

Nr 20

Awwissu 2018
August 2018



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

mill-PARLAMENT

Perjodiku maħruġ mill-Uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker

Periodical issued by the Office of the Speaker





Tifkira tas-Sette Giugno:

Marċ mill-Banda tal-Pulizija minn quddiem il-Parlament ta' Malta f' Misraħ il-Ħelsien għal Pjazza San Ġorġ.

L-Ispeaker iqiegħed kuruna f'riġlejn il-Monument tas-Sette Giugno.



Sette Giugno Commemoration:

The Malta Police Force Band marches from the Maltese Parliament in Freedom Square to St George's Square.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives lays a wreath at the foot of the Sette Giugno Monument.

Harġa Nru 20/Issue No. 20
Awwissu 2018/August 2018

Ippubblikat mill-Uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker
Published by the Office of the Speaker

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ISSN 2308-538X
ISSN (online) 2308-6637

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Ritratti/Photos:
Parlament ta' Malta/DOI

DAHLA

FOREWORD

Bi pjaċir qiegħed inwasslilkom l-20 ħarġa tal-perjodiku *mill-Parlament*. Inħossni kburi ngħid li mill-ewwel ħarġa tiegħu, il-perjodiku żamm l-appointament regolari tiegħu sabiex b'mod konċiż iwassal dik il-ħidma li tkun saret fil-Parlament fix-xhur ta' qabel. Ta' min jgħid li l-perjodiku mhux biss isir disponibbli fuq il-*website* tal-Parlament, iżda wkoll jitqassam lil diversi entitajiet, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll barra.

Minkejja li l-Kamra aġġornat għall-ferjat tas-sajf fl-4 ta' Lulju, minn dakinhar il-ħidma tal-Parlament u mill-Membri Parlamentari ma waqfitx. L-impenji tal-Membri ma waqfux, partikolarment f'dawk li huma laqgħat inter-parlamentari barra minn Malta.

Fil-binja ospitajna diversi sessjonijiet speċjali li jolqtu oqsma differenti fis-soċjetà: sessjoni mill-istudenti tal-Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary, fakkarna l-Jum Dinji tal-Infermiera, iċċelebrajna l-Jum Internazzjonali kontra d-Droga u ospitajna l-ewwel sessjoni dwar l-esperjenzi ta' persuni milquta minn diversi kundizzjonijiet invisibbli, u dawn b'żieda mad-diversi wirjiet u żjarat oħra fil-Parlament.

Dan il-perjodiku jkopri wkoll il-kommemorazzjoni annwali tas-Sette Giugno, li saret b'diskors tal-Ispeaker u tqiegħid ta' kuruni quddiem il-monument li issa jinstab fil-post originali tiegħu, ċjoè Pjazza San Ġorġ, qrib il-post fejn seħħew l-inċidenti tas-7 ta' Ġunju 1919. Proprju s-sena d-dieħla ser inkunu qegħdin niċċelebraw il-mitt sena minn dawn l-avvenimenti storiċi fil-mixja demokratika ta' pajjiżna, avvenimenti li huma marbuta mill-qrib mal-istorja tal-Parlament.

Minbarra informazzjoni dwar il-ħidma parlamentari, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll barra, f'din il-ħarġa ta' dan il-perjodiku ssibu wkoll il-kontribut regolari ferm interessanti ta' żewġ studjużi fl-oqsma soċjopolitiċi ta' pajjiżna, Prof. William Zammit u Prof. George Cassar. F'din il-ħarġa Prof. Zammit jitkellem dwar il-propaganda politika matul l-ewwel fażi tas-*self-government* bejn l-1921 u l-1930, filwaqt li Prof. Cassar ikompli bis-serje ta' artikli dwar il-partiti politiċi fl-ewwel Parlament Malti.

M'għandix dubju li ser issibu din il-ħarġa interessanti u informattiva.

