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# Press Release

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PR 161924

09. 09. 2016

**PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

*Speaker Anglu Farrugia pays courtesy call on the President of the Swiss Confederation*

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Anglu Farrugia, has this afternoon paid a courtesy call on Mr Johann Schneider-Ammann, President of the Swiss Confederation, at Sant' Anton, Attard.

The two dignitaries highlighted the existing excellent relations between Malta and the Swiss Confederation, which relations have been enhanced by various exchanges of high level visits as well as a number of bilateral agreements.

Speaker Farrugia reiterated his proposal made to Ms Christa Markwalder, President of the Swiss National Council regarding the setting-up of a Joint Parliamentary Friendship Group between the two Institutions. He also said that Malta looks positively on the possible participation of a Swiss Parliamentary delegation, as an Observer, in the meetings to be organised by the House of Representatives during Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Mr Johann Schneider-Ammann was accompanied by Mr Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation, Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research; Mr Jacques De Watteville, State Secretary, Chief negotiator for the negotiations with the EU, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr Giancarlo Kessler, Ambassador of Switzerland to the Republic of Malta; Ms Salome Meyer, Ambassador, Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Swiss Confederation; Ms Michèle Sierro, Personal Advisor to the President of the Swiss Confederation; Mr Tony Moré, Head of Europe and Central Asia Division, Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research; Mr Erik Reuman, Spokesperson, Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, and Mr Manuel Irman, Deputy Regional Coordinator Southern Europe, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Ray Scicluna, Clerk of the House; Mr Ancel Farrugia Migneco, Personal Assistant; Mr Peter Paul Mallia, Director, and Mr Giovanni Miceli, Adviser International Relations, accompanied the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the meeting.