



Press Release

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Speaker Farrugia meets President of the China-EU Association Wuyun Qimuge

Speaker Anglu Farrugia recalled the excellent relations which have existed between Malta and the People's Republic of China following the establishment of diplomatic relations on 21st January 1972.

He was speaking during a courtesy visit by President of the China-EU Association and former Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Wuyun Qimuge.

Speaker Farrugia added that these relations have been enhanced by a steady flow of high-level visits, including the visits of Prime Minister Joseph Muscat in July 2014 and May 2015. He mentioned the courtesy visits which he has received in past years from Chinese dignitaries, including representatives of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

Speaker Farrugia reiterated Malta's support for the 'One China' policy, on which Sino-Maltese relations are based, and noted that China is Malta's 10th largest trading partner. He referred to the China-EU Association, which was established in November 2001, and its various activities to promote China-EU economic, social, and cultural cooperation.

Wuyun Qimuge concurred with Speaker Farrugia regarding the longstanding and stable relations between the two countries and acknowledged that Malta was one of the foremost western countries to establish diplomatic relations with China. She referred to the 'One Belt One Road Initiative' proposed by the Chinese President Xi Jinping and also mentioned the importance of people-to-people contact. She went on to express the willingness of the Chinese people to cooperate with the Maltese and strengthen relations.

The Speaker was accompanied by Clerk of the House Ray Scicluna, Personal Assistant Ancel Farrugia Migneco, Director International Relations Eleanor Scerri, Director Peter Paul Mallia, and Adviser International Relations Giovanni Miceli.

Wuyun Qimuge was accompanied by Secretary of the President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) Fan Lanping; Deputy Director General of CPAFFC Lyu Hongwei; Wang Xichun, Senior Staff, General Office of the National People's Congress; Director of CPAFFC Liu Fang; Zhao Lei, Security Guard, President of China-EU Association; and Liu Chang, Staff of the CPAFFC.

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta Cai Jinbaio, and President of the Malta-China Friendship Society Reno Calleja were also present.