I am pleased to bring to you the 20th issue of the periodical *mill-Parlament*. I am proud to say that since its first issue, this periodical has kept its regular appointment to present in brief the parliamentary work done in Parliament in the preceding months. It is to be noted that the periodical is not only made available on the Parliament's website, but is also distributed to various entities, both locally and abroad.

Although Parliament rose for its summer recess on 4 July, the work of Parliament and its MPs did not stop. The commitments of Members have continued, both locally and overseas, particularly their participation in inter-parliamentary meetings abroad.

Parliament has also hosted various special sessions concerning different sectors of society: a session by the students of the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary, we celebrated the International Nurses' Day 2018, we celebrated the International Day against Drugs, and we hosted the session dealing with the experiences of persons suffering from invisible conditions, and these in addition to the various exhibitions set up and visits to Parliament.

This periodical also covers the annual Sette Giugno commemoration, which included a speech by the Speaker and the laying of wreaths at the foot of the monument that has now been returned to its original location, namely St George's Square, close to the location where the incidents of 7 June 1919 took place. Next year we will be celebrating the centenary of these historic events in the democratic evolution of our country, events which are closely linked to the history of our Parliament.

In addition to information concerning parliamentary work, in this issue of this periodical one can also find the very interesting regular contributions by Prof. William Zammit and Prof. George Cassar, two academics whose work focuses on Malta's socio-political situation. In this issue Prof. Zammit describes political propaganda in the first period of self-government between 1921 and 1930, whilst Prof. Cassar continues the series of articles on the political parties in the first Maltese Parliament.

I have no doubt that you will find this issue interesting and informative.

Anglu Farrugia
Speaker

ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT

Prezentazzjoni ta' xogħlijiet ta' arti lill-Parlament Malti minn artisti rinomati tar-Repubblika Popolari taċ-Ċina

Fit-2 ta' Mejju, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rċieva żewġ pitturi mill-Professor Yang Zhiling, membru tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Artisti Ċinizi u għalliem tal-arti fl-Università ta' Shenzhen u fl-Università ta' Tsinghua, u mis-Sur Zhang Tingqun, imwieled fil-provinċja ta' Fujian, fiċ-Ċina u ggradwat mill-Akkademja tal-Arti ta' Sichuan. L-Ispeaker iddeskriva din il-prezentazzjoni bħala att li jkompli juri r-relazzjoni tajba li teżisti bejn il-Maltin u l-poplu tar-Repubblika Popolari taċ-Ċina. Is-Sur Wang, Direttur taċ-Ċentru Kulturali taċ-Ċina f'Malta, kien preżenti wkoll għall-prezentazzjoni ta' dawn ix-xogħlijiet.



Għoti tad-Demm fil-Parlament

Għal darb'oħra, il-Parlament organizza attività ta' għoti ta' demm favur dawk li jistgħu jiġu fil-bżonn. Fit-3 ta' Mejju, filwaqt li ngħaqad mad-donaturi tad-demm, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia saħaq illi l-kontribut tad-donatur dak il-ħin jista' jsalva l-ħajja ta' bniedem fis-sigħat ta' wara. L-Ispeaker kompli jgħid li kull donazzjoni hi att nobbli u dinjituż, u xejn inqas minn att ta' mħabba lejn il-persuna li teħtieġ id-demm – kemm jekk min għandu bżonn id-demm hu marid u anki jekk hu vittma ta' xi incident. L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia hegġeġ ukoll biex kemm jista' jkun, in-nies jaslu sal-Parlament u jingħaqdu ma' oħrajn li diġà għamlu d-donazzjoni tad-demm.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Presentation of artworks by renowned artists of the People's Republic of China to the Parliament of Malta

On 2 May, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received two paintings by Professor Yang Zhiling, a member of the China Artists' Association as well as art teacher at the Graduate School at Shenzhen University and Tsinghua University, and by Mr Zhang Tingqun, born in China's Fujian Province, and a graduate of the Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts. The Speaker described this presentation as an act that further shows the close and friendly relationship that exists between the people of Malta and those of the People's Republic of China. Mr Wang, Director of the China Cultural Centre in Malta, was also present at the presentation of these works of art.

