

MALTESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION PARTICIPATES IN THE 55TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

A parliamentary delegation led by the Hon. David Agius, M.P., which included the Hon. Dr Alfred Sant, M.P. and the Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana, M.P., participated at the 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania.

During this conference, the Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana took over from the Hon. Kate Hoey M.P. of the UK as the Chairperson and representative of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) for the next three years. She also attended the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Group.

The Hon David Agius was invited by the CPA President to address the General Assembly about illegal immigration and its effects on Malta and beyond. Mr Agius explained the present situation of illegal immigration in the Mediterranean Area with specific reference to Malta and Cyprus. He presented a proposal to the General assembly in order to study the phenomenon of illegal immigration in the countries of origin, in transit countries and in the receiving countries especially within the Commonwealth countries.

At the request of Malta, it was agreed that at the next meeting of the CPA Executive Committee, the Executive Committee will consider the introduction of an item specifically about illegal migration on the agenda of the forthcoming CPA Conference. Illegal immigration was also brought up at the CPA Small Branches Conference by the Branches of Malta and Australia.

The Hon Dr Alfred Sant and the Hon David Agius made interventions at the workshops that discussed climate change, the global financial crisis and parliament's role in shaping information society.

The annual general meeting of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region approved, among other things, the report titled 'Enhancing Governance' drawn up by the Hon David Agius and three other Members of Parliament from Wales, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar. This report will now be forwarded to the other CPA regions for their consideration and the eventual adoption into the CPA structures.

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