



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Vietnamese Ambassador pays farewell call on Speaker

Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Cao Chinh Thien paid a farewell visit on the Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Anġlu Farrugia.

Speaker Farrugia expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Thien for the hard work carried out during his three-year tenure of office that intensified the bilateral relations between Malta and Vietnam, particularly the activities organised in 2014 to mark the 40th anniversary of these diplomatic relations. He mentioned the signing of a Double Taxation Agreement and high-level meetings, including the one between Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and his Vietnamese counterpart Xuan Phac on the margins of ASEM 11. He referred to trade and economic relations and noted that bilateral trade ought to be increased.

Ambassador Thien said that 2019 would mark the 45th anniversary of bilateral relations and expressed hope that there would be exchange of business delegations in order to enhance trade between the two countries. He referred to the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade which was signed last Friday by the EU and Vietnam in the margins of the EU-ASEM Summit. He said that he looked forward to Malta's ratification of this agreement to help the process of bring it into force as quickly as possible. He also said that, if Malta were to open an Embassy in Asia, it should consider opening one in Hanoi, given that Vietnam was fast becoming an important industrial base of large Asian companies.

The Vietnamese Ambassador was accompanied by Ms. Nguyen Thu Ha, Second Secretary, Embassy of Vietnam, Rome; Mr. Do Hai Long, Third Secretary, Embassy of Vietnam, Rome; and Mr. Walter Cavrengi, Director General of the Italy - Vietnam Chamber of Commerce.