Blood Donation at Parliament

Parliament has once again organised a blood donation activity to help those in need. On 3 May, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia joined the donors and explained how the blood they were donating at that moment could save a person's life in the next hours. The Speaker said that while each donation is a noble and dignified act, it is also an act of love towards the person who needs it - whether that person is sick or the victim of an accident. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia appealed to the public to go to Parliament and join all those who had already made their donation.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

Inawgurata wirja artistika 'Fid-Dell tal-Ħitan'

Fl-4 ta' Mejju, l-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia inawgura wirja artistika li ġgħib l-isem 'Fid-Dell tal-Ħitan', ta' Raymond D. Agius u Stephen C. Spiteri, li ttellgħet fil-binja tal-Parlament. Fid-diskors tiegħu l-I-speaker saħaq fuq l-importanza li nħarsu kemm il-pajsagġ naturali tal-gzejjer tagħna, kif ukoll il-bini storiku li huwa parti mill-istorja tagħna u li biż-żmien sar sinonimu mal-ambjent naturali, storiku, urban u marittimu tal-gzejjer Maltin. L-I-speaker appella sabiex l-awtoritajiet ikkonċernati jwettqu xogħol neccessarju ta' tiswijiet u restawr tul il-linja tad-difiża magħrufa bħala l-Victoria Lines sabiex dawn ikomplu jitgawdew mill-ġenerazzjonijiet ta' warajna.



L-I-speaker jindirizza l-Konferenza Nazzjonali dwar id-Drittijiet Umani u l-Ugwaljanza

Fl-24 ta' Mejju, l-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia pparteċipa fil-konferenza 'Human Rights and Equality 2.0'. Waqt l-indirizz tiegħu, huwa spjega kif issa li l-Parlament sar awtonomu, għandu responsabilitajiet godda, fosthom l-ingaġġ ta' persuni biex jaħdmu miegħu, u li f'din ir-responsabilità ġdida, il-Parlament ser ikompli jimxi bil-prinċipju ta' ugwaljanza u ta' opportunitajiet ugwali għal kulhadd. L-I-speaker qal ukoll illi bil-liġi l-ġdida tal-ugwaljanza, huwa maħsub li l-Kummissjoni l-ġdida għad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem u l-Ugwaljanza jkollha l-istess relazzjoni mal-Parlament li diġà għandhom l-Ombudsman u l-Awditur Ġenerali. Hu kompla jispjega r-rwol ġdid li ser ikollu l-Parlament permezz tal-abbozz li gie diskuss tul il-konferenza, filwaqt li awgura li din il-Kummissjoni ġdida tagħmel xogħol siewi u b'mod mill-iktar indipendenti u ħolistiku sabiex l-ugwaljanza f'pajjiżna tkompli tiegħu l-importanza li jistħoqqilha.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Opening of the exhibition 'Fid-Dell tal-Ħitan'

On 4 May, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia inaugurated an art exhibition entitled 'Fid-Dell tal-Ħitan' (In the Shadow of the Walls), by Raymond D. Agius and Stephen C. Spiteri, which was displayed in the Parliament building. In his speech, the Speaker stressed the importance of taking care of our island's natural environment and its historical sites, which are part of its history and which, over time, have become synonymous with the natural, historic, urban and maritime environment of the Maltese islands. The Speaker called for the authorities concerned to perform any necessary repairs and restoration along the defense line known as the Victoria Lines so that they may continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

The Speaker addresses the National Conference on Human Rights and Equality

On 24 May, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participated in the conference 'Human Rights and Equality 2.0'. In his address, he explained that upon gaining administrative autonomy, Parliament acquired new responsibilities, amongst which is the recruitment of staff. In this regard, Parliament is committed to continue upholding the principles of equality and equal opportunities for all. The Speaker also said that with the new law regulating equality, it is envisioned that the new Commission for Human Rights and Equality be at par with the Ombudsman and the Auditor General when it comes to its working relationship with Parliament. He went on to explain the new role to be played by Parliament according to the draft law that was discussed during the conference, and augured that the new Commission would work independently and holistically, in order to continue giving equality the importance it deserves.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

Sessjoni fil-Parlament għal studenti tal-Iskola Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary

Fid-9 ta' Mejju, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia fetaħ sessjoni speċjali fil-Parlament, li fiha pparteċipaw l-istudenti tal-Iskola Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary. Fid-diskors tiegħu huwa tkellem dwar kif l-importanza ta' dan l-avveniment kienet tolqot żewġ aspetti: iċ-ċans li l-poplu jisma' lehen iż-żgħażaġh fuq temi importanti u kurrenti, kif ukoll iċ-ċans għall-istess żgħażaġh li jidhlu fil-proċess parlamentari u jużaw il-ħiliet tagħhom sabiex jippreparaw għalih u sabiex iwasslu s-sejbiet u l-konklużjonijiet tagħhom lill-pajjiż. Matul din is-sessjoni speċjali ġew diskussi numru ta' suġġetti, fosthom id-drittijiet tal-mara u tat-tarbija fil-ġuf, l-arti, il-midja u l-ħarsien tal-ambjent.



Ċelebrazzjoni tal-Jum Internazzjonali tal-Infermiera 2018

F'ċelebrazzjoni tal-Jum Internazzjonali tal-Infermiera, fl-10 ta' Mejju l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa laqgħa speċjali li kienet organizzata flimkien mal-Fakultà tax-Xjenzi tas-Saħħa fl-Università ta' Malta. Matul din il-laqgħa l-Ispeaker spjega kif il-liġi internazzjonali tagħti d-dritt lil kull persuna li tingħata kura medika, mingħajr l-ebda distinzjoni. Minkejja dan, għad hawn min hu mċaħħad minn din il-kura għal raġunijiet differenti, fosthom kunflitti internazzjonali u l-qagħda finanzjarja tal-pajjiż. L-Ispeaker sellem lill-infermiera, qwiebel, tobbu u persuni oħra li għażlu professjoni vokazzjonali u ddedikaw ħajjithom għall-qadi tal-proxxmu. Faħħar ukoll lill-Maltin li telqu lil pajjiżhom u lil familthom biex jgħinu nies foqra f'pajjiżi inqas żviluppati. Għal din il-laqgħa attendew ukoll id-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa l-Onor. Chris Fearne, is-Segretarju Parlamentari għal Persuni b'Diżabilità u Anzjanità Attiva l-Onor. Anthony Agius Decelis, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Adrian Delia, l-Onor. David Agius, l-Onor. Mario Galea u l-Onor. Stephen Spiteri.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Session in Parliament for Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School Students

On 9 May, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia opened a special session in Parliament, with the participation of students from Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School. In his speech he explained how this event reflected two different important aspects: the chance given to young people to make their voices heard by the nation, and the chance for the youth to be part of the parliamentary process, and to use their skills to prepare for and to deliver their findings and conclusions to the country. The students discussed a number of issues, amongst which were the rights of women and the unborn child, the arts, the media and the environment.

International Nurses' Day 2018 Celebration

In celebration of International Nurses' Day, on 10 May Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over a special meeting which was organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences in the University of Malta. During the meeting the Speaker explained how international law gives the right of medical care to everyone, without any distinction. Nevertheless, there are still people who are denied medical care, for various reasons, including international conflicts and the financial situation of the country. The Speaker paid tribute to nurses, midwives, doctors and other people who have chosen a vocational profession and who have dedicated their lives to help others. He also praised those Maltese people who left their country and their families to help poor people in less developed countries. This meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Hon. Chris Fearne, Parliamentary Secretary for the Disabled and Active Ageing Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis, the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Adrian Delia, Hon. David Agius, Hon. Mario Galea and Hon. Stephen Spiteri.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

Konferenza fil-Parlament dwar l-esperjenza ta' persuni milquta mill-fibromyalgia

L-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa l-ewwel konferenza dwar l-esperjenza ta' persuni milquta mill-fibromyalgia, li saret fil-Parlament fil-11 ta' Mejju. L-I-speaker semma uħud mid-diffikultajiet li jiffaċċjaw il-persuni milquta minn kundizzjonijiet bħall-fibromyalgia, fejn minkejja li dan ma jkunx evidenti, ħafna minnhom ikunu fi stat ta' uġiġħ kontinwu. Din il-konferenza tat opportunità lill-membri tal-Alleanza Maltija tal-ME, CFS u Fibromyalgia, kif ukoll lil dawk milquta minn dawn il-kundizzjonijiet, sabiex jittkellmu mal-membri parlamentari dwar id-diffikultajiet tagħhom u kif jistgħu jiġu megħjuna. L-I-speaker saħaq li għandu jittfassal pjan ta' azzjoni, li flimkien ma' minn kampanja nazzjonali dwar il-fibromyalgia għandhom iwasslu sabiex ikun hawn iktar għarfien dwar din il-kundizzjoni filwaqt li l-persuni li jbatu minn din it-tip ta' diżabilità li ma tidhirx, jingħataw l-għajnuna misthoqqa. Din il-laqgħa, li giet organizzata mill-ME, CFS & Fibromyalgia Alliance, giet indirizzata wkoll minn Souzi Makri, President, European Network of Fibromyalgia Associates, mill-Professur Stephen Bevan, University of Lancaster and Institute of Employment Studies (UK), numru ta' membri parlamentari u persuni li jbatu minn dawn il-kundizzjonijiet.



Konferenza stampa mill-Uffiċċju tal-I-speaker dwar l-iżvilupp tas-sotterran tal-bini tal-Parlament

Fit-30 ta' Mejju, l-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia indirizza konferenza stampa dwar is-sotterran tal-bini tal-Parlament, li ser jiġi żviluppat biex joffri numru ta' faċilitajiet, fosthom arkivju, librerija ta' riċerka, kamra tal-kumitati u uffiċċini għal-librara u għar-riċerkaturi. L-I-speaker spjega kif meta l-Parlament mexxa fil-binja l-ġdida, kellu jiffaċċja numru ta' sfidi fejn jidhru spazju, kemm għall-arkivji kif ukoll għall-ħaddiema. Sabiex jiġu indirizzati dawn l-isfidi, il-Parlament qabbaq il-Korporazzjoni għar-Riġenerazzjoni tal-Port il-Kbir (GHRC) biex tgħin fl-iżvilupp tas-sotterran. Fl-applikazzjoni għall-iżvilupp ġie assigurat li ma ssir l-ebda ħsara lill-wirt storiku peress li snin ilu dan is-sotterran kien użat bħala stazzjon tal-ferrovija. Waqt din il-konferenza kien hemm preżenti wkoll l-Iskrivan tal-Kamra, flimkien ma' uffiċjali għolja mill-GHRC, inkluż il-President l-Onor. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, il-Kap Eżekuttiv is-Sur Gino Cauchi u wieħed mill-periti ewlenin tal-proġett is-Sur Clive Borg Bonaci.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Conference in Parliament about the experience of persons suffering from fibromyalgia

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over the first conference on the experience of people affected by fibromyalgia, which took place in Parliament on 11 May. The Speaker mentioned some of the difficulties faced by people suffering from conditions such as fibromyalgia, where although they appear well, many of them are in a state of constant pain. This conference provided an opportunity for members of the Maltese Alliance of ME, CFS and Fibromyalgia, as well as those affected by these conditions, to speak to parliamentarians about their difficulties and how they can be helped. The Speaker stressed that an action plan must be drawn up alongside a national campaign about fibromyalgia, in order to bring about greater awareness of this condition. He also stressed that people suffering from this type of invisible disability, should be given the help they deserve. This meeting, which was organized by ME, CFS & Fibromyalgia Alliance, was also addressed by Souzi MAKR, President, European Network of Fibromyalgia Associates, by Professor Stephen Bevan, University of Lancaster and the Institute of Employment Studies (UK), as well as by a number of parliamentarians and people suffering from these conditions.

Press conference by the Office of the Speaker about the development of the underground level in the Parliament building

On 30 May, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addressed a press conference about the underground level of the Parliament building, which is set to be developed to offer a number of facilities, including an archive, a research library, a committee room and offices for librarians and researchers. The Speaker explained that when Parliament moved into the new building, space for the archives and employees proved to be a challenge. In order to address these challenges, Parliament requested the assistance of the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation (GHRC) in the development of the underground level. Since this level previously served as a train station, the development application ensures that the historical heritage would not be damaged. The press conference was attended by the Clerk of the House, along with senior officials from the GHRC, including its President Hon. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Chief Executive Mr Gino Cauchi and one of the main architects of the project Mr Clive Borg Bonaci.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

Il-XV-il Konvenzjoni Internazzjonali tal-Lions Club, Walled Cities

Il-Lions Club laqqa' flimkien rappreżentantni minn bliet madwar id-dinja li huma mdawra b'ħitan antiki, bil-għan li jiddiskutu l-preservazzjoni tagħhom u li jitgħallmu aktar dwar it-teknika ta' kif għandu jsir dan ir-restawr mill-esperjenzi ta' xulxin. L-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia għamel id-diskors tal-ftuħ fil-XV-il Konferenza Internazzjonali tal-Lions Club, Walled Cities li saret fit-2 ta' Ġunju. Fl-indirizz tiegħu, l-I-speaker ta' ħarsa ġenerali lejn Malta bħala pajjiż b'pożizzjoni ġeografika strateġika, iżda wkoll bħala gżira mżejna b'koncentrazzjoni kbira ta' swar li jdawru l-ibliet tagħha. Huwa semma l-fortifikazzjonijiet ta' pajjiżna, li xi wħud minnhom imorru lura għall-Era tal-Bronż u qal li dawn il-fortifikazzjonijiet kollha jfakkruna fil-ġlied kostanti li kellhom jiffaċċjaw il-Maltin sabiex jiddefendu lil pajjiżhom mill-invażjoni. L-I-speaker qal li illum il-Belt Valletta, minbarra li hija ċ-ċentru ta' tranżazzjonijiet politiċi, amministrattivi u kummerċjali Maltin, kif ukoll attrazzjoni turistika ewlenija, il-Belt bis-swar tagħha hija Patrimonju Dinji tal-UNESCO. Huwa esprima kburiya għall-fatt li matul is-snin Malta nbidlet minn kolonja fortizza f'pajjiż li jippromwovi l-paċi u d-djalogu.



Wirja “Kontra l-Armi tal-Qerda tal-Massa”

Fit-2 ta' Ġunju, l-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia inawgura wirja intitolata 'Kontra l-Armi tal-Qerda tal-Massa' li giet organizzata fl-entrata tal-Parlament. F'kelmtejn tal-okkażjoni, l-I-speaker tenna kemm il-gwerer iwasslu għal telf ta' ħajja u kemm jikkawżaw dannu lill-umanità. Huwa komplja jgħid illi l-użu ta' riżorsi, kif ukoll l-investiment fl-armi tal-qerda tal-massa huma telf ta' opportunitajiet għal żvilupp f'setturi oħrajn li jistgħu jwasslu għal ħafna ġid, fosthom l-edukazzjoni, l-industrija u l-kura medika. L-Onor. Farrugia komplja jenfasizza li l-futur tal-umanità għandu jkun ibbażat fuq id-drittijiet fundamentali tal-bniedem u l-kollaborazzjