallef, li kien elett f'elezzjoni każwali fl-istess distrett. Il-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat ippreżenta mozzjoni sabiex Dr Delia jkun jista' jiġi *co-opted* fil-Parlament, liema mozzjoni kienet approvata b'mod unanimu mill-Kamra. L-Onor. Delia rringrazzja lil bosta persuni, inkluż l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Simon Busuttil, lil Dr Peter Micallef, lis-Sur Jean Pierre Debono u lill-familja tiegħu. Huwa wiegħed li jservi lill-poplu Malti u Għawdxi. L-Onor. Muscat feraħ lill-Onor. Delia għall-ħatra tiegħu bħala Membru Parlamentari, u esprima l-intenzjoni tiegħu li jaħdem mal-Oppożizzjoni għall-ġid tal-pajjiż.

## 'Science in the House' Exhibition

On 29 September Speaker Anġlu Farrugia opened the 6th edition of the exhibition Science in the House, which was held in the Parliament building as part of European Researchers' Night/Science in the City. The exhibition was organised by the Malta Chamber of Scientists, the University Research Trust (RIDT), and the European Researchers' Night - Science in the City consortium, who exhibited a media forum showing scientific research at the University of Malta and other academic institutions in Malta for discussion with Members of Parliament. Within this year's theme of 'Future: Today's Research; Tomorrow's Society', the exhibition hosted various topics including photovoltaics, cystic fibrosis, the Maltese human genome, treatment of stroke, electromagnetic fields, the archaeology of Maltese sites, the geology of rock formations, searching for freshwater under the sea, quantum physics, and molecular biochemistry. In his address the Speaker described this exhibition as a window to the research and work of Maltese academics and scholars. He stated that the exhibition can also be seen as an annual report of the work that researchers carry out in Malta, claiming that the output and outcomes of researchers' work encourages further investment in research, teaching and innovation, thus researchers should be supported to explore their innovative ideas, particularly when the ultimate aim of such research is that of improving people's standard of living. Professor Joseph Cilia, Delegate of the University of Malta rector, and Professor Alex Felice, Chairman, European Researchers' Night/Science in the City Consortium were present at the opening.

## Dr Adrian Delia sworn in as Member of Parliament

Dr Adrian Delia was sworm in as Member of Parliament on 4 October. This came about after Mr Jean Pierre Debono resigned his seat for the 7th district, which was briefly taken up by Dr Peter Micallef, who was elected through a casual election. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat presented the motion for Delia to be co-opted into Parliament, which motion was unanimously approved by the House. Hon. Delia thanked a number of people, including the Speaker of the House, Opposition Leader Simon Busuttil, Dr Peter Micallef, Mr Jean Pierre Debono and his family. He pledged to serve the Maltese and Gozitan people. Dr Muscat congratulated Dr Delia on his co-option to Parliament, and expressed his intention to work together with the Opposition for the benefit of the country.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Żjara ta' Kortesija lill-President tal-Botswana

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia żar lill-President tal-Botswana, l-ET Seretse Khama Ian Khama, fit-2 ta' Ottubru waqt li dan kien fuq żjara statali f'Malta. Iż-żewġ dinjitarji fakkru r-relazzjonijiet bilaterali bejn Malta u l-Botswana, li ġew stabbiliti fl-2005. Dawn ir-relazzjonijiet ġew imsaħħa permezz ta' numru ta' żjarat ta' livell għoli, bħaż-żjara mill-uffiċjal tal-gvern tal-Botswana fl-2014; iż-żjara tal-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat fil-Botswana fl-2015, meta pparteċipa fis-Summit tal-Commonwealth dwar il-Gvern Lokali, u ż-żjara tal-President tal-Botswana li kien Malta biex jipparteċipa fiċ-CHOGM. Iż-żewġ dinjitarji emfasizzaw l-importanza li l-membri taż-żewġ parlamenti jżommu kuntatt permezz ta' fora internazzjonali, bħall-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth u l-Unjoni Inter-Parlamentari, u awguraw li r-relazzjonijiet diplomatiċi bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi jwittu t-triq sabiex jiġu stabbiliti relazzjonijiet kummerċjali. Ġew diskussi wkoll iir-relazzjonijiet bejn il-Commonwealth u l-Unjoni Ewropea b'referenza speċifika għall-Ftehim ta' Cotonou. Il-President tal-Botswana kien akkumpanjat minn Dr Pelonomi Vension Moitoi, Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u l-Koperazzjoni, Kitso Mokaila, Ministru tat-Trasport u l-Komunikazzjoni, Thapelo Olopeng, Ministru għaż-Żgħażagħ, Sport u Żvilupp Kulturali, u Roy Blackbeard, Kummissarju Għoli għar-Repubblika tal-Botswana għal Malta.

## Notte Bianca 2017

Il-Kamra tad-Deputati fetħet il-bibien tagħha lill-pubbliku għal darb'oħra waqt in-Notte Bianca, li din is-sena saret fit-8 ta' Ottubru. F'din is-serata l-pubbliku kellu l-opportunità li jżur il-bini tal-Parlament, li jirċievi informazzjoni dwar ir-rwol u l-proċeduri Parlamentari, kif ukoll li jiltaqa' mal-Ispeaker l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia u bosta Membri Parlamentari. Il-Whip tal-Gvern l-Onor. Byron Camilleri, il-Whip tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. David Agius u diversi Membri Parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra laqgħu lill-membri tal-pubbliku fil-bini tal-Parlament. F'indirizz qasir l-Ispeaker Farrugia rrefera għad-dedikazzjoni li l-Membri Parlamentari juru fix-xogħol tagħhom bħala rappreżentanti tal-kostitwenti, liema dedikazzjoni hija evidenti mill-Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari, li jservu ta' għodda li biha jiġi skrutinizzat l-Eżekuttiv. Huwa fakkar li l-pubbliku kien mistieden għall-wirjiet varji li jittellgħu fil-blokk tal-amministrazzjoni tal-Parlament matul is-sena, liema wirjiet huma kemm ir-riżultat u r-riflessjoni tar-relazzjoni bejn il-Parlament u s-soċjetà ċivili.

## Courtesy call on the President of Botswana

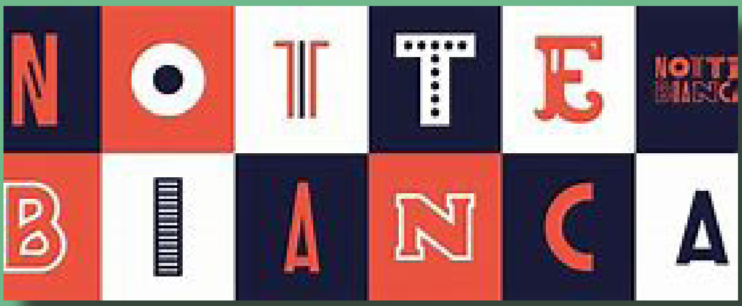
During a State Visit to Malta by the President of Botswana, HE Seretse Khama Ian Khama, The Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia paid a courtesy visit on 2 October. The two dignitaries recalled the cordial relations between Malta and Botswana, which were established in 2005. These relations were strengthened through high-level visits, such as the visit from a Botswanan government official in 2014; Prime Minister Joseph Muscat's visit to Botswana in 2015 to participate in the Commonwealth Local Government Summit, and the President of Botswana's visit to Malta to participate in the CHOGM.

Both dignitaries stressed the importance that members of both parliaments keep contact through international fora, namely the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and augured that the good diplomatic relations between the two countries will pave the way for the establishment of trade relations. Relations between the Commonwealth and European Union were also discussed, with reference to the Cotonou Agreement. The President of Botswana was accompanied by Dr Pelonomi Vension Moitoi, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Kitso Mokaila, Minister of Transport and Communication, Hon. Thapelo Olopeng, Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Cultural Development, and HE Roy Blackbeard, High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to Malta.

## Notte Bianca 2017

The House of Representatives opened its doors to the public once again during Notte Bianca, which this year was held on 8 October. This gave the public the opportunity to visit the Parliament building, to receive information on Parliament's role and procedures, as well as to meet Speaker Anġlu Farrugia and several Members of Parliament. Government Whip Hon. Byron Camilleri, Opposition Whip Hon. David Agius, and various Members from both sides of the House welcomed members of the public and guided them around the building.

Speaker Farrugia addressed the public and referred to the dedication shown by Members of Parliament in their work as representatives of their constituents, not least through Parliamentary Questions, which serve as a tool for scrutinising the Executive. He also reminded the public that it is invited to the various exhibitions hosted in the lobby of parliament's administration block throughout the year, which exhibitions are both the fruit of and a reflection of the partnership between Parliament and civil society.



# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Laqgħa ta' Strateġija tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati u President tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tal-Assoċjazzoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA), l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, ospita Laqgħa ta' Strateġija tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar (Small Branches) tas-CPA fil-Belt Valletta fid-19 u l-20 ta' Ottubru, li laqqgħet flimkien rappreżentanti tad-disa' reġjuni tas-CPA sabiex jistabbilixxu Mission Statement għall-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA, u abbozz ta' Strateġija għall-perjodu 2018-2019.

Fl-indirizz tal-ftuħ tiegħu, l-Ispeaker Farrugia fakkar li l-Commonwealth kienet l-ewwel organizzazzjoni li rrikonoxxiet il-parlamenti ta' fergħat żgħar u tathom spazju adegwat f'forum internazzjonali, partikolarment permezz tal-Konferenza Annwali tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar li tnediet fl-1981 għall-membri tal-Commonwealth b'popolazzjoni ta' inqas minn 250,000 persuna. Illum, il-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA jiġbru 43 membru li għandhom popolazzjoni ta' inqas minn 500,000 persuna. Ir-rwol tal-President tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA, li ġie stabbilit għall-ewwel darba f'Diċembru 2016, jirrifletti l-impenn tas-CPA sabiex jissaħħaħ in-netwerk tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar, bl-għotja ta' vuċi b'saħħitha fl-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Commonwealth u l-kumitati kollha tagħha. Il-Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Zgħar tiġi organizzata fil-marġini tal-Konferenza Annwali tas-CPA fejn parlamenti żgħar ikunu jistgħu jiddiskutu temi li huma relevanti għalihom ma' parlamenti akbar, u b'hekk parlamenti  żgħar jingħataw vuċi daqs ta' pajjiżi akbar. L-Onor. Farrugia qal li l-iżvilupp sostenibbli jista' jintlaħaq jekk pajjiż jibni istituzzjonijiet u proċessi demokratiċi b'saħħithom, iżda din hija aktar diffiċli għal pajjiżi żgħar minħħabba ċ-ċokon tagħhom. Huwa spjega li l-Pjan Streteġiku tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar għall-2018-2019 jipprovdi lill-fergħat iż-żgħar opportunità li jiżviluppaw l-objettivi tagħhom fi ħdan il-pjan strateġiku tas-CPA. Permezz ta' hekk il-fergħat iż-żgħar ikollhom l-opportunità li jipparteċipaw b'mod aktar b'saħħtu permezz ta' pożizzjoni komuni u vuċi waħda fil-laqgħat tas-CPA, li jistabbilixxu l-aġenda tal-laqgħat, u jirċievu finanzjament li jippermettilhom li jiltaqgħu u jwettqu attivitajiet li jsaħħu l-kapaċitajiet tagħhom.

Id-delegati qablu li l-abbozz tal-Pjan Strateġiku għandu jiffoka fuq il-bżonnijiet kollettivi li l-Fergħat Żgħar esprimew fi stħarriġ imwettaq mis-Segretarjat tas-CPA, li huma l-bidla fil-klima, l-iżvilupp ekonomiku sostenibbli, l-involviment taż-żgħażagħ fil-proċess politiku u t-taħriġ għall-membri parlamentari ġodda. Dwar l-istruttura tal-Fergħat Żgħar fi ħdan is-CPA, il-membri qablu li għandu jkun hemm kumitat ta' tmexxija, magħmul mill-President u membru minn kull reġjun, fejn kull membru għandu jippromwovi l-pjan strateġiku fir-reġjun li jirrapreżenta, kif ukoll jappoġġja l-presidenza fix-xogħol tagħha.

L-abbozz tal-pjan Strateġiku ġie ppreżentat lill-membri tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar waqt il-Konferenza tas-CPA fil-Bangladexx f'Novembru, u issa għandu jiġi ppreżentat lill-Kumitat Eżekuttiv għall-approvazzjoni finali.

## CPA Small Branches Strategy Meeting

Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chair to the CPA Small Branches, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, hosted the CPA Small Branches Strategy meeting in Valletta on 19 and 20 October. This meeting brought together representatives from the nine regions of the CPA to establish a Mission Statement for the CPA Small Branches and to compile a draft Strategy for the period 2018-2019.

In his welcome address, Speaker Farrugia recalled that the Commonwealth was the first organisation to give parliaments of small branches adequate recognition and space in an international forum, notably through its annual small branches conference which commenced in 1981 for Commonwealth members with populations of less than 250,000 persons. Today, the CPA Small Branches has 43 members whose population is up to 500,000 people. The role of the Small Branches Chairperson, which was established in December 2016, reflects the CPA's commitment to strengthening the small branches network within the CPA by giving small branches a very strong voice within the wider Commonwealth Association and all its committees. The Small Branches Conference is held in the margins of the CPA annual conference to enable small branches to discuss matters of relevance to them with larger branches, giving small branches a voice and rights equivalent to those of larger branches. He stated that a country which inspires confidence through robust democratic institutions and processes is more likely to reach sustainable development, yet democratic institutions are more costly to develop and maintain in small countries because of their size and resources. Speaker Farrugia explained that the Small Branches Strategic Plan 2018-2019 provides small branches with the opportunity to develop their own objectives within the overall strategic plan of the CPA. This will enable small branches to have a position and space in regional meetings, participate more strongly in CPA meetings, set the agenda for meetings, and receive a budget which will allow them to meet and undertake activities to increase their capacities.

Delegates agreed that the draft Strategic Plan should focus on the collective needs expressed by small branches in a survey carried out by the CPA Secretariat, these being climate change, reaching economic growth in a sustainable manner, engaging young people in the political process and training newly-elected parliamentarians. Discussing the structure of the small branches within the CPA, members agreed that there be a Steering Committee, composed of the Chair and one member from each region. Steering Committee members will champion the strategic plan within their region and support the chair.

The draft Strategic Plan was to be presented to the members of the Small Branches during the Small Branches Conference in Bangladesh in November, and, should support be forthcoming, it will subsequently be presented to the CPA Executive Committee for full approval.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Żjara ta' Kortesija mill-President tal-Kunsill Globali għat-Tolleranza u l-Paċi

Fit-30 ta' Ottubru l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, itaqa' mal-President tal-Kunsill Globali għat-Tolleranza u l-Paċi (GCTP), is-Sur Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Jarwan. Is-Sur Al-Jarwan spjega l-kunċett, l-għan u l-kompożizzjoni tal-Kunsill, u elabora dwar il-Parlament Globali għat-Tolleranza u l-Paċi. Huwa ħabbar li l-kwartieri ġenerali tal-GCTP ser ikunu f'Malta.

L-Ispeaker Farrugia laqa' b'interess il-formazzjoni tal-GCTP u l-fatt li l-Kunsill għażel lil Malta biex tospita l-kwartieri ġenerali tiegħu. Huwa emfasizza li Malta dejjem ħadmet għat-tolleranza u l-paċi, u awgura li l-Parlament Malti u l-Kunsill ikollhom l-opportunità li jikkooperaw flimkien.

## Malta Architect Awards

Fil-ftuħ tal-wirja li ttellgħet bħala parti mill-Malta Architect Awards 2017 fil-31 ta' Ottubru, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia qal li l-Malta Architect Awards iservu sabiex jiġu onorati periti li ħolqu xogħol arkitettoniku eċċellenti. L-eċċellenza arkitettonika tikkonsisti fi sbuħija estetika li tiżżewwaq ma' teknoloġija moderna sabiex tikkrea bini li jirrispetta l-madwar tiegħu, kemm dak naturali u dak mibni, u li dan il-bini stess isir parti mill-patrimonju Malti. L-Ispeaker Farrugia fakkar li l-entitajiet regolatorji huma responsabbli sabiex jiżguraw li l-bini jsir b'rispett sħiħ għas-saħħa pubblika, is-saħħa strutturali, regoli u liġijiet li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-bini. Huwa fakkar ukoll li dawn l-awtoritajiet jeżistu għall-benefiċċju tas-soċjetà in ġenerali.

Preżenti għall-ftuħ kien hemm il-Ministru għat-Trasport, Infrastruttura u Proġetti Kapitali l-Onor. Ian Borg, li wkoll indirizza lill-udjenza, u s-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Ippjanar u s-Suq tal-Proprjetà l-Onor. Chris Agius.

## Courtesy visit by the President of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace

On 30 October Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, met the President of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP), Mr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Jarwan. Mr Al-Jarwan explained the concept behind the establishment of the Council, its objectives and composition, and elaborated on the Global Parliament for Tolerance and Peace. He also announced that the GCTP will set up its headquarters in Malta.

Speaker Farrugia welcomed the formation of the GCTP and that the Council has chosen Malta for its headquarters. He highlighted that Malta has always worked for tolerance and peace and that he looked forward to having opportunities for co-operation between the Parliament of Malta and the Council.

## Malta Architect Awards

Opening the exhibition as part of the 2017 Malta Architect Awards on 31 October, Speaker Hon. Anġlu Farrugia stated that the Malta Architect Awards served to honour architects who created architectural work of excellence. Such excellence combines aesthetic beauty with advanced technology to create buildings which respect their surrounding natural and built environment and which themselves become part of Malta's heritage. Speaker Farrugia also recalled that regulatory entities are responsible for ensuring that construction is carried out in full respect for public health, structural soundness, building regulations and laws, and that these authorities are employed for the good of society at large.

In Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Hon. Ian Borg, who also addressed the audience, and Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and the Property Market Hon. Chris Agius were also present.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Laqgħa tal-FP-AP

Il-Kamra tad-Deputati ospitat laqgħa tal-Assoċjazzjoni Ewropea tal-Membri Anzjani tal-Istati Membri tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa (FP-AP) fil-binja tal-Parlament bejn nhar it-3 ta' Novembru. Il-Bureau tal-FP-AP adotta ukoll stqarrija li kkundannat l-assassinju tal-ġurnalista Maltija Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Is-seminar laqqa' flimkien membri parlamentari anzjani minn parlamenti ta' pajjiżi Ewropej, rappreżentanti ta' għaqdiet volontarji Maltin li jaħdmu fil-qasam tal-migrazzjoni u esperti mill-Kummissjoni Għolja tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti għar-Refuġjati, biex jiddiskutu t-tema ta' statelessness fid-dawl tal-migrazzjoni tal-massa. Fid-diskors tal-ftuħ, id-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg qalet li meta wieħed ma jkollux nazzjonalità, dan bħal "ikun fil-limbu". L-Onor. Buttigieg iddikjarat li minkejja l-konvenzjonijiet tal-1954 u l-1961, li stabbilixxew standards minimi għal persuni mingħajr nazzjonalità, bħad-dritt għal identità, edukazzjoni, impjieg u akkomodazzjoni, filwaqt li ppruvaw jipprevjenu u jnaqqsu l-istatelessness, partikolarment fit-tfal, illum il-ġurnata għadha titwieled tarbija mingħajr nazzjonalità kull għaxar minuti. Persuni mingħajr stat iħabbtu wiċċhom ma' problemi li jinkludu restrizzjoni tal-moviment, diffikultajiet sabiex jaċċessaw l-edukazzjoni, il-kura tas-saħħa u impjieg, drittijiet limitati għall-pensjoni jew benefiċċji soċjali oħra, sfidi biex iżommu kont bankarju u nuqqas ta' dokumentazzjoni uffiċjali, għalhekk persuni bla nazzjonalità u l-familji tagħhom ġeneralment iġibu magħhom faqar, marġinalizzazzjoni, abbuż u sfruttament. Fil-konklużjoni tagħha, l-Onor. Buttigieg ħeġġet lill-parlamentari jikkunsidraw bidliet fil-leġiżlazzjoni u l-politika sabiex jiċkien in-numru ta' persuni mingħajr nazzjonalità u jittaffew l-isfidi li nuqqas ta' nazzjonalità ġġib magħha.

Is-Seminar intemm bl-adozzjoni ta' dikjarazzjoni li sejħet għal azzjoni konċertata pożittiva b'viżjoni li jkunu protetti persuni bla nazzjonalità, partikolarment it-tfal. Id-dikjarazzjoni ħeġġet lill-Istati Ewropej biex jieħu azzjonijiet konkreti u koordinati sabiex jiġu mnaqqsa l-konsegwenzi negattivi tal-migrazzjoni tal-massa mhux ikkontrollata, u inkoraġġiet lill-Istati Membri tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa li għadhom ma rratifikawx il-Konvenzjoni dwar l-Istatus ta' Persuni mingħajr Nazzjonalità tal-1954 u dik tal-1961 biex jagħmlu dan. Barra minn hekk, id-dikjarazzjoni talbet lill-pajjiżi biex jidentifikaw il-persuni mingħajr nazzjonalità li jgħixu fit-territorju tagħhom u biex jistabbilixxu proċeduri għar-reġistrazzjoni ċivili u ċertifikati tat-twelid sabiex jipprevjenu n-nuqqas ta' nazzjonalità kemm mat-twelid u aktar tard fil-ħajja, kif ukoll biex jagħtu aċċess għall-edukazzjoni u l-kura tas-saħħa fuq bażi umanitarja lil dawk li m'għandhomx nazzjonalità. Barra minn hekk, id-dikjarazzjoni tirrakkomanda t-tfassil tal-politika bbażata fuq l-evidenza u li tiġi żviluppata b'konsultazzjoni mal-partijiet interessati kif ukoll tħeġġeġ lill-istituzzjonijiet tal-Unjoni Ewropea, il-Kunsill tal-Ewropa u l-OSCE sabiex isaħħu l-isforzi tagħhom sabiex ma jkunx hemm aktar persuni fir-reġjun li jkunu bla nazzjonalità.

## Meeting of the FP-AP

The House of Representatives hosted a Seminar of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the member-states of the Council of Europe (FP-AP) in the parliamentary chamber on 3 November. The Bureau of the FP-AP also issued statement condemning the assassination of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

The Seminar, brought together former members of parliaments from European countries, representatives of Maltese voluntary organisations working in the field of migration and experts from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, to discuss the theme of statelessness in the light of mass migration. Opening the Seminar, Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg likened statelessness to 'being in limbo' claiming that despite the Conventions of 1954 and 1961, which established minimum standards for stateless persons, such as the right to identity, education, employment and housing, while attempting to prevent and reduce statelessness, particularly by providing for the nationality of children, still today, a child is born stateless every ten minutes. Stateless persons face problems including restriction of movement, difficulty to access education, healthcare and employment, limited rights to a pension or other social benefits, challenges to hold a bank account and lack of official documentation, therefore statelessness often condemns its victims and their families to poverty, marginalisation, abuse and exploitation. Concluding, Hon. Buttigieg augured that parliamentarians will consider changes to legislation and policy to reduce statelessness and its challenges.

The Seminar ended with the adoption of a declaration calling for concerted positive action with a view to protect persons, especially children, who are stateless. The declaration urges European States to act in unison to limit the negative consequences of uncontrolled mass migration through resolute action and encourages Member States of the Council of Europe that have not yet ratified the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954 and that of 1961 to do so. Furthermore, the declaration calls on States to ensure that Stateless persons on their territory are identified as such and arrange procedures for the civil registration and birth certificates and to prevent statelessness at birth or later in life, as well as to grant access to education and health care on a humanitarian basis to those who remain stateless. Moreover, the declaration advocates for evidence-based policy-making developed in consultation with stakeholders and urges the institutions of the European Union, the Council of Europe and the OSCE to strengthen their efforts to end statelessness in the region.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Tnedija tal-ktieb: *Disà kriżijiet fil-Parlament*

Fil-11 ta' Novembru l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, ippresieda t-tnedija tal-ktieb *Disà kriżijiet fil-Parlament*, miktub minn Dr Tonio Borg, ex-Kummissarju Ewropew u ex-Ministru.

Fid-diskors tal-ftuħ tiegħu, l-Ispeaker Farrugia qal li l-ktieb joffri analiżi tal-istorja tad-demokrazija parlamentari f'Malta mill-1921 sal-lum. Fuq medda ta' 96 sena, Malta għaddiet minn diversi bidliet sostanzjali, li ħallew impatt fuq in-nazzjon u l-poplu Malti. Huwa fakkar fl-inċertezza u l-biża' kull darba li ċ-ċittadini Maltin u Għawdxin kellhom jieħdu deċiżjonijiet importanti, inkluż dik dwar l-Indipendenza ta' Malta f'1969, il-proklama ta' Malta bħala Repubblika fl-1974, l-għeluq tal-bażi militari f'Malta fl-1979, u d-dħul ta' Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropea fl-2004. Dawn l-avvenimenti għandhom jgħinu lill-pubbliku japprezza aktar l-importanza tad-demokrazija parlamentari u d-drittijiet kostituzzjonali. Dr Tonio Borg u l-Prof. Joe Pirotta tkellmu wkoll f'din l-okkażjoni.

## Żjara fl-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Verifika

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati għamel żjara uffiċjali fl-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Verifika (NAO) fit-13 ta' Novembru. Huwa kien milqugħ mill-Awditur Ġenerali s-Sur Charles Deguara u d-deputat Awditur Ġenerali s-Sur Noel Camilleri. F'laqgħa mal-uffiċjali għolja tal-NAO, l-Ispeaker Farrugia ssottolinea l-valuri fundamentali tat-trasparenza u l-kontabilità, li huma l-qofol tad-demokrazija. Huwa inkoraġġixxa lill-impjegati tal-Uffiċċju sabiex jaqdu dmirijiethom mingħajr biża', u fakkar li waqt li l-politiċi għandhom terminu temporanju, ir-rapporti ppubblikati mill-Uffiċċju tal-Awditur jibqgħu għal dejjem. Din iż-żjara kienet parti mill-programm ta' attivitajiet organizzat mill-Uffiċċju tal-Awdiur f'għeluq l-20 sena minn mindu twaqqaf. Emenda f'artiklu 108 tal-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta u d-dħul fis-seħħ tal-Att tal-1977 dwar l-Awditur Ġenerali u l-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Verifika, ittrasformaw dipartiment tal-Gvern fil-Ministeru tal-Finanzi f'uffiċċju tal-verifika indipendenti u awtonomu, kif huwa neċessarju f'kull stat demokratiku modern. Bidla oħra li ġabu magħhom dawn l-emendi hija li għamlu l-Awditur Ġenerali u d-Deputat Awditur Ġenerali Uffiċjali tal-Parlament. L-Awditur Ġenerali qal li huwa kburi jgħid li fid-disa' snin ta' servizz tiegħu fl-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Verifika, kull amministrazzjoni rrispettat l-awtonomija tal-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Verifika. B'hekk l-impjegati tal-Uffiċċju għandhom iħossu d-dmir li jiżguraw li xogħolhom ikun dejjem ibbażat fuq il-prinċipji fundamentali tal-integrità, ġustizzja u professjonalità, u li jilħqu l-objettiv ewlieni tal-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Verifika, jiġifieri li jintlaħqu livelli ogħla ta' governanza tajba fis-Servizz Pubbliku, liema objettiv huwa fl-interess taċ-ċittadini.

## Book launch: *Disà kriżijiet fil-Parlament*

On 11 November Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, presided over the launch of the book *Disà kriżijiet fil-Parlament* (Nine crises in Parliament), authored by Dr Tonio Borg, former European Commissioner and former Minister. In his opening address, Speaker Farrugia stated that this book offers an analysis of the history of Malta's parliamentary democracy from 1921 to date. During this 96 year span, Malta has gone through significant changes, which have left their mark on the Maltese nation and people. He recalled that uncertainty and fear were present each time Maltese and Gozitan citizens were called to take important decisions, including regarding Malta's independence in 1969, the proclamation of Malta as a Republic in 1974, the closure of the military bases in Malta in 1979, and Malta's entry into the European Union in 2004. However, these instances should help the public better appreciate the importance of parliamentary democracy and constitutional rights. Dr Tonio Borg and Prof. Joe Pirotta also addressed the audience.

## Visit to the National Audit Office

The Speaker of the House of Representatives paid an official visit to the National Audit Office (NAO) on 13 November. He was welcomed by Auditor General Mr Charles Deguara and Deputy Auditor General Mr Noel Camilleri. When speaking with the NAO's senior management team, Speaker Farrugia highlighted the fundamental values of transparency and accountability, which values are the cornerstone of democracy. He encouraged NAO employees to carry out their work fearlessly, and recalled that while politicians come and go, published NAO reports remain. This visit formed part of the programme of activities organised by the NAO to commemorate 20 years since its establishment. By means of legal amendments, namely to article 108 of the Constitution of Malta as well as the enactment of the Auditor General and National Audit Office Act of 1997, the then Government department within the Ministry of Finance was transformed into a fully autonomous and independent national audit office, as is necessary in every respectable modern and democratic state. Through such legal amendments both the Auditor General as well as the Deputy Auditor General became Officers of Parliament. The Auditor General said that he was proud to confirm that throughout his nine years of service within the National Audit Office, each administration had respected the NAO's full autonomy. Consequently, all NAO employees should feel duty-bound to ensure that their work is always and solely based on the fundamental principles of integrity, justice and professionalism, and that the principal objective of the NAO's work is to lead to higher levels of good governance in the public service, in the best interest of the citizens.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Konferenza dwar il-Migrazzjoni fil-Mediterran

Il-Kamra tad-Deputati ta' Malta organizzat Konferenza dwar il-Migrazzjoni fil-Mediterran fil-Belt Valletta bejn is-16 u s-17 ta' Novembru, f'kollaborazzjoni mal-Unjoni Inter-Parlamentari (IPU), u l-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Mediterran (PAM). Din il-konferenza laqqgħet flimkien parlamentari u esperti minn pajjiżi madwar id-dinja sabiex jiddiskutu t-tema 'Nippromwovu kooperazzjoni reġjonali aħjar għall-migrazzjoni fil-Mediterran li hija *smart* u umanitarja'. Fid-diskors tal-ftuħ tiegħu, l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia tkellem dwar l-istorja u l-impatt li l-migrazzjoni kellha fuq l-arċipelago Malti. Huwa spjega li waqt li Malta esperjenzat eżitu taċ-ċittadini tagħha fis-sekli 19 u 20, illum Malta tospita bosta immigranti. Dawn iż-żewġ tendenzi ġabu magħhom bidliet bla preċedent għad-demografija ta' Malta u ffurmat ir-relazzjoni bejn Malta, il-pajjiżi li jospitaw id-djaspora Maltija, u l-pajjiżi ta' oriġini tal-immigranti li jgħixu Malta. L-Ispeaker Farrugia rrikonoxxa li l-UE riċentement żiedet l-isforzi tagħha mmirati sabiex il-fenomenu tal-migrazzjoni jiġi indirizzat mill-aspett politiku, umanitarju u ta' sigurtà, waqt li lmenta li għal bosta snin il-pajjiżi fin-nofsinhar tal-Ewropa ma ngħatawx sapport mill-UE sabiex jindirizzaw il-kriżi tal-ażil. Huwa qal li l-azzjoni tal-UE hija ċċentrata fuq erba' R: Rilokazzjoni, Risistemazzjoni, Ritorn u Riammissjoni. B'hekk il-koperazzjoni, id-djalogu u l-ftehim bejn il-pajjiżi ta' oriġini u l-pajjiżi tranżitorji huma fundamentali sabiex jiġi żgurat li l-Baħar Mediterran ma jsirx nassa fatali għall-immigranti. L-Onor. Farrugia fakkar fil-Valletta Summit dwar il-migrazzjoni tal-2015, li laqqgħet il-kapijiet ta' stati Ewropej u Afrikani, u l-*follow-up* tagħha li saret fil-Belt Valletta fit-8 u d-9 ta' Frar 2017, u emfasizza r-rwol tad-diplomazija parlamentari sabiex jiġu ndirizzati kwistjonijiet globali bħall-migrazzjoni.

Id-delegazzjoni Maltija tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Mediterran (PAM) immexxija mill-Onor. Justyne Caruana, u li tinkludi lill-Onor. Glenn Bedingfield, l-Onor. Etienne Grech, u l-Onor. David Stellini, ipparteċipat fil-konferenza. L-Onor. Caruana emfasizzat li kienu diversi l-okkażjonijiet li fihom Malta sejħet lill-istati Ewropej, organizzazzjonijiet u istituzzjonijiet internazzjonali sabiex jimplimentaw djalogu inklussiv u ugwali ma' pajjiżi ġirien u pajjiżi fin-nofsinhar tal-Ewropa. Hija spjegat li Malta dejjem saħqet fuq il-ħtieġa li jiġu indirizzati l-kawżi ewlenin tal-migrazzjoni u li jsir djalogu kontinwu u sostnut mal-atturi prinċipali. L-Onor. Caruana sostniet li Malta ser tkompli tagħti prijorità lid-dimensjoni Mediterranja sabiex tkompli tinsisti fuq il-fehma li s-sigurtà fl-Ewropa tiddependi fuq is-sigurtà fil-Mediterran. Fit-tieni jum tal-konferenza d-diskussjoni ffukat fuq il-bżonn li l-fruntieri jiġu msaħħa, fuq il-ġlieda kontra t-traffikanti tal-bnedmin, u r-raġunijiet li jinkoraġġixxu l-persuni biex jitilqu minn pajjiżhom, partikolarment l-importanza li tingħata promozzjoni lill-iżvilupp sostenibbli fil-pajjiżi ta' oriġini. L-Onor. Etienne Grech spjega li Malta ilha tippromwovi l-koperazzjoni parlamentari fir-rigward tal-kontroll u l-ġlieda kontra t-traffikanti tal-bnedmin. Fil-fatt, il-Parlament Malti mexxa s-LVII Konferenza tal-Kumitati Parlamentari għall-Affarijiet Ewropej (COSAC) f'Mejju, bħala parti mid-Dimensjoni Parlamentari tal-Presidenza Maltija tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea, li fiha s-sessjoni dwar il-migrazzjoni indirizzat il-bżonn li nikkombattu t-traffikar tal-bnedmin u l-importanza li jiġu stabbiliti politiki umani u effettivi għar-ritorn u r-riammissjoni. L-Onor. Grech emfasizza li l-eżitu tal-konferenza indika l-bżonn li jinfetħu u jiġu promossi toroq legali ta' migrazzjoni, li jikkontribwixxu sabiex jiġu mkissra n-netwerks tat-traffikanti u jiġi żgurat li l-migrazzjoni hija ġestita b'mod uman u sostenibbli.

L-Onor. Glenn Bedingfield laqa' l-opportunità li jindirizza t-tema tal-migrazzjoni iżda wissa li l-istatistika m'għandhiex tnissina mill-fatt li l-migrazzjoni tirrigwarda d-dispramet li jħossu l-irġiel, in-nisa u t-tfal. Dwar is-sitwazzjoni fil-Libja, L-Onor. Bedingfield esprima d-diżappunt tiegħu li r-rapporti ta' abbużi u l-'kummerċ b'saħħtu tal-iskjavi migranti' la ngħataw prominenza fil-midja u lanqas qanqlu azzjoni internazzjonali. Huwa spjega li l-parlamenti ma jistgħux jibqgħu passivi iżda għandhom bżonn li jagħmlu pressjoni fuq il-gvernijiet rispettivi tagħhom sabiex jiżguraw li jiddaħħlu miżuri li jiġġieldu lit-traffikanti tal-migrazzjoni b'suċċess u li jippromwovu *input* politiku fid-diskussjonijiet dwar il-migrazzjoni, liema diskussjonijiet għandhom juru kompassjoni lejn il-migranti. L-Onor. Bedingfield ikkonkluda billi sostna li Malta ser tkompli tkun vuċi ewlenija f'diskussjonijiet dwar il-migrazzjoni li jkunu kontinwi, komprensivi u kompassjonanti, u li kull pajjiż għandu jħoss li għandu jkun parti mid-dibattitu dwar il-migrazzjoni u l-ġlieda kontra t-traffikanti tal-bnedmin, kemm fil-Baħar Mediterran u lil hinn.

# Conference on Migration across the Mediterranean

The Maltese House of Representatives organised the Conference on Migration across the Mediterranean in Valletta between 16 and 17 November, in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). This conference brought together parliamentarians and experts hailing from countries across the world to discuss 'Promoting better regional cooperation towards smart and humane migration across the Mediterranean'. Opening the conference, Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia spoke of the history and impact of migration on the Maltese archipelago. He explained that while in the 19th and 20th centuries Malta experienced an outward flow of its citizens, Malta was today host to many immigrants. Both these trends brought unprecedented changes to Malta's demographics and shaped the relationship between Malta, countries which host the Maltese diaspora and countries of origin of immigrants to Malta. Hon. Farrugia acknowledged the recent increased effort with which the EU aimed to address the issue of migration from a political, humanitarian and security aspect, while lamenting that southern European states had been left unsupported to tackle the asylum crisis for far too long. He stated that the 4 R's: Relocation, Resettlement, Return and Readmission, represent the core of European action, and, therefore, cooperation, dialogue and mutual understanding with countries of origin and transit countries are key to ensure the Mediterranean Sea does not become a deadly trap for migrants. Recalling the 2015 Valletta Summit on Migration, which brought together European and African Heads of State, and its follow-up which took place in Valletta on 8 and 9 February 2017, Speaker Farrugia highlighted the role of parliamentary diplomacy in tackling global issues such as migration.

The Maltese delegation to the headed by Hon. Justyne Caruana, and comprising Hon. Glenn Bedingfield, Hon. Etienne Grech, and Hon. David Stellini, participated in the conference. Hon. Caruana highlighted that Malta has, on numerous occasions, called on European states, international bodies, and institutions to implement an inclusive and equal dialogue with neighbouring and southern states. She explained that Malta was instrumental in highlighting the root causes of migration and the need for sustained and continuous dialogue with key actors. Hon. Caruana reiterated that Malta will continue to give the Mediterranean dimension top priority to reaffirm the long-standing belief that there can be no security in Europe if there is no security in the Mediterranean. On the second day of the conference, the discussion focused on the need to bolster border protection, the fight against people smugglers, and 'push' factors of migration, notably the importance of promoting sustainable development in countries of origin. Hon. Etienne Grech explained that Malta has been actively contributing to the promotion of parliamentary cooperation in the discussion on border control and the fight against migrant smugglers. In fact, the Maltese Parliament chaired the LVII Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) in May, as part of the Parliamentary Dimension of Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, wherein the session on migration addressed the need to combat human smuggling and trafficking and the importance of establishing a humane and effective return and readmission policy. Hon. Grech highlighted that the outcome of the conference pointed towards the need to open and promote legal channels of migration, acting as a direct contribution to disrupt the smugglers network and ensure migration is managed in a humane and sustainable manner.

Hon. Glenn Bedingfield welcomed the opportunity to address the topic of migration but cautioned against letting statistical numbers overshadow the fact that migration regards human beings and the desperate plea of men, women and children. Speaking on the situation in Libya, Glenn Bedingfield expressed disdain at the lack of media coverage and international action to reports of abuses and the 'thriving migrant slave trade'. He explained that remaining passive is not an option and that parliaments must place greater pressure on their respective governments to ensure that measures are put in place to successfully fight migrant smugglers and promote greater political input into the discussions on migration, discussions which should show compassion towards migrants. In conclusion, Hon. Bedingfield reiterated that Malta will continue to be a leading voice for continuous, comprehensive, and compassionate discussions on migration, and that every country needs to feel part of the migration debate and the fight against migrant smugglers in the Mediterranean Sea and beyond.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Tetra għall-Istrina

Għat-tieni sena konsekuttiva, fil-21 ta' Novembru l-Parlament ta' Malta ħa sehem fl-inizjattiva ambjentali Tetra għall-Istrina, flimkien ma' GREEN MT. Din is-sena l-GREEN MT intrabtu li jagħtu €60 lill-Istrina għal kull tunnellata ta' kartun tal-ħalib miġbura għar-riċiklaġġ bejn it-18 u s-26 ta' Novembru. Fid-diskors tiegħu f'din l-okkażjoni, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia spjega li għal darb'oħra l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż kienet qed tipparteċipa f'din l-inizjattiva, li kellha r-rwol doppju li tgħin lill-ambjent filwaqt li tiġbor il-fondi għall-Community Chest Fund. L-Onor. Clayton Bartolo u l-Onor. Frederick Azzopardi kienu preżenti għal din l-okkażjoni.

## Jum Internazzjonali għall-Eliminazzjoni tal-Vjolenza Domestika

Fit-23 ta' Novembru l-Kamra tad-Deputati żammet konferenza stampa fl-okkażjoni tal-Jum Internazzjonali għall-eliminazzjoni tal-vjolenza domestika. Fl-indirizz tiegħu l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia qal li l-awtoritajiet Maltin irċevew madwar 1,200 rapport dwar vjolenza domestika fis-sena, liema statistika hija indikazzjoni tas-sitwazzjoni tal-familji u s-soċjetà f'Malta. Huwa ħeġġeġ lin-nies sabiex japprezzaw aktar lill-oħrajn u sabiex ikunu aktar sensittivi għall-bżonnijiet tagħhom, b'hekk kullħadd ikun jista' jgawdi r-rispett u d-dinjità li jixraqlu. L-Ispeaker Farrugia sejjaħ ukoll għal aktar miżuri li jiżguraw li l-vittmi tal-vjolenza domestika jingħataw protezzjoni u sapport adegwat, inkluż programmi ta' prevenzjoni, kampanji nazzjonali li jqanqlu kuxjenza u t-tisħiħ ta' programmi ta' sapport mogħtija mill-istat. Il-Ministru tal-Familja, id-Drittijiet tat-Tfal u s-Solidarjetà Soċjali l-Onor. Michael Falzon qal li l-ambjent domestiku għandu jkun wieħed fejn tirrenja l-intimità, u b'hekk il-vjolenza hija l-antiteżi tal-ambjent li wieħed għandu jgawdi d-dar. Minkejja dan, il-vjolenza domestika tibqa' realtà li teżisti u li għandha tiġi indirizzata. L-Onor. Falzon sejjaħ għal kuxjenza akbar dwar din it-tema fit-tama li tiġi eliminata l-istigma kontra l-vjolenza domestika, sabiex aktar vittmi jitkellmu u jsibu l-għajnuna. Id-Deputy Speaker Claudette Buttigieg appellat sabiex it-tfal jinżammu fiċ-ċentru ta' kwalunkwe miżuri kontra l-vjolenza domestika. L-Onor. Buttigieg sejħet ukoll għal pieni aktar ħorox għal min ikun ħati ta' vjolenza domestika, kif ukoll għal impenn akbar mill-parlamentari sabiex il-liġijiet li jirrelataw mal-vjolenza domestika jiġu msaħħa. Il-konferenza kienet indirizzata wkoll mill-Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Fondazzjoni għas-Servizzi ta' Ħarsien Soċjali is-Sur Alfred Grixti.

## Tetra għall-Istrina

For the second consecutive year, Parliament together with GREEN MT launched the environmental initiative 'Tetra għall-Istrina' (Tetra for Istrina) on 21 November. This year, GREEN MT pledged to donate 60Euro to L-Istrina for every ton of milk cartons collected between the 18 and 26 November. In his address, Speaker Hon. Anġlu Farrugia explained that once again the country's highest institution was participating in this initiative, which has the twofold role of being beneficial for the environment as well as collecting funds for Community Chest Fund. Hon. Clayton Bartolo and Hon. Frederick Azzopardi attended the event.

## International Day against Domestic Violence

On 23 November the House of Representative hosted a press conference on the occasion of the International Day against Domestic Violence. In his address, Speaker Hon. Anġlu Farrugia stated that Maltese authorities receive around 1,200 reports of domestic violence annually which indicates a dire situation in families and society. He called for individuals to be more appreciative of others and cognisant of their needs so that everyone can enjoy respect and dignity. Speaker Farrugia also called for increased measures which ensure that victims of domestic violence are well protected and supported, including prevention programmes, national awareness campaigns and strengthening state support services. Minister for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity Hon. Michael Falzon stated that the domestic environment is one in which intimacy should prevail and thus, violence is the antithesis of the environment that one should be able to enjoy at home. Nonetheless, domestic violence remains a reality which exists and should be addressed. Hon. Falzon called for increased awarness on the matter in the hope that the stigma against domestic violence be eliminated, thereby encouraging victims to speak up and seek support. Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg advocated for further focus on children in any action against domestic violence. Hon. Buttigieg also called for harsher penalties for perpetrators of violence and for commitment from parliamentarians to strengthen the laws surrounding domestic violence. The conference was also addressed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Social Welfare Services Mr Alfred Grixti.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## Studenti fil-Parlament kontra l-Vjolenza Domestika

Id-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg ippresidiet seduta speċjali bit-tema 'Studenti fil-Parlament kontra l-Vjolenza Domestika', li kienet organizzata mill-Kummissjoni dwar il-Vjolenza Domestika f'kollaborazzjoni mal-Kamra tad-Deputati u d-Dipartiment tal-Edukazzjoni. Din l-attività, li saret fl-1 ta' Diċembru fis-Sala tal-Parlament, laqqgħet flimkien studenti minn bosta skejjel sekondarji u Membri Parlamentari.

L-istudenti ddiskutew ħames mozzjonijiet, li kollha ġew approvati b'mod unanimu. Dawn il-mozzjonijiet sejħu:

- għal pieni aktar ħorox għal min jinsab ħati li wettaq il-vjolenza domestika u l-introduzzjoni ta' miżuri preventivi, sapport u rijabilitazzjoni għall-aggressur;

- sabiex *dating violence* jiġi kkunsidrat bħala att kriminali simili tal-vjolenza domestika u għal kampanja ta' informazzjoni u ambjent li jħeġġu lill-vittmi tal-vjolenza sabiex jirrapportawha;

- sabiex membri tal-ġudikatura, il-membri tal-Korp tal-Pulizija, l-edukaturi u professjonisti oħrajn, bħall-psikologi, *counsellors* u *social workers*, ikunu mħarrġa sabiex f'xogħolhom ikunu f'pożizzjoni aħjar li jaħdmu kontra l-vjolenza domestika u *d-dating violence*;

- għal kampanji kontinwi bil-għan li tintlaħaq ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi; u

- għal leġiżlazzjoni li tistipula li n-nisa u l-irġiel li jagħmlu l-istess xogħol għandhom jitħallsu ndaqs u li tinkoraġġixxi subien u bniet sabiex jinkitbu għal korsijiet irrispettivament mis-sess tagħhom.

Wara d-dibattitu bejn l-istudenti, bosta Membri Parlamentari tkellmu dwar il-punti mqajma mill-istudenti. Diversi ministri u membri parlamentari miż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra pparteċipaw fid-dibattitu. Is-seduta speċjali kienet indirizzata ukoll mill-Kummissarju għall-Vjolenza Domestika is-Sur Joe Gerada, u l-Kummissarju għat-Tfal is-Sja Pauline Miceli.

## Students in Parliament against Domestic Violence

Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg chaired a special parliamentary sitting entitled 'Students in Parliament against Domestic Violence', which was organised by the Commission for Domestic Violence in collaboration with the House of Representatives and the Education Department. This activity, held on 1 December in the Parliamentary Chamber, brought together students from several secondary schools and Members of Parliament.

During the meeting, those present discussed five motions, all of which were unanimously approved. These motions called for:

-harsher fines for those found guilty of domestic violence and the introduction of preventive measures, support and rehabilitation for the aggressor;

-dating violence to be considered a crime akin to domestic violence and an information campaign aimed at encouraging victims to report such violence in a supportive environment;

-the need for members of the judiciary, the police, educators and other professionals, such as psychologists, counsellors and social workers, to receive regular training to be able to better equipped to work against domestic violence and dating violence;

-continual campaigns aimed at achieving equal rights between genders;

-legislation that outlaws the gender-pay gap and which encourages both males and females to enrol in courses traditionally associated with one gender.

Following the students' debate, several Members of Parliament made an intervention, addressing the points raised by the students. Commissioner for Domestic Violence Mr. Joe Gerada, and Commissioner for Children Mrs. Pauline Miceli also addressed the special sitting.

# Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

## 'Il-Festi Maltin mil-Lenti' – Wirja Fotografika ta' Sebio Aquilina

Fl-okkażjoni tas-70 Anniversarju mit-twaqqif tal-Għaqda Każini tal-Banda fl-1947, il-*foyer* tal-Kamra tad-Deputati ospitat wirja fotografika li fiha l-fotografu rinomat Sebio Aquilina qabad is-seħer tal-festi Maltin. Fid-diskors tal-ftuħ tiegħu l-Ispeaker Farrugia fakkar kemm kienet f'waqtha l-idea ta' Mikiel Anġ Delia li l-każini tal-banda f'Malta u Għawdex jingħaqdu f'assoċjazzjoni sabiex jippromwovu r-rwol tagħhom fis-soċjetà, u feraħ lill-president attwali Dr Noel Camilleri għas-snin ta' servizz li tat l-Għaqda. L-Ispeaker Farrugia ddeskriva l-każini tal-banda bħala skejjel tal-mużika li jgħinu fil-formazzjoni ta' persuna, filwaqt li jservu ta servizzi soċjali li jlaqqgħu lin-nies, dan peress li l-mużika tista' tiġi deskritta bħala lingwa internazzjonali li tgħaqqad lill-popli. Huwa kkonkluda billi emfasizza l-importanza tar-rispett għall-oħrajn fil-komunitajiet u s-soċjetajiet tagħna, liema rispett jinkludi li noffru għajnuna prattika lil min hu fil-bżonn.

## Wirja ta' Arti għad-Dar tal-Providenza

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia inawgura wirja ta' arti b'risq id-Dar tal-Providenza fil-15 ta' Diċembru. Fl-indirizz tiegħu l-Ispeaker fakkar li Mons. Mikiel Azzopardi waqqaf id-Dar tal-Providenza fl-1965, u li b'hekk ħeġġeġ lill-poplu jirrispetta u jgħin lill-persuni b'diżabilità. Huwa faħħar lill-artisti li, b'ġenerożità kbira, taw ix-xogħlijiet tagħhom sabiex jiġu rkantati b'risq id-Dar tal-Providenza, u sejjaħ dan l-att bħala xhieda li l-ispirtu u l-valur tas-solidarjetà soċjali huma ħajjin fis-soċjetà Maltija u Għawdxija.

## ‘Maltese Feasts through the Lens’ - Photographic Exhibition by Sebio Aquilina

On the occasion of the 70th Anniversary since the establishment of the Malta Band Clubs Association in 1947, the foyer of the House of Representatives hosted a photographic exhibition wherein the renowed photographer Sebio Aquilina captured the charm of Maltese feasts. During the opening of the exhibition Speaker Farrugia recalled the timeliness of Mikiel Anġ Delia’s idea that band clubs in Malta and Gozo unite through an association to promote their role in society, and congratulated current president Dr Noel Camilleri for the Association’s many years of service. Speaker Farrugia described band clubs as schools of music which help form people’s character, as well as social centres that unite people since music can be described as an international language that unites all peoples. He concluded by highlighting the importance of respect for others within our communities and societies, which includes offering practical help to those in need.

## Art exhibition in aid of Dar tal-Providenza

Speaker Hon. Anġlu Farrugia inaugurated an art exhibitiion in aid of Dar tal-Providenza on 15 December. In his address, the Speaker recalled that Mons. Mikiel Azzopardi established Dar tal-Providenza in 1965, and in so doing encouraged the population to respect and support persons with disability. He hailed the artists who generously donated their works to be auctioned in aid of Dar tal-Providenza, saying that this is living proof that the spirit and value of social solidarity is alive within the Maltese and Gozitan society.

Id-Dar tal-Providenza
Homes of Persons with Disabilities

# Żjara mir-Rappreżentant Malti fil-Qorti Ewropea tal-Awdituri

Fid-19 ta' Diċembru l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rċieva żjara ta' kortesija mir-rappreżentant Malti fil-Qorti Ewropea tal-Awdituri (ECA) is-Sur Leo Brincat. Waqt li ppreżenta l-*EU Audit in Brief*, ir-rapport annwali għall-2016, is-Sur Brincat qal li r-rapport huwa "prova tat-titjib irreġistrat fl-infiq tal-UE". L-Ispeaker Farrugia rringrazzja lis-Sur Brincat għall-ħidma u d-dedikazzjoni tiegħu fil-Qorti Ewropea tal-Awdituri u poġġa r-rapport fuq il-mejda tal-Kamra waqt is-seduta li saret filgħaxija.

Fl-istess jum, is-Sur Brincat indirizza laqgħa konġunta tal-Kumitat dwar l-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, il-Kumitat dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi, u l-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet Ekonomiċi u Finanzjarji tal-Parlament. Fid-diskors tiegħu s-Sur Brincat elabora fuq ir-Rapport Annwali tal-2016. Huwa spjega li l-2016 kienet l-ewwel sena f'ħafna snin li fiha l-ECA ħarġet opinjoni kwalifikata minflok opinjoni avversa, u li din kienet riflessjoni tat-titjib sostnut fl-infiq tal-UE. Il-Kontijiet tal-UE jippreżentaw veduta veritiera u ġusta, li turi li l-proporzjon ta' nfiq irregolari kompla jitnaqqas fl-2016, tant li l-livell ġenerali ta' żball għall-infiq tal-UE fl-2016 kien stmat bħala 3.1%, imqabbel mat-3.8% tal-2015 u l-4.4% tal-2014, filwaqt li d-dħul tal-UE fl-2016 kien ħieles minn żball materjali.

Is-Sur Brincat irrimarka li l-istrateġija l-ġdida tal-ECA ġiet adottata u li din ser tassisti lill-Qorti biex tilħaq l-objettivi strateġiċi tagħha sal-2020, li huma li tissoda l-ġestjoni tal-finanzi tal-UE, u li titjieb il-prestazzjoni tal-aspetti kollha tal-ħidma tal-UE. Huwa spjega li l-Qorti kienet qed tpoġġi aktar emfasi fuq l-aspetti tal-prestazzjoni tal-ħidma tal-UE għax dan jgħin sabiex jiġi żgurat li ċ-ċittadini qed jirċievu valur għall-flus li qed iħallsu lill-UE mit-taxxi tagħhom u li dan l-infiq verament qed jgħin lill-komunitajiet Ewropej. B'hekk, l-ECA qed jikkontribwixxi b'mod attiv sabiex ikun hemm aktar valur miżjud f'livell Ewropew. Is-sur Brincat ta rendikont tar-referenzi għal Malta fir-Rapport Annwali tal-2016.

Is-sur Brincat ħabbar li huwa qed iservi bħala membru tal-Kamra V, il-kamra responsabbli għall-Finanzjar u l-Amministrazzjoni tal-Unjoni, u li fost l-oħrajn huwa responsabbli għar-rappurtaġġ dwar id-Dħul tal-UE fir-Rapport Annwali.

# Visit from the Maltese representative in the European Court of Auditors

On 19 December Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit from the Maltese representative to the European Court of Auditors (ECA) Mr Leo Brincat. Mr Brincat presented the *EU Audit in Brief* – the 2016 annual report, stating that the report indicates "proof of sustained improvement in EU spending". Speaker Farrugia thanked Mr Brincat for his work and dedication in the European Court of Auditors and tabled the report in Parliament during the evening sitting.

On the same day, Mr Brincat addressed a joint meeting of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, the Public Accounts Committee as well as the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee. In his speech, Mr Brincat elaborated on the 2016 Reprot. He noted that 2016 was the first year in many years in which the ECA issued a qualified opinion and not an adverse opinion, reflecting a sustained improvement in EU spending. The EU accounts present a true and fair view and the share of irregular spending was further reduced in 2016, such that the overall level of error for EU spending in 2016 was estimated at 3.1%, compared with 3.8% in 2015 and 4.4% in 2014 whereas the EU Revenue in 2016 was free from material error.

Mr Brincat remarked that the new strategy of the ECA has been adopted and will assist the Court in reaching its strategic objectives by 2020 in addressing the challenges of sound financial management as well as aiming to increase the focus on all performance aspects of EU action. He explained that the ECA is placing more reliance on the performance aspects of EU action because this performance auditing helps to ensure that taxpayers are receiving value for money that benefits their respective communities. In this way, the ECA is contributing actively to strengthen the added value at a European level. Mr Brincat also gave an account of the references to Malta in the 2016 Annual Report.

Mr Brincat announced that he is serving as a member of Chamber V, the chamber responsible for Financing and Administering the Union.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali

## L-Ispeaker imexxi delegazzjoni f'Kuba

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, il-Whip tal-Gvern l-Onor. Byron Camilleri u l-Onor. Hermann Schiavone żaru Kuba bejn it-3 u s-7 ta' Settembru fuq stedina tal-President tal-Parlament Kuban.

Waqt laqgħa mal-President tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali tal-Poter Popolari ta' Kuba Juan Esteban Lazo Hernández, iż-żewġ naħat qablu li minkejja li r-relazzjonijiet diplomatiċi bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi ilhom stabbiliti mill-1977, għad hemm lok fejn il-koperazzjoni bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi tissaħħaħ f'bosta setturi, fosthom il-kummerċ, il-kultura, u l-bidla fil-klima. Tali koperazzjoni tista' tkun ta' benefiċċju għaż-żewġ naħat.

F'laqgħa mad-Deputat Ministru għas-Saħħa Pubblika Kubana, Marcia Cobas Ruíz, id-delegazzjoni parlamentari ddiskutiet bosta temi, fosthom is-saħħa, l-importanza tar-riċerka fil-mediċina u kif iż-żewġ pajjiżi jistgħu jesploraw il-possibiltajiet li jwettqu proġetti flimkien fil-qasam tas-saħħa, partikolarment fil-kura tal-kanċer u d-dijabete.

Id-delegazzjoni ddiskutiet temi ta' interess komuni għal Malta u Kuba mad-Deputat Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin Kuban Ana Teresita González Fraga. Waqt din il-laqgħa l-Ispeaker Farrugia rrefera għat-Tielet Summit EU-CELAC, li kellu jsir f'Ottubru 2017 f'San Salvador, u qal li dan is-Summit kellhu jipprovdi opportunità lill-Unjoni Ewropea u lill-pajjiżi tal-Amerika-Latina u tal-Karibew biex jikkonfermaw il-momentum pożittiv fuq kwistjonijiet globali u biex jerġgħu jaffermaw l-impenn komuni għat-tisħiħ tal-multilateraliżmu, b'enfasi partikolari fuq in-Nazzjonijiet Uniti.

Id-delegazzjoni Maltija ltaqgħet ukoll mal-President tal-Kummissjoni għall-Affarijiet Kostituzzjonali u Ġudizzjarji tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali tal-Poter Popolari ta' Kuba, Dr José Luis Toledo. Waqt il-laqgħa, iż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew l-importanza tad-demokrazija parlamentari. Huma tkellmu wkoll dwar ir-relazzjonijiet bejn Kuba u l-Unjoni Ewropea, liema relazzjonijiet issaħħu sostanzjalment minn mindu reġa' beda d-djalogu politiku u l-koperazzjoni fl-2008.

Waqt iż-żjara f'Kuba d-delegazzjoni żaret l-iskola 'Solidarjetà mal-Panama', skola li tospita tfal bi bżonnijiet speċjali. L-Ispeaker Farrugia rrimarka li kien impressjonat bil-fatt li l-istudenti ta' din l-iskola fehmu l-importanza tat-tagħlim u l-edukazzjoni għax fehmu li l-futur tagħhom jinsab f'idejhom stess. L-Ispeaker awgura lill-istudenti suċċess fl-istudji tagħhom u ħeġġeġ liż-żagħżagħ ikomplu fuq dak li bnew ġenerazzjonijiet passati. Id-delegazzjoni kellha wkoll l-opportunità li żżur iċ-Ċentru għall-Istudju taż-Żagħżagħ Kubani.

# Speaker leads delegation to Cuba

Speaker of the House Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, Government Whip Hon. Byron Camilleri and Hon. Hermann Schiavone visited Cuba between 3 and 7 September on the invitation of the President of the Cuban Parliament.

During the meeting with the President of the Cuban National Assembly of People's Power Juan Esteban Lazo Hernández, both sides agreed that although the diplomatic relations between both countries were established way back in 1977, there is still ample scope to further deepen the cooperation between the two countries in various areas such as trade, culture, and climate change, which could be of mutual benefit.

In a meeting with Cuban Deputy Minister for Public Health, Marcia Cobas Ruíz, the Maltese delegation discussed various themes, including health, the importance of research in medicine and how the two countries can explore possibilities for joint projects in this field, particularly in treatment of cancer and diabetes.

The delegation also discussed topics of interest to both Malta and Cuba with Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of Cuba Ana Teresita González Fraga. During the meeting, Speaker Farrugia referred to the III EU-CELAC summit, which was to take place in San Salvador in October 2017, stating that this would provide an opportunity for the EU and the Latin-American and Caribbean countries to confirm a positive momentum on global issues and to reaffirm the shared commitment to strengthening multilateralism, focusing on the UN.

The President of the Constitutional and Judicial Affairs Commission of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba, Dr José Luis Toledo, also received the Maltese delegation. During the meeting, both sides discussed the importance of the role of parliamentary democracy. Reference was also made to the Cuba–EU relations, which relations deepened significantly since the 2008 re-launch of political dialogue and cooperation.

During their stay in Cuba the delegation also visited 'Solidarity with Panama' School, a school which hosts children with special needs. Speaker Farrugia remarked that he was impressed that students at this school recognised the importance of education and learning, since they understood that their future is in their own hands. The Speaker wished the students success in their studies and augured that today's youth continue building on that built by previous generations. The delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Study Centre of Cuban Youth.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## Konferenza Interparlamentari dwar il-Politika Barranija u tas-Sigurtà Komuni (CFSP) u l-Politika ta' Sigurtà u ta' Difiża Komuni (CSDP)

Iċ-Chairperson tal-Kumitat Parlamentari dwar l-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, l-Onor. Edward Zammit Lewis, u l-Onor. Jason Azzopardi attendew għall-Konferenza Interparlamentari dwar il-Politika Barranija u tas-Sigurtà Komuni (CFSP) u l-Politika ta' Sigurtà u ta' Difiża Komuni (CSDP) li ttellgħet f'Tallinn, l-Estonja, bejn is-7 u d-9 ta' Settembru bħala parti mid-Dimensjoni Parlamentari tal-Presidenza Estonjana tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Bit-tema 'Unità permezz tal-Bilanċ', membri ta' parlamenti nazzjonali mill-Istati Membri tal-Unjoni Ewropea ddiskutew 'Għaliex l-Ewropa hija importanti? – L-Ewropa f'kuntest globali', 'Insaħħu l-unità tal-punent u r-relazzjonijiet transatlantiċi', 'Il-Prijoritajiet tal-UE fil-qasam tas-CFSP u s-CSDP', 'Il-qagħda attwali lil hinn mill-fruntieri tal-UE', 'It-Tisħiħ tad-difiża Ewropea', u 'Aspetti prattiċi tad-dinja hybrid li tinkludi l-isfera ċibernetika u l-komunikazzjoni strateġika'. Fl-interventi tiegħu waqt il-laqgħa, l-Onor. Zammit Lewis ħeġġeġ għal distinzjoni bejn l-istrateġiji ta' komunikazzjoni f'livelli Ewropej u nazzjonali sabiex li jiġu spjegati l-vantaġġi u l-opportunitajiet ta' Ewropa integrata. L-Onor. Zammit Lewis irrefera għax-xogħol tal-Bank Ewropew tal-Investiment bħala eżempju, u staqsa kemm iċ-ċittadini Ewropej verament jafu x'inhu r-rwol, il-funzjonijiet u l-baġit ta' din l-istituzzjoni, li taħdem sabiex tiġi mtejba l-ħajja tagħhom.

## L-Ispeaker iżur il-President tal-Italja

Fl-14 ta' Settembru l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, għamel żjara ta' kortesija lill-President tar-Repubblika Taljana, l-ET Sergio Mattarella, waqt li dan kien fuq żjara Statali f'Malta. L-Ispeaker Farrugia u l-President Mattarella enfasizzaw ir-relazzjonijiet bilaterali eċċellenti li jeżistu bejn Malta u l-Italja, liema relazzjonijiet ġew ikkonsolidati mal-medda taż-żmien tramite diversi ftehimiet, inklużi l-ħames Protokolli Finanzjarji u l-ħmistax-il Ftehim Kulturali u Edukattiv. Iż-żewġ dinjitarji ddiskutew is-sitwazzjoni internazzjonali, b'attenzjoni partikolari fuq dik fil-Mediterran. Huma qablu li l-migrazzjoni għandha tiġi ġestita tajjeb u li l-Istati Membri tal-Unjoni Ewropea għandhom juru solidarjetà attiva f'dan il-qasam. L-importanza tad-diplomazija parlamentari, ir-rwol tal-Parlamenti nazzjonali u l-kooperazzjoni parlamentari f'organizzazzjonijiet internazzjonali ġew diskussi wkoll f'din il-laqgħa. Iż-żewġ naħat irrimarkaw ukoll dwar il-kooperazzjoni mill-qrib li teżisti bejn il-Kamra tad-Deputati Maltija, is-Senat Taljan u l-Kamra tad-Deputati Taljana.

## Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign and European Affairs, Hon. Edward Zammit Lewis, and Hon. Jason Azzopardi attended the Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) held in Tallinn, Estonia, within the Parliamentary Dimension of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, between 7 and 9 September. Within the theme of 'Unity through balance', members of National parliaments from European Union Member States discussed 'Why Europe Matters? – Europe in the global context', 'Invigorating the unity of the west and transatlantic relations', 'Priorities of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP', 'State of play beyond the EU borders', 'Ways to strengthen European defence', and 'Practical aspects of the hybrid world including the cyber sphere and strategic communication'.

Participating during the meeting, Hon. Zammit Lewis urged for a distinction between European and national levels of communication strategies in an attempt to explain the advantages and opportunities of an integrated Europe. Referring to the work done by the European Investment Bank to improve European citizens' life as an example, Hon. Zammit Lewis questioned the extent to which European citizens know the role, functions and budget of the European Investment Bank.

## The Speaker calls on the Italian President

On 14 September the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia paid a courtesy call on the President of the Italian Republic, HE Sergio Mattarella, who was on a State Visit to Malta. Speaker Farrugia and President Mattarella highlighted the excellent bilateral relations that exist between Malta and Italy, which relations have been consolidated over the years through various agreements, including, the five Financial Protocols and the fifteen Cultural and Educational Agreements. The two dignitaries discussed the international situation, with particular focus on that in the Mediterranean. They agreed that migration must be managed properly and that the Member States of the European Union should show active solidarity. The importance of parliamentary diplomacy, the role of national Parliaments and parliamentary cooperation in international organisations also featured in the talks. In this regard, the close cooperation between the Maltese House of Representatives and the Italian Senate and Chamber of Deputies was highlighted.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tal-Kummerċ

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, irrappreżenta lill-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA) fid-39 Sessjoni tal-Kumitat tat-Tmexxija tal-Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tal-Kummerċ (WTO), li kienet organizzata mill-Unjoni Interparlamentari (IPU) u l-Parlament Ewropew f'Ġinevra bejn is-26 u t-28 ta' Settembru. L-Ispeaker Farrugia ppartećipa ukoll fil-Forum Pubbliku tal-WTO, li kien jinkludi sessjoni parlamentari bit-tema "Kummerċ ġust: il-kontribut tal-Parlamenti". Is-suġġetti diskussi matul il-Konferenza inkludew it-tisħiħ tar-rwol tal-parlament sabiex tiġi żgurata l-kontribuzzjoni ġusta tal-kummerċjanti, il-promozzjoni tad-djalogu bejn azjendi soċjali, l-appoġġ għal djalogu globali u r-rwol tat-*trade unions*. Gie diskuss ukoll Brexit. Matul il-bosta interventi tiegħu, l-Ispeaker Farrugia ffoka fuq l-isfidi ffaċċjati minn nazzjonijiet u territorji żgħar.

## Sessjoni tal-Ħarifa tal-OSCE PA

Id-delegazzjoni Maltija għall-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Organizzazzjoni għas-Sigurtà u l-Koperazzjoni fl-Ewropa (OSCE PA), immexxija mill-Onor. Rosianne Cutajar, ippartećipat fis-Sessjoni tal-Ħarifa tal-2017 li ġiet organizzata f'Andorra bejn it-3 u l-5 ta' Ottubru. Id-delegazzjoni kienet tinkludi wkoll lill-Onor. Emmanuel Mallia u lill-Onor. Hermann Schiavone. F'intervent waqt il-laqgħa tal-Forum tal-Mediterran, l-Onor. Mallia enfasizza l-importanza li jiġi żgurat li l-qafas regolatorju eżistenti dwar il-governanza tal-oċeani u t-tkabbir blu jindirizza l-isfidi tas-settur b'mod effettiv. Huwa saħaq fuq l-importanza tar-rwol tal-parlamentari fl-għoti ta' għajnuna għall-ħolqien tal-għarfien marittimu, ċertezza legali u sigurtà fl-ekonomija blu sabiex dawn is-setturi jirnexxu. F'diskors dwar it-tibdil fil-klima, l-Onor. Hermann Schiavone saħaq li peress li ekonomiji żviluppati u dawk li qed jiżviluppaw jikkontribwixxu aktar lejn it-tibdil fil-klima, dawn għandhom aktar responsabbiltajiet f'dak li jirrigwarda l-ġlieda kontra t-tibdil fil-klima u fl-għoti ta' għajnuna sabiex pajjiżi bi dħul baxx jimmaniġġjaw il-konsegwenzi tagħha. Hu saħaq ukoll li l-parlamentari għandhom id-dmir li jappellaw għal azzjoni dwar il-klima. L-Onor. Rosianne Cutajar tkellmet dwar l-importanza ta' edukazzjoni inklussiva fil-promozzjoni tal-paċi, u ddikjarat li l-kapital uman huwa kruċjali għall-progress ta' pajjiż, partikolarment f'pajjiż bi ftit riżorsi naturali. L-Onor. Cutajar ħeġġet lill-gvernijiet sabiex jallokaw fondi suffiċjenti għall-edukazzjoni, anke fi żminijiet ta' kriżi ekonomika u finanzjarja, għax dan huwa investiment li jikkontribwixxi għal tkabbir fit-tul, rati baxxi ta' qgħad u ħaddiema mħarrġa.

## Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, represented the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) at the 39th Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (WTO), which was organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament and held in Geneva between the 26 and 28 September. Speaker Farrugia also participated in a WTO Public Forum, which included the parliamentary session entitled “Making trade fair: The contribution of parliaments”. The subjects discussed during the Conference included strengthening the role of parliament to ensure fair contribution by traders, the promotion of social business dialogue, support for global dialogue and the role of trade unions. Brexit also featured in the discussions. During his various interventions, Speaker Farrugia focused on the challenges faced by small nations and territories.

## Autumn Session of the OSCE PA

The Maltese delegation to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), led by Hon. Rosianne Cutajar and comprising Hon. Emmanuel Mallia and Hon. Hermann Schiavone, participated in the 2017 Autumn Session which was held in Andorra between 3 and 5 October. In an intervention during the meeting of the Mediterranean Forum, Hon. Mallia highlighted the importance of ensuring that the existing regulatory framework on ocean governance and blue growth effectively address challenges in the sector. He stressed the importance of the role of parliamentarians’ in supporting the creation of marine knowledge, legal certainty and security in the blue economy for these sub-sectors to prosper. Speaking of climate change, Hon. Hermann Schiavone stressed that developed and developing economies are larger contributors to climate change and, therefore, have additional responsibilities with regard to tackling climate change and helping low-income countries manage its consequences. He also stressed the duty of parliamentarians’ advocate in favour of climate action. Hon. Rosianne Cutajar spoke of the importance of inclusive education in the promotion of peace, stating that a nation’s human capital is crucial for its progress, particularly in countries with fewer natural resources. Hon. Cutajar encouraged governments to allocate sufficient funding for education, even in times of economic downturn and crisis, as this is an investment which will contribute to long-term growth, low unemployment and skilled labourers.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## Ir-Raba' Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-PACE tal-2017

L-Onor. Emmanuel Mallia, l-Onor. David Stellini u l-Onor. Etienne Grech ipparteċipaw fir-Raba' Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-2017 tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa (PACE), li ġiet organizzata fi Strasbourg, Franza, bejn id-9 u t-13 ta' Ottubru. L-Assemblea tlaqqa' flimkien 324 membru parlamentari mis-47 stat membru tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. Għalkemm fiha ħafna vuċijiet li jirriflettu l-opinjoni politika mal-firxa tal-kontinent, il-missjoni tal-Assemblea hija li tħares il-valuri komuni tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem, id-demokrazija u ż-żamma tal-liġi li huma l-"wirt komuni" tal-popli tal-Ewropa. Is-Sessjoni Plenarja ddiskutiet u addottat rakkomandazzjonijiet u riżoluzzjonijiet fuq temi varji ta' interess, inkluż l-unità u s-sigurtà tal-Ewropa, il-koperazzjoni intergovernamentali, l-użu ta' teknoloġiji ġenetiċi umani ġodda, id-drittijiet ta' persuni *intersex*, l-attivitajiet tal-Organizzazzjoni għall-Koperazzjoni u l-Iżvilupp Ekonomiku (OECD), it-tisħiħ tad-demokrazija, it-trasparenza, il-kontabbiltà u l-integrità tal-membri tal-Assemblea Parlamentari, id-demokrazija fil-Ġordan u l-Ażerbajġan, iċ-"Checklist dwar l-Istat tad-Dritt" maħruġa mill-Kummissjoni ta' Venezja, it-theddid għall-istat tad-dritt, il-liġi l-ġdida tal-Ukraina dwar l-edukazzjoni, u l-prosekuzzjoni u l-ikkastigar tal-atti kriminali kontra l-umanità, li possibbilment jikkostitwixxu ġenoċidju, imwettqa mid-Daesh. Il-moviment tal-indipendenza fil-Katalonja kien inkluż ukoll fit-taħdidiet. Apparti li attendew għas-sessjoni plenarja, il-membri Maltin ipparteċipaw fil-laqgħat tal-gruppi politiċi rispettivi kif ukoll tal-kumitati. Bħala Kap tad-Delegazzjoni, l-Onor. Emmanuel Mallia pparteċipa fil-laqgħa tal-Kumitat Konġunt, li fiha ġie deċiż il-kalendarju għall-elezzjoni ta' Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa kif ukoll ġiet diskussa r-Riżoluzzjoni 2186 li titlob li jinżamm Summit tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa sabiex tiġi affermata mill-ġdid l-unità Ewropea u sabiex is-sigurtà demokratika fl-Ewropa tiġi difiża u promossa. L-Onor. Mallia pparteċipa wkoll fis-Sottokumitat dwar id-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem, li fih ippropona lista ta' tliet kandidati li minnhom il-Kumitat tal-Ministri jista' jappunta' Membru Malti fuq il-Kumitat tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa għall-Prevenzjoni tat-Tortura.

## Il-137 Assemblea Ġenerali tal-IPU

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, mexxa delegazzjoni tal-Parlament Malti magħmula mill-Onor. Alex Muscat u l-Onor. Mario Galea, għall-137 Assemblea Ġenerali tal-Unjoni Interparlamentari (IPU) li nżammet f'San Pietruburgu, ir-Russja, bejn il-15 u t-18 ta' Ottubru. L-Assemblea Ġenerali sservi bħala pjattaforma għal diskussjoni miftuħa u ugwali fost il-parlamentari li jirrappreżentaw kważi kull pajjiż fid-dinja, bit-tema magħżula għall-2017 tkun 'Nippromwovu l-Pluralità Kulturali u l-Paċi permezz ta' Djalogu Interfidi u Interetniku'. Il-laqgħa ttrattat temi varji, inkluż id-demokrazija u d-drittijiet tal-bniedem, l-iżvilupp sostenibbli, il-finanzi u l-kummerċ, u l-paċi u s-sigurtà internazzjonali. Fl-indirizz tiegħu waqt is-sessjoni ta' livell għoli għall-Presidenti tal-parlamenti, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia appella għal tolleranza reliġjuża u koeżistenza paċifika f'soċjetà interfidi, u rrimarka li l-leġiżlaturi għandhom jiżguraw li l-liġijiet nazzjonali jindirizzaw b'mod adegwat id-diskriminazzjoni u l-intolleranza. Il-201 sessjoni tal-Kunsill li jiggverna l-IPU approva Stqarrija Presidenzjali dwar l-istat tad-demokrazija fid-dinja tal-lum, li ddenunzjat l-assassinju tal-ġurnalista Maltija Daphne Caruana Galizia u sejħet għall-protezzjoni tal-ġurnalisti mad-dinja kollha. Matul il-137 Assemblea Ġenerali tal-IPU saret ukoll l-elezzjoni ta' l-President tal-IPU għall-perjodu 2017-2020, li fiha ġiet eletta s-Senatur mill-Messiku Gabriella Cuevas Barron.

## Fourth Part of the 2017 Ordinary Session of the PACE

Hon. Emmanuel Mallia, Hon. David Stellini and Hon. Etienne Grech participated in the Fourth Part of the 2017 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which was held in Strasbourg, France, between the 9 and 13 October. The Assembly brings together 324 parliamentarians from the Council of Europe's 47 member states. Though it comprises many voices reflecting political opinion across the continent, its mission is to uphold the shared values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law that are the "common heritage" of the peoples of Europe. The Plenary Session discussed and adopted recommendations and resolutions on various topics of interest, including European unity and security, inter-governmental cooperation, the use of new genetic technologies in human beings, human rights of intersex persons, the activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), strengthening democracy, transparency, accountability and integrity of Parliamentary Assembly members, democracy in Jordan and Azerbaijan, the Venice Commission's "Rule of Law Checklist", threats to rule of law, the new Ukrainian law on education, and prosecuting and punishing the crimes against humanity or even possible genocide committed by Daesh. The independence movement in Catalonia also featured in the talks. Besides attending the plenary, Maltese members participated in the meetings of their respective political groupings and Committees.  As Head of Delegation, Hon Emanuel Mallia, participated in the meeting of the Joint Committee, wherein follow-up actions regarding the calendar for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and regarding Resolution 2186 (2017), that is 'Call for a Council of Europe Summit to reaffirm European unity and to defend and promote democratic security in Europe' were decided. Hon. Mallia also participated in the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, where he proposed a list of three candidates from which the Maltese Member on the Committee for the Prevention of Torture was to be appointed by the Committee of Ministers.

## 137th IPU General Assembly

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, led the Maltese delegation to the IPU, comprising Hon. Alex Muscat and Hon. Mario Galea, to the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly held in St Petersburg, Russia, between 15 and 18 October. The General Assembly serves as a platform for an open and equal discussion among parliamentarians representing almost all states in the world, with the theme chosen for 2017 being 'Promoting Cultural Pluralism and Peace through Inter-Faith and Inter-Ethnic Dialogue'. The meeting tackled various topics, including democracy and human rights, sustainable development, finance and trade, peace and international security. In his address during the high-level segment for Speakers of parliaments, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia delved into religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence in an inter-faith society, remarking that legislators must make sure that national laws adequately tackle discrimination and bigotry. The IPU Governing Council, during its 201st session, endorsed a 'Presidential statement on the state of democracy in the world today', which denounced the assassination of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia and called for the protection of journalists all around the world. The 137th IPU General Assembly also included the election of a new IPU President for 2017-2020, during which session Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barron from Mexico was elected IPU President.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## Il-Konferenza Interparlamentari dwar l-Istabbiltà, il-Kordinazzjoni Ekonomika u l-Governanza fl-UE

L-Onor. Emmanuel Mallia, President tal-Kumitat Parlamentari għall-Affarijiet Ekonomiċi u Finanzjarji tal-Parlament, u l-Onor. Ivan Bartolo pparteċipaw fil-Konferenza Interparlamentari dwar l-Istabbiltà, il-Kordinazzjoni Ekonomika u l-Governanza fl-UE li nżammet ġewwa Tallinn, l-Estonja, fit-30 u l-31 ta' Ottubru. Din il-laqgħa kienet organizzata bħala parti mid-Dimensjoni Parlamentari tal-Presidenza Estonjana tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea u laqqgħet flimkien membri tal-parlamenti nazzjonali mill-Istati Membri tal-UE sabiex jiddiskutu temi ekonomiċi u finanzjarji ma' rappreżentanti politiċi u uffiċjali għolja minn istituzzjonijiet importanti bħall-Kummissjoni Ewropea, l-OECD u l-banek ċentrali tal-Istati Membri. Il-konferenza indirizzat il-futur tal-Unjoni Monetarja Ewropea, riformi nazzjonali, assistenza finanzjarja u programmi ta' investiment, ġbir effettiv tat-taxxa u l-isfidi futuri għall-baġit tal-UE.

Fl-intervent tiegħu waqt is-sessjoni dwar il-ġbir effettiv tat-taxxi, l-Onor. Mallia ħeġġeġ lill-Kummissjoni Ewropea sabiex tapprezza l-karatteristiċi differenti tal-Istati Membri fit-tfassil tal-proposti leġislattivi dwar it-taxxa. Waqt li esprima s-sapport tiegħu għal tassazzjoni ġusta u żieda fit-trasparenza, l-Onor. Mallia saħaq dwar l-importanza tas-sovranità fiskali fil-qasam tat-tassazzjoni, mogħtija lill-Istati Membri permezz tat-Trattati. F'risposta għall-mistoqsija mill-Onor. Mallia rigward kif il-Kummissjoni tippjana li tikkrea bilanċ bejn iż-żieda fl-effiċjenza fl-amministrazzjoni tat-taxxa u r-rispett għas-sovranità fiskali tal-Istati Membri, ir-rappreżentant tal-Kummissjoni qal li kwalunkwe sistema implimentata trid taħdem b'mod effiċjenti għall-Unjoni fit-totalità tagħha, u semma l-intenzjoni tal-Kummissjoni li tintroduċi Bażi Komuni Konsolidata tat-Taxxa Korporattiva.

Waqt is-sessjoni dwar l-isfidi li tibdil fl-Unjoni qiegħed ifisser għall-baġit tal-Unjoni Ewropea, l-Onor. Bartolo tkellem favur li l-kontribut tal-Istati Membri jinżamm għoli bħala kumpens għan-nuqqas ta' dħul b'konsegwenza tal-ħruġ tar-Renju Unit mill-Unjoni Ewropea. Huwa tkellem dwar l-importanza li d-deċiżjonijiet jittieħdu wara li l-konsegwenzi fit-tul ta' dawn id-deċiżjonijiet jiġu studjati sew. Il-baġit tal-Unjoni Ewropea jikkumplimenta baġits nazzjonali peress li jiffinanzja proġetti kbar li l-Istati Membri ma jistgħux jiffinanzjaw mingħajr għajnuna, u li jagħtu valur miżjud f'livell Ewropew. L-Onor. Bartolo fakkar li l-baġit tal-Unjoni Ewropea jħalli riżultati pożittivi lil hinn sew mill-qasam ekonomiku, u għandu impatt pożittiv ġenerali fuq l-istabilità politika u l-koeżjoni soċjali fit-territorju kollu tal-UE li ma jistax jiġi kkwantifikat f'ammonti.

# Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU

Hon. Emmanuel Mallia, Chairman of the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Maltese House of Representatives, and Hon. Ivan Bartolo participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU held in Tallinn, Estonia on 30 and 31 October. This meeting was organised as part of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU and brings together national parliamentarians from EU Member States to discuss economic and financial issues with political representatives and high-level senior officials from important institutions such as the European Commission, the OECD and Member States' central banks. The conference addressed the future of the European Monetary Union, national reforms, financial assistance and investment programmes, effective tax-collection and future challenges for the EU budget.

In his intervention during the session on collecting taxes efficiently, Hon. Mallia called on the European Commission to take into account the different characteristics of the Member States when drafting legislative proposals on taxation. While supporting fair taxation and enhanced transparency, Hon. Mallia advocated for respecting fiscal sovereignty in the field of taxation, which is granted to Member States through the Treaties. In response to a question by Hon. Mallia on how the Commission intends to create a balance between increasing efficiency in tax administration and upholding Member States' fiscal sovereignty, the Commission representative stated that any system employed needs to work efficiently for the entire Union, and mentioned the Commission's intention to introduce a digital Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base.

Speaking in the session on the challenges that a changing Union represents for the EU's budget, Hon. Bartolo argued in favour of retaining Member States' contributions to the EU budget high to compensate for the loss of income resulting from the UK's forthcoming withdrawal from the EU. He advocated for taking decisions after taking due consideration of their long-term implications. The EU budget complements national budgets in that it finances large-scale projects which Member States cannot finance without support and which add value at European level. Hon. Bartolo recalled that the EU budget leaves positive results well beyond the economic sphere – it has an overall positive impact on political stability and social cohesion in the entire EU territory which cannot be quantified in sums.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## Is-36 Laqgħa tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA

Waqt il-ftuħ tas-36 Laqgħa tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar, organizzata f'Dhaka, il-Bangladexx, fit-2 u t-3 ta' Novembru bħala parti mit-63 Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPC), l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati u Chairperson tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tal-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA), l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia spjega li għall-ewwel darba fil-106 sena ta' storja tagħha, is-CPA kienet qiegħda taspira li tilħaq il-ħtiġijiet partikolari ta' żvilupp tat-43 l-iċken leġiżlaturi tagħha permezz tal-'Istrateġija tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA', li kienet għadha kif ġiet imfassla. L-istrateġija tirrikonoxxi li l-fergħat iż-żgħar qed jippruvaw jagħtu l-istess livell ta' servizz li jagħtu leġiżlaturi kbar minkejja restrizzjonijiet fiskali u fir-riżorsi umani; tirrikonoxxi ir-rwol ċentrali tal-parlament sabiex jintlaħqu l-isfidi tal-ġlieda kontra l-korruzzjoni u tirrikonoxxi t-theddid li l-bidla fil-klima ġġib għall-membri l-aktar vulnerabbli tal-Commonwealth. L-istrateġija l-ġdida tiffoka fuq temi prinċipali u l-iżvilupp ta' attivitajiet b'eżiti li jistgħu jitkejlu; it-tkabbir tal-kapaċità tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA u l-ħolqien ta' opportunitajiet ġodda li fihom il-parlamenti fin-netwerk jistgħu jaqsmu l-għarfien, jikkooperaw u jissaħħu. L-Abbozz tal-Istrateġija għall-perjodu 2018-2019 ġie mfassal waqt laqgħa apposta li ġiet organizzata f'Malta bejn id-19 u l-20 t'Ottubru, u li laqqgħet rappreżentanti mid-disa' reġjuni tas-CPA. L-Abbozz ġie ppreżentat lill-plenarja waqt il-laqgħa annwali fil-Bangladexx, fejn ġie approvat b'mod unanimu mill-membri tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar. Il-pass li jmiss huwa li l-Abbozz jiġi ppreżentat għall-approvazzjoni sħiħa fil-laqgħa ta' nofs is-sena tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tas-CPA, liema laqgħa ser issir fil-Mauritius f'April 2018. Il-Konferenza ddiskutiet numru ta' temi li huma relevanti ħafna għall-Fergħat iż-Żgħar: 'Massa Kritika: Ġurisdizzjonijiet żgħar u problemi kbar - L-isfidi tal-loġistika u l-infrastruttura li għandhom fergħat żgħar sabiex jilħqu l-aspettattivi tagħhom u jwasslu servizz ta' livell ugwali ma' pajjiżi żgħar'; 'Innovazzjoni parlamentari f'ġurisdizzjonijiet żgħar f'kuntest ta' sfidi finanzjarji u ta' riżorsi umani'; 'Ir-rwol tal-parlament fil-ġlieda kontra l-korruzzjoni' u 'Ir-rwol li għandu l-parlament sabiex jintlaħqu l-isfidi tal-protezzjoni tal-ilmijiet territorjali'.

## 36th Meeting of the CPA Small Branches

Opening the 36th Meeting of the Small Branches, organised in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 2 and 3 November as part of the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Small Branches of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Hon. Anġlu Farrugia explained that for the first time in its 106-year history, the CPA will seek to meet the unique developmental needs of its 43 smallest legislatures through a newly-devised ‘CPA Small Branches Strategy’. This Strategy acknowledges that Small Branches are seeking to meet the same expectations of service delivery as larger legislatures despite fiscal and human resource constraints; recognises the central role of parliament in meeting the challenges of combatting corruption; and acknowledges the threats that climate change bring to some of the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable members. The new strategy focuses on key thematic areas and development activities with measurable outcomes; it builds parliamentary capacity for CPA Small Branches and creates greater opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, parliamentary strengthening, and cooperation across the network. The draft Strategy was presented to the plenary as mapped out during a meeting held in Malta on 19 and 20 October, whereby representatives from the nine regions of the CPA were brought together to compile a draft Strategy for the period 2018-2019. The draft Strategy was unanimously approved by the members of the Small Branches and will be presented for full approval in the forthcoming mid-year Executive Committee of the CPA which will be held in Mauritius in April 2018. The Conference then tackled a number of themes which were very relevant to Small Branches: ‘Critical Mass: Small Jurisdictions and big problems – Logistics and Infrastructure challenges to meet small jurisdiction expectations to achieve the same service levels as larger ones’; ‘Parliamentary innovations in small jurisdictions in the face of financial and human resource challenges’; ‘the role of parliament in combating corruption’; and ‘the role of parliament on meeting the challenges of protecting territorial waters’.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## It-63 Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati u Chairperson tal-Fergħat Żgħar tal-Commonwealth, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, mexxa delegazzjoni parlamentari magħamula mill-Whip tal-Gvern l-Onor. Byron Camilleri, l-Onor. Alex Muscat u l-Onor. Ryan Callus għat-63 Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPC), f'Dhaka, il-Bangladexx, bejn l-1 u t-8 ta' Novembru. Is-CPC hija l-konferenza annwali tal-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA), li tipprovdi pjattaforma unika għal djalogu interparlamentari, u li tlaqqa' flimkien Speakers, membri parlamentari u staff tal-parlamenti mid-disa' reġjuni tas-CPA, 52 pajjiż tal-Commonwealth u aktar minn 180 parlamenti u leġiżlaturi nazzjonali, statali, provinċjali u territorjali.

Il-Konferenza inkludiet *workshops* u dibattiti li ffukaw fuq l-importanza tal-iżvilupp tal-membri parlamentari, u l-prestazzjoni tal-Parlament bħala gwardjan tad-demokrazija u pilastru indipendenti fis-separazzjoni tal-poteri. It-temi tas-sessjonijiet kienu 'Id-Demokrazija trid Tirrendi: Ir-rwol tal-Parlament fl-indirizzar tal-Isfidi', 'Ir-rwol tal-Parlamentari fil-bini ta' rabtiet aktar b'saħħithom fi ħdan il-Commonwealth: inklużi kwistjonijiet ġodda rigward il-kummerċ, visa, restrizzjonijiet fl-ivjaġġar, restrizzjonijiet mhux abbażi ta' tariffi'; 'Id-Dibattitu dwar il-Bidla fil-Klima: Sfida għall-Commonwealth?", "L-Għanjiet ta' Żvilupp Sostenibbli (SDGs): Kif jistgħu l-Membri tas-CPA jaħdmu mal-gvernijiet tagħhom biex jiżguraw li d-differenzi fil-ġeneru jiġu indirizzati sew fit-twettiq tal-SDGs, sabiex jittaffa l-faqar u tingħata s-setgħa lin-nisa?', 'Massa Kritika: Ġurisdizzjonijiet żgħar u problemi kbar - L-isfidi tal-loġistika u l-infrastruttura', 'Punti ta' referenza tas-CPA għal-Leġiżlaturi Demokratiċi: Progress fl-aħħar 10 snin', 'Tingħata vuċi liż-żgħażagħ: Mekkaniżmi biex tiġi żgurata parteċipazzjoni effettiva taż-żgħażagħ fil-proċess ta' governanza', u 'Liema fatturi jżidu tipi differenti ta' nazzjonaliżmu?'

Il-programm inkluda wkoll aġġornament dwar is-sitwazzjoni tar-refuġjati Rohingya mill-Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin tal-Gvern tal-Bangladexx A. H. Mahmood Ali, li qal li sa dakinhar aktar minn 600,000 Rohingya kienu fittxew il-kenn fil-Bangladexx. Dan iġġenera interess konsiderevoli fost il-parteċipanti tal-Konferenza, tant li l-Ispeaker Farrugia ppropona li tiġi proposta u adottata riżoluzzjoni waqt l-Assemblea Ġenerali u tkun eventwalment ippreżentata lis-Segretarju Ġenerali tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti.

L-Assemblea Ġenerali inkludiet rendikont tal-attivitajiet tas-CPA tul l-aħħar sena, kif ukoll rapporti li rriżultaw mill-Konferenza ta' din is-sena. L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia, fl-irwol tiegħu bħala Chairman tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar, aġġorna lill-Assemblea dwar ix-xogħol tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar. Huwa semma l-progress miksub waqt il-laqgħa ta' l-Istrateġija tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar li saret f'Malta bejn id-19 u l-20 ta' Ottubru 2017, liema strateġija kienet ippreżentata lill-Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar li nżammet fit-2 u t-3 ta' Novembru fil-Bangladexx. Huwa qal li l-Pjan Strateġiku ġie ppreżentat lill-Kumitat Eżekuttiv sabiex jiġi approvat fil-laqgħa tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv ta' nofs is-sena.

Waqt l-Assemblea Ġenerali saret l-elezzjoni għal President u Chairperson tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv, fejn ġiet eletta l-kandidata Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, membru parlamentari mill-Cameroon. Waqt l-Assemblea Ġenerali ġiet ippreżentata wkoll stqarrija li sejħet għal azzjoni urġenti mill-komunità internazzjonali sabiex tiġi riżolta l-kriżi umanitarja ffaċċjata mill-komunità Rohingya, kif proposta mid-delegazzjoni Maltija u ssekondata mill-maġġoranza tad-delegati waqt is-sessjoni tal-ftuħ tal-konferenza. L-istqarrija kienet aċċettata u adottata b'mod unanimu.

## 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Small Branches of the Commonwealth, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, led a parliamentary delegation composed of Government Whip Hon. Byron Camilleri, Hon. Alex Muscat and Hon. Ryan Callus to the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, between 1 and 8 November. The CPC is the annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), which provides a unique platform for inter-parliamentary dialogue, bringing together Speakers, members of parliament and parliamentary staff representing the nine regions of the CPA, 52 countries of the Commonwealth, and over 180 national, state, provincial and territorial parliaments and legislatures.

The Conference included workshops and debates focusing on the importance of development for parliamentarians, and in turn parliament's performance as a guarantor of democracy and an independent pillar in the separation of powers. The themes of the sessions were 'Democracy must Deliver: Role of Parliament in addressing the Challenges', 'the role of Parliamentarians in building stronger ties within the Commonwealth: including new trade issues, visa issues, travel restrictions, non-tariff restrictions', 'the Climate Change Debate: A challenge for the Commonwealth?', 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's): How can CPA Members work with their own governments in ensuring that the SDG goals have a proper gender lens to ensure success in the areas of alleviating poverty and women's empowerment?', 'Critical Mass: Small jurisdictions and big problems - Logistics and infrastructure challenges; CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures: Progress in the past 10 years', 'Giving voice to the youth: Mechanisms for ensuring effective participation of youth in the governance process' and 'what factors fuel the rise of different kinds of nationalism?'

As part of the programme, a briefing on the Rohingya issue was made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bangladesh Government A. H. Mahmood Ali, who stated that more than 600,000 Rohingyas have taken shelter in Bangladesh to date. This generated a considerable interest among conference participants, with Speaker Farrugia proposing that a resolution be put forward and adopted in the General Assembly and eventually presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The General Assembly included a resumé of the CPA activities which took place over the last year, as well as reports resulting from this year's Conference. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia, in his capacity as Small Branches Chairperson, briefed the Assembly on the work done by the Small Branches. He gave an overview of the progress made following the Small Branches Strategy meeting held in Valletta between 19 and 20 October 2017, and which was presented to the Small Branches Conference heldon 2 and 3 November in Bangladesh. He stated that the Strategic Plan was now before the Executive Committee and is expected to be approved in the forthcoming mid-year Executive Committee meeting.

During the General Assembly, an election for a new President and Chairperson of the Executive Committee was held. The elected candidate was Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP from Cameroon. The General Assembly was also presented with a statement which called for urgent action from the international community to resolve the ongoing humanitarian crisis facing the Rohingyas community, as proposed by the Maltese Branch and seconded by the majority of delegates during the opening session of the conference. The statement was accepted and adopted unanimously.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## Membri Parlamentari Maltin iżuru kamp tar-refuġjati f'Cox's Bazar, fil-Bangladexx

Fid-9 ta' Novembru, fi tmiem it-63 Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPC), li saret fil-Bangladexx, l-Onor. Alex Muscat u l-Onor. Ryan Callus żaru l-kamp tar-refuġjati f'Cox's Bazar, li jospita r-rifuġjati Rohingya. Lord George Foulkes, membru tal-House of Lords Ingliża, li mexxa d-delegazzjoni waqt din iż-żjara, iddikjara li d-delegazzjoni Ingliża kienet ser iżżur Cox's Bazar biex tara s-sitwazzjoni vera tal-poplu tar-Rohingya, waqt li ddeskriva l-kriżi bħala 'ġenoċidju'. Iż-żewġ membri parlamentari Maltin urew interess li jżuru ż-żona u b'hekk ingħaqdu mad-delegazzjoni Ingliża fuq din il-missjoni. Iż-żjara tal-membri parlamentari Maltin ikkumplimentat stqarrija li għamel l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia waqt it-63 CPC, fejn ippropona li l-Konferenza taddotta stqarrija dwar il-'kriżi umanitarja kbira' li kienu qed jiffaċċjaw ir-refuġjati Rohingya. Il-parteċipanti tal-Konferenza, li kienu minn l-44 pajjiż tal-Commonwealth, laqgħu din il-proposta, u esprimew solidarjetà mal-Bangladexx fuq il-kriżi tar-Rohingya waqt li emfasizzaw il-bżonn li s-sitwazzjoni tiġi riżolta. L-istqarrija, li kienet addottata b'mod unanimu mill-Assemblea Ġenerali waqt il-laqgħa tas-7 ta' Novembru, tgħid li 'b'konsensus, it-63 Assemblea Ġenerali tas-CPA tadotta l-Istqarrija li titlob għal azzjoni urġenti mill-komunità internazzjonali sabiex tiġi riżolta l-kriżi umanitarja kurrenti li qed taffaċċja l-komunità Rohingya'.

## Iċ-Chair tal-PAC jipparteċipa fil-Konferenza tal-CAPAC

Delegazzjoni tal-Parlament Malti pparteċipat fil-Workshop ta' Westminster dwar il-Kumitati għall-Kontijiet Pubbliċi u l-Ewwel Konferenza tal-CAPAC, organizzata f'Londra bejn l-4 u s-7 ta' Diċembru. L-Onor. Beppe Fenech Adami ppresieda l-konferenza tal-CAPAC bħala Chairperson tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-CAPAC. Fid-diskors ewlieni tiegħu, huwa qal li l-importanza tal-Kumitati għall-Kontijiet Pubbliċi qiegħda dejjem tikber fid-demokraziji moderni. Huwa qal li minkejja d-differenzi fis-sistemi leġiżlattivi fi ħdan il-Commonwealth, xorta hemm prattiċi li huma simili, peress li l-leġiżlaturi kollha jaqsmu realtajiet u sfidi komuni . Il-Konferenza adottat dokument ippreżentat miċ-Chair tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv li jsemmi numru ta' prinċipji kkunsidrati bħala prattiċi tajba għall-Kumitati għall-Kontijiet Pubbliċi.

## Maltese MPs visit the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

On 9 November, at the end of the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Bangladesh, Hon. Alex Muscat and Hon. Ryan Callus visited the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, hosting Rohingya refugees. Lord George Foulkes of the British House of Lords, who led the delegation to Rohingya, declared that the British delegation would visit Cox's Bazar to see the exact situation of the Rohingya people on the ground, while describing the crisis as "genocide". The two Maltese MPs showed interest in visiting the area and therefore joined the British delegation on this mission. The visit of the Maltese MPs complemented a statement made by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia at the 63rd CPC, wherein he proposed that the Conference adopt a statement on the "great humanitarian crisis" faced by the Rohingya refugees. Conference participants, hailing from 44 Commonwealth countries, welcomed the proposal, expressing solidarity with Bangladesh over the Rohingya crisis whilst stressing the need for resolution. The statement, which was subsequently unanimously adopted at the General Assembly meeting held on 7 November, states that "the 63rd General Assembly of the CPA adopts by consensus the Statement calling for urgent action from the international community to resolve the ongoing humanitarian crisis facing the Rohingya's community".

## PAC Chair participates in CAPAC Conference

A Maltese Parliamentary delegation participated in the Westminster Workshop on Public Accounts Committee and the 1st CAPAC Conference, held in London between 4 and 7 December. Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami chaired the CAPAC conference as Chairperson of the CAPAC Executive Committee. In his keynote speech, he referred to the increasing importance of the Public Accounts Committees in today's democracies. He mentioned also the reality of the Commonwealth, and the different dimensions of legislatures within the Commonwealth, adding that nonetheless there still exist practices that are similar, as legislatures share common realities and similar challenges across the board. The Conference adopted a document present by the Chair of the Executive Committee outlining a number of principles deemed as good practices for Public Accounts Committees.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## It-LVIII COSAC

L-Onor. Edward Zammit Lewis u l-Onor. David Stellini, Chairman u Membru tal-Kumitat Parlamentari għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej rispettivament, ipparteċipaw fit-LVIII COSAC li kienet organizzata f'Tallinn, l-Estonja, bejn is-26 u t-28 ta' Novembru. Din il-konferenza tlaqqa' *chairpersons* u membri tal-Kumitati tal-Affarijiet Ewropej tal-parlamenti tal-Unjoni Ewropea u kienet organizzata bħala parti mid-dimensjoni parlamentari tal-Presidenza Estonjana tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea. L-aġenda tal-laqgħa inkludiet temi varji inkluż il-futur tal-Ewropa; immexxu lill-UE aktar viċin taċ-ċittadin; is-Suq Uniku Diġitali; is-Sigurtà fl-Ewropa u l-aspett estern tal-migrazzjoni. F'diskors ewlieni bit-tema tal-migrazzjoni, l-Onor. Zammit Lewis irrefera għall-aspetti legali tal-migrazzjoni u emfasizza l-bżonn li jiżdiedu l-isforzi fil-qasam tar-riammissjoni, li tirrikjedi aktar ftehimiet mal-pajjiżi ta' oriġini. Dwar dan is-suġġett, l-Onor. Stellini qal li x-xogħol għandu jkompli minkejja li l-Kummissjoni Ewropea rrapportat li n-numru ta' immigranti irregolari li waslu fl-Ewropa fl-2017 kien aktar baxx minn dak ta' snin preċedenti. Huwa sejjaħ għall-implimentazzjoni tal-Valletta Action Plan, partikolarment il-miżuri relatati mal-kawżi ewlenin tal-migrazzjoni. Waqt is-sessjoni tal-COSAC is-Sur Kenneth Curmi, *research analyst* fil-Parlament ta' Malta, ġie appuntat Membru Permanenti tas-Segretarjat tal-COSAC għall-perjodu 2018-2019.

## L-10 Forum Parlamentari dwar l-Intelliġenza u s-Sigurtà

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia pparteċipa fl-10 Forum Parlamentari dwar l-Intelliġenza u s-Sigurtà li ġie organizzat f'Washington fis-7 ta' Diċembru. Dan il-Forum huwa organizzat mill-Membru tal-Kungress Amerikan u Chairman tat-Taskforce tal-Kungress dwar it-Terroriżmu u l-Gwerra mhux Konvenzjonali, Robert Pittinger. L-10 Forum Parlamentari dwar l-Intelliġenza u s-Sigurtà laqqa' mexxejja governattivi u diplomatiċi ma' dawk li jaħdmu fil-qasam tal-intelliġenza u l-industrija minn 53 pajjiż, li flimkien iddiskutew l-iffinanzjar tat-terroriżmu, is-sigurtà ċibernetika, il-ħasil tal-flus u l-kooperazzjoni fl-intelliġenza. F'intervent waqt il-Forum, l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia tkellem dwar il-futur tal-Ewropa, partikolarment fid-dawl tal-isfidi tal-migrazzjoni, is-sigurtà, ir-radikalizzazzjoni taż-żgħażagħ u t-terroriżmu. Huwa semma wkoll iż-żamma tal-unità fl-Unjoni Ewropea minkejja l-isfidi u d-diversità.

## LVIII COSAC

Hon. Edward Zammit Lewis and Hon. David Stellini, Chairman and Member of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee respectively, took part in the LVIII COSAC which was held in Tallinn, Estonia between 26 and 28 November. This conference gathers chairpersons and members of the European Affairs Committees of European Union parliaments and was organised within the parliamentary dimension of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The meeting agenda included various topics, including the future of Europe, moving the EU closer to the citizen, the Digital Single Market, security in Europe and the external aspect of migration. In a keynote speech on the subject of migration, Hon. Zammit Lewis referred to the legal aspects of migration and highlighted the need to increase efforts in the area of readmission, which requires more agreements with countries of origin. On this same subject, Hon. Stellini stated that work needs to continue despite European Commission reports that the number of irregular migrants that arrived in Europe in 2017 was lower than that in previous years. He called for the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan, particularly its measures related to the root causes of migration. During this session, COSAC appointed Mr Kenneth Curmi, research analyst at the Maltese Parliament, as Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat for the period 2018-2019.

## 10th Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participated in the 10th Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum held in Washington on 7 December. This Forum is organised by US Congressman and Chairman of the Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare Robert Pittinger. The 10th Parliamentary Security and Intelligence Forum brought together government, diplomatic, intelligence and industry leaders from 53 countries to discuss terrorism financing, cyber security, money laundering and intelligence co-operation. In a contribution during the Forum, Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia spoke about the future of Europe, particularly in light of the challenges of migration, security, the radicalisation of young people and terrorism. Keeping unity within the European Union despite its challenges and diversity also featured in the contribution.

# Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

## Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija għall-Kummerċ

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, fil-pożizzjoni tiegħu bħala Chairperson tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tal-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA), irrappreżenta lis-CPA fis-Sessjoni ta' Buenos Airo tal-Konferenza Parlamentari dwar l-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija għall-Kummerċ (WTO), li kienet organizzata mill-Unjoni Inter-Parlamentari (IPU) u l-Parlament Ewropew bl-għajnuna tal-Kungress Nazzjonali tal-Argentina bejn id-9 u l-10 ta' Diċembru. L-għan prinċipali tal-Konferenza hija li tissaħħaħ it-trasparenza esterna tal-WTO u li din l-organizzazzjoni intergovernmentali ssir kontabbli lejn il-leġiżlaturi bħala rappreżentanti eletti tal-poplu. Is-Sessjonijiet tal-Konferenza Parlamentari tiġi organizzata kull sena immedjatament qabel il-Konferenza Ministerjali għall-WTO, u b'hekk tipprovdi l-leġiżlaturi b'opportunità li jiksbu informazzjoni dwar il-progress miksub fil-Konferenza Ministerjali, jinteraġġixxu man-negozjaturi tal-gvern u l-uffiċjali tal-WTO, jaqsmu l-esperjenzi u l-veduti tagħhom ma' kollegi minn parlamenti oħrajn u jiddjalogaw ma' rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili. Is-sessjoni ta' din is-sena ffukat fuq il-kummerċ multilaterali, speċifikament li jitneħħew l-ostakli għall-kummerċ, aspettattivi għall-MC11, kif ukoll il-kummerċ onlajn, partikolarment l-użu tal-kummerċ onlajn fost l-intrapriżi żgħar u medji.

Il-Konferenza Parlamentari ntemmet bl-adozzjoni ta' dokument li ħeġġeġ lill-Membri tal-WTO sabiex jagħmlu kull sforz possibbli ħalli jiksbu riżultati pożittivi li jikkonsolidaw u jsaħħu s-sistema tal-kummerċ multilaterali, li l-pedament tagħha tkun il-WTO, peress li din għandha rwol importanti fit-tkabbir tal-ekonomija u l-iżvilupp sostenibbli, kif ukoll fil-ħolqien tax-xogħol u l-benesseri.

## Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Small Branches of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), represented the CPA in the Buenos Aires Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which was jointly organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament with the support of the National Congress of Argentina between 9 and 10 December. The Conference's main objective is to enhance the external transparency of the WTO and make this intergovernmental organization accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people. Sessions of the Parliamentary Conference are held annually on the eve of the WTO Ministerial Conferences so as to provide legislators with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on progress made at the Ministerial Conference, interact with government negotiators and WTO officials, exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments and engage in a dialogue with civil society representatives. This year's session focused on multilateral trade, specifically on limiting barriers to trade, expectations for the MC11, as well as e-commerce and the internalization of SMEs.

The Parliamentary Conference ended with the adoption of the Outcome Document urging WTO Members to make every possible effort to achieve positive results that consolidate and strengthen the multilateral trading system, with the WTO as its cornerstone, as this plays an important role in promoting global economic growth and sustainable development, in creating jobs and well-being.

# Il-Partiti Politiċi fl-Ewwel Parlament Malti - *Unione Politica Maltese*

Qabel ingħatat l-ewwel kostituzzjoni li permezz tagħha Malta setgħa jkollha gvern awtonomu, ix-xena politika Maltija kienet diġà waħda pjuttost attiva bil-formazzjoni u r-riformazzjoni ta' gruppi politiċi li evolvew skont iċ-ċirkostanzi li kienu qed jiżviluppaw matul l-aħħar snin tas-seklu dsatax u l-ewwel deċenji tas-seklu għoxrin. Il-partit li kiseb l-akbar popolarità fis-snin qabel l-elezzjoni għall-ewwel sistema leġiżlattiva bikamerali Maltija kien l-Unione Politica Maltese (UPM). Il-gazzetti tal-partit kienu Il Corriere Popolare u Malta. Dan il-partit politiku ppreżenta ruħu għall-elezzjonijiet nazzjonali tal-1921 bħala l-Partito Popolare / Unione Politica Maltese. Kien immexxi minn Mons. Ignazio Panzavecchia, li kien sar il-mexxej tal-partit madwar l-1920, u li wasslu għar-rebħa fl-1921 bħala l-aktar partit b'saħħtu kemm fl-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva (AL) fejn irnexxilu jikseb 14-il siġġu jew 43.8% (7,999) tal-voti, u kemm fis-Senat (S) b'4 siġġijiet (minn 7 membri ġenerali). Il-partiti l-oħra li ħarġu għal din l-ewwel elezzjoni għal gvern awtonomu kienu: il-Partit Kostituzzjonali (AL: 7 siġġijiet – 21.9%, S: siġġu 1), il-Partit Laburista (AL: 7 siġġijiet – 21.9%, S: 2 siġġijiet), u l-Partito Democratico Nazionalista (AL: 4 siġġijiet – 12.4%, S: ma kkuntestax). Madankollu l-UPM seta' jikseb biss gvern minoritarju u għalhekk kellu bżonn l-appoġġ biex ikun jista' jiffunzjona b'mod effettiv. Għal xi żmien fl-1922 ifforma koalizzjoni mal-Partit Laburista iżda din l-alleanza malajr sfaxxat u l-UPM kompla jiggverna waħdu sal-1924 meta ġiet imsejħa l-elezzjoni li jmiss għall-AL.

Kif wieħed jista' jimmaġina l-esponent l-aktar prominenti tal-partit kien il-mexxej tiegħu, Mons. Ignazio Panzavecchia (1885-1925). Imwieled l-Isla, fl-1910, hu waqqaf il-grupp politiku bl-isem ta' *Comitato Patriottico*. L-għan tiegħu kien li jistinka għal kostituzzjoni liberali. Panzavecchia kien jifforma parti mill-Assemblea Nazzjonali li kienet twaqqfet biex taħdem fuq abbozz ta' kostituzzjoni li aktar tard żviluppa fil-Kostituzzjoni tal-1921. F'dan il-perjodu hu waqqaf il-partit UPM, li l-għanijiet ewlenin tiegħu kienu li jiddefendi l-fidi Kattolika, il-kultura Latina u Ewropea ta' Malta, u d-drittijiet kostituzzjonali. Meta l-UPM ħareġ rebbieħ fl-elezzjoni tal-1921, Panzavecchia ma sarx il-prim ministru – jew kap tal-ministeru, kif kienet imsejħa l-pożizzjoni dak iż-żmien. Minflok, okkupa l-kariga ta' senatur mill-1921 sa meta miet fl-1925. Miżura importanti partikolari li ssuġġerixxa Panzavecchia matul dan iż-żmien kienet l-edukazzjoni obbligatorja b'xejn. Mons. Ignazio Panzavecchia kien inħatar kanonku tal-Kapitlu tal-Katidral fl-1902 u kien ukoll *Cavaliere Segreto* għal Papa Piju X u *Protonotario Appostolico.*

Membru ieħor importanti tal-UPM kien ir-raġel li kellu jsir l-ewwel prim ministru ta' Malta. Dan kien Joseph Howard (1862-1925). Howard, li twieled fil-Belt Valletta, kien industrijalist li żviluppa l-industrija tat-tabakk f'Malta u kien membru ta' numru ta' kumitati u kummissjonijiet tal-gvern imwaqqfa biex jiġu żviluppati l-kummerċ u l-industrija. Għal numru ta' snin Joseph Howard okkupa l-pożizzjoni ta' president tas-Soċjetà tal-Arti, Manifattura u Kummerċ, waqt li kien ukoll il-konslu li jirrappreżenta lill-Ġappun f'Malta. L-esperjenza politika ta' Howard bdiet fl-1912 meta nħatar mill-*Comitato Patriottico* u ġie elett fil-Kunsill tal-Gvern. Fl-elezzjoni tal-1921 Howard kien elett senatur għall-UPM iżda mbagħad intgħażel bħala l-ewwel kap tal-ministeru. Dan ġara wara li Mons. Panzavecchia rrifjuta l-pożizzjoni u talab lill-Gvernatur jagħti din ir-responsabbiltà lil Howard. Waqt li kien prim ministru (1921-1923) Howard serva wkoll bħala ministru tal-finanzi, id-dwana u l-portijiet. Hu nħatar ukoll bħala uffiċjal tal-Imperu Ingliż (OBE) mis-sovran Ingliż.

F'Ottubru 1923 Francesco Buhagiar (1876-1934) ħa post Howard biex sar it-tieni prim ministru ta' Malta u serva sa tmiem il-leġiżlatura fl-1924. Buhagiar, li twieled il-Qrendi, kien avukat ta' suċċess u membru tal-UPM li serva wkoll bħala ministru tal-ġustizzja (1922-1924) u aktar 'il quddiem bħala ministru tal-finanzi, id-dwana u l-portijiet meta ħa f'idejh il-kariga ta' prim ministru fl-1923. Buhagiar serva wkoll bħala prim ministru għall-ewwel xhur tat-tieni leġiżlatura sakemm irriżenja biex isir imħallef fil-qrati tal-ġustizzja ta' Malta (1924-1934).

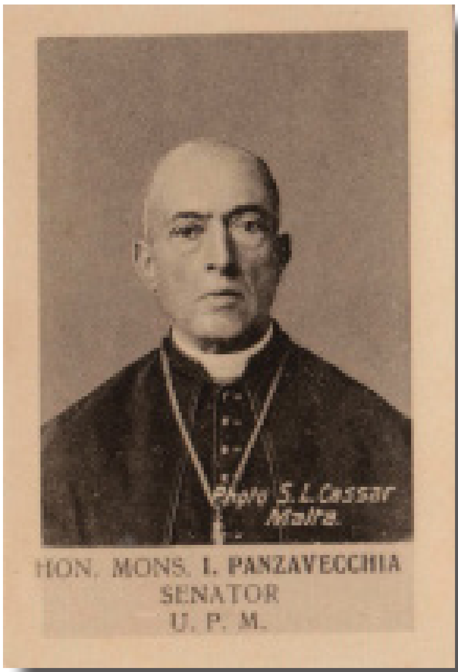
L-*ispeaker* tal-ewwel Parlament Malti kien Edgardo Arrigo (1870-1937) li okkupa din il-pożizzjoni bejn l-1921 u l-1923. Arrigo kien impjegat taċ-ċivil b'pożizzjoni għolja fl-uffiċċju tas-Segretarju Ewlieni

# Il-Partiti Politiċi fl-Ewwel Parlament Malti - *Unione Politica Maltese* (Kont.)

għall-Gvern għal ħafna snin matul iż-żmien meta Gerald Strickland kien is-SEG. Minħabba raġunijiet ta' saħħa, Arrigo rtira mill-impjieg mal-gvern u ngħaqad ma' kumpanija privata bħala maniġer. Għall-elezzjoni tal-1921 ippreżenta ruħu bħala parti mill-lista tal-UPM u wara li kien elett mill-ewwel distrett intgħażel bħala *Speaker* tal-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva. Għalkemm ma rnexxilux jiġi elett fl-elezzjoni tal-1924, hu ġie ko-elett fis-Senat fl-1925 wara l-mewt tal-kap tal-UPM, Mons. Panzavecchia. Hu kompla jkun involut fl-affarijiet politiċi u amministrattivi Maltin sakemm miet fl-1937, filwaqt li għal ħafna snin okkupa wkoll il-pożizzjonijiet ta' president jew viċi president tal-Kamra tal-Kummerċ.

Wara Arrigo, sar *Speaker* tal-Assemblea Leġiżlattiva Salvatore Borg Olivier (1880-1937), li kien diġà nħatar deputat *speaker* fl-1921, wara li ġie elett mis-seba' distrett mal-lista tal-UPM. Borg Olivier, li kien nutar, żamm il-pożizzjoni ta' *speaker* mill-5 ta' Lulju 1923 sal-1927. Matul il-karriera tiegħu fil-politika, in-Nutar Borg Olivier okkupa wkoll il-pożizzjoni ta' ministru, senatur, u kap tal-oppożizzjoni.

Fl-1926, l-UPM ingħaqad mal-*Partito Democratico Nazionalista* biex sar il-*Partit Nazzjonalista.*



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# Political Parties In The First Maltese Parliament - *Unione Politica Maltese*

Before the granting of its first self-government constitution, the Maltese political scene had already been quite vibrant with political groupings forming and re-forming according to the circumstances developing along the later years of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth century. The party that gained most popularity in the years leading to the elections for the first Maltese bicameral legislative structure was the *Unione Politica Maltese* (UPM). The party's newspapers were *Il Corriere Popolare* and *Malta*. This political party presented itself for the 1921 national elections as the *Partito Popolare / Unione Politica Maltese.* It was led by Mgr Ignazio Panzavecchia who had become its leader around 1920 and who steered it to victory in 1921 as the strongest party in both the Legislative Assembly (LA) where it had managed to get 14 seats or 43.8% (7,999) of the votes, and the Senate (S) with 4 seats (from the 7 general members). The other parties running in these first self-government elections were: the Constitutional Party (LA: 7 seats – 21.9%, S: 1 seat), the Labour Party (LA: 7 seats – 21.9%, S: 2 seats), and the *Partito Democratico Nazionalista* (LA: 4 seats – 12.4%, S: did not contest). The UPM however could only achieve a minority government and thus it needed support to be able to function effectively. For some time in 1922 it went into coalition with the Labour Party but this alliance soon failed and the UPM continued to govern on its own until 1924 when the next elections for the LA were called.

The party's most prominent exponent was of course its leader, Mgr Iganzio Panzavecchia (1885-1925). Born in Senglea, in 1910 he had set up the political group called *Comitato Patriottico.* Its aim was to strive for a liberal constitution. Panzavecchia formed part of the National Assembly that had been set up to work on a draft constitution, which later evolved into the Constitution of 1921. At about this time he launched the UPM whose main objectives were to defend the Catholic faith, Malta's Latin and European culture, and constitutional rights. When the UPM emerged as the winner of the 1921 elections, he did not become prime minister – or head of ministry as the position was called at the time. Instead he sat as senator from 1921 until his death in 1925. During this time, one important measure which Panzavecchia supported was free compulsory education. Mgr Ignazio Panzavecchia had been appointed canon of the Cathedral Chapter in 1902 and was also *Cavaliere Segreto* to Pope Pius X and *Protonotario Appostolico*.

Another important member of the UPM was the man that was to become the first prime minister of Malta. He was Joseph Howard (1862-1925). Howard, born in Valletta, was an industrialist who developed the tobacco industry in Malta and sat on a number of government committees and commissions set up to develop commerce and industry. For a number of years Joseph Howard occupied the position of president of the Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce, while he also represented Japan as its consul in Malta. Howard's political experience began in 1912 when he was nominated by the *Comitato Patriottico* and was elected in the Council of Government. In the 1921 elections Howard was elected senator for the UPM but was then chosen to be the first head of ministry. This came about as Mgr Panzavecchia on declining that position, asked the Governor to give this responsibility to Howard. While he was prime minister (1921-1923) Howard also served as minister of finance, customs and ports. He was also made an officer of the British Empire (OBE) by the British sovereign.

In October 1923 Francesco Buhagiar (1876-1934) replaced Howard to become the second prime minister of Malta and served until the end of the legislature in 1924. The Qrendi-born Buhagiar was an accomplished lawyer and a member of the UPM who also served as minister of justice (1922-1924) and later as minister of finance, customs and ports when he took over the premiership from 1923. Buhagiar also served as prime minister for the first months of the second legislature until he resigned to become a judge in the Maltese law courts (1924-1934).

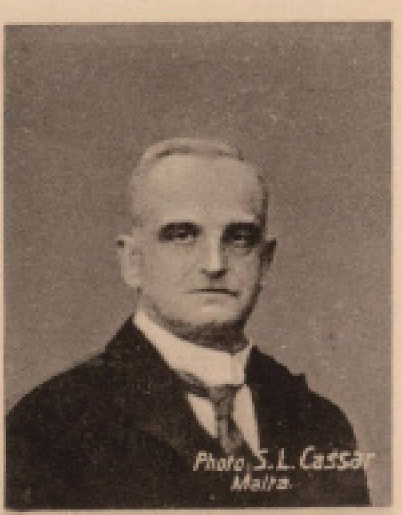
The speaker of the first Maltese parliament was Edgardo Arrigo (1870-1937) who occupied this

# Political Parties In The First Maltese Parliament - *Unione Politica Maltese* (cont.)

position between 1921 and 1923. Arrigo was for many years a civil servant with a high position in the office of the Chief Secretary to Government during the time when Gerald Strickland was CSG. Due to ill health, Arrigo retired from government employment and joined a private firm as manager. For the 1921 elections he presented himself on the UPM list and was elected from the first district. Arrigo and chosen as speaker of the Legislative Assembly. While not managing to get elected in the 1924 elections, he was co-opted to the Senate in 1925 on the death of the UPM leader, Mgr Panzavecchia. He continued to be involved in Maltese political and administrative affairs until his death in 1937, while for many years he also occupied the positions of president or vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce.

HON. NOT. S. BORG. OLIVIER
M. L. A., U. P. M.

Following Arrigo as speaker of the Legislative Assembly there was Salvatore Borg Olivier (1880-1937) who in 1921, after being elected from the seventh district with the UPM, had been appointed deputy speaker. Borg Oliver, a notary by profession, kept his position as speaker from 5 July 1923 to 1927. During his career in politics Notary Borg Olivier also held the position of minister, senator and leader of the opposition.




HON. E. ARRIGO
M. B. E., M. L. A., U. P. M.

The UPM merged with the *Partito Democratico Nazionalista* in 1926 to become the *Partit Nazzjonalista.*

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# Efemera Stampata dwar Il-Politika F'Malta

Din hija t-tieni karikatura politika minn tnejn kontra Gerald Strickland, wara li l-ewwel waħda dehret fil-ħarġa 17 ta' dan il-perjodiku. Mhuwiex magħruf jekk kinux ġew prodotti xi karikaturi oħra bl-istess stil għall-elezzjoni ġenerali tal-1932.

Filwaqt li l-ewwel satira politika enfasizzat il-perikli li kienu meqjusa li se taffaċċja Malta jekk Strickland ikun elett, b'mod partikolari fid-dawl tal-passat tiegħu bħala kritiku qawwi u bla kantunieri tal-ġerarkija Kattolika f'Malta, it-tieni waħda rreferiet għall-metodi bla skrupli li allegatament kien lest li juża biex jirbaħ l-elezzjoni akkost ta' kollox. L-avversarji ta' Strickland kemm-il darba pinġew il-ġid tal-familja tiegħu bħala mezz li permezz tiegħu kien qed jagħmel favuri lill-Maltin, biex b'hekk Strickland u l-Partit Kostituzzjonali tiegħu saru attraenti għall-klassi tal-ħaddiema, li normalment kienet tiddependi aktar fuq l-infiq tal-gvern Ingliż f'Malta għall-għajxien tagħha. Il-karikatura mhijiex iffirmata iżda tixbah ħafna l-istil ta' dik preċedenti u għalhekk x'aktarx li hija wkoll ix-xogħol ta' 'TINA'. Id-daqs u l-kwalità tal-karta huma wkoll l-istess. Din turi lil Strickland jipprova jinganna lil Malti jivvutalu permezz ta' maskra bi tbissima u offerta ta' tixħim. Bid-diżonestà tiegħu Strickland jaħseb li jista' jidħak bil-Malti u saħansitra bħax-xitan jikseb l-erwieħ tagħhom permezz ta' offerta ta' flus ('Il mazzun jghamel ghal lixcka, u il ghain tghama bid-duhhan; Jen bil-Flus l'imbierca ruhcom Ingiorilkom bhax-xitan.'). Iżda l-Maltin għorrief mhumiex se jiġu mqarrqa mill-konfoffar ta' Strickland u, filwaqt li forsi jieħdu l-flus ta' Strickland, se jivvutaw skont il-kuxjenza tagħhom ('Sur Geraldu ket tizbalia! Ahna il choll nafu narau; Ghal chemm ahna gbarna flusec Chif jidrilna niv-votau.'). Huwa interessanti l-fatt li l-borża ta' flus f'id Strickland hija mmarkata *scudi,* il-munita l-qadima tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann f'Malta, iżda meta tingħata lill-votant Malti ssir *pounds*, *shillings* u *pence* tal-Ingliżi. Il-Maltin anzjani baqgħu jirreferu għall-munita tal-Ordni, pereżempju d-disa' rbgħajja u t-tmintax irbiegħi sal-1972 meta l-munita Ingliża antika ġiet dimonetizzata u saret il-bidla għad-deċimalizzazzjoni.

*L-għan ta' din is-serje huwa li jitfa' dawl fuq ir-rwol ta' efemera stampata fix-xena politika Maltija bejn it-tieni nofs tas-seklu dsatax u l-ewwel nofs tas-seklu għoxrin. Aċċess akbar għall-faċilitajiet tal-istampar, żieda gradwali fir-rati tal-litteriżmu u l-għarfien li parti sostanzjali tal-elettorat tista' tintlaħaq biss permezz tal-użu tal-lingwa Maltija, kollha kkontribwew għaż-żieda fl-użu ta' materjal stampat fil-lingwa popolari u wkoll fl-użu ta' xbihat viżwali, l-aktar fil-forma ta' karikaturi satiriċi. Il-materjal li qed jiġi riprodott hawn huwa parti mill-kollezzjoni privata tal-awtur.*

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# *Printed Ephemera About Politics In Malta*

This is the second of two anti-Gerald Strickland political cartoons, the first of which was featured in issue 17 of this periodical. It is not known if any other cartoons in the same style were produced for the 1932 general election.

While the first political satire emphasized the perceived dangers that Strickland's election to power would present to Malta, particularly in view of his previous record as an outspoken critic of the Catholic hierarchy in Malta, the second one referred to his alleged unscrupulous methods through which he was ready to win the election at all costs. Strickland's family wealth was often depicted by his adversaries as a means through which favours were bestowed on the Maltese, thus making Strickland and his Constitutional Party appeal to the working class, which generally also more dependent upon the British government's spending in Malta for its livelihood. The cartoon is unsigned but very much in the style of the previous one and hence likely to have also been the work of 'TINA'. The paper size and quality are also identical. It shows Strickland trying to dupe a Maltese into voting for him through a smiling mask and the offer of a bribe. The devious Strickland thinks that he could fool the Maltese and even procure their souls like the devil through the offer of cash ('Il mazzun jghamel ghal lixcka, u il ghain tghama bid-duhhan; Jen bil-Flus l'imbierca ruhcom Ingiorilkom bhax-xitan.'). The smart Maltese, however, will not be taken in by Strickland's machinations and, while they might take Strickland's money, they will vote as their conscience dictates ('Sur Geraldu ket tizbalia! Ahna il choll nafu narau; Ghal chemm ahna gbarna flusec Chif jidrilna niv-votau.'). Interestingly, the bag of money held by Strickland is marked in *scudi*, the old currency of the Order of St John in Malta, but it becomes British pounds, shillings and pence when handed over to the Maltese voter. The older Maltese continued to refer to the Order's currency, such as the 'disa' rbgħajja' and 'tmintax irbiegħi' down to the demonetization of the old British currency and the switch over to decimalization in 1972.

*The aim of this series is to highlight the role of printed ephemera in the Maltese political arena between the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. Greater accessibility to printing facilities, a gradual increase in literacy rates and a growing realization that a substantial part of the electorate could only be reached through the use of the Maltese language, all contributed towards an ever-greater use of printed matter in the language of the people and also in the utilization of visual imagery, mostly in the form of satirical cartoons. The material being reproduced here consists of originals from the author's collection.*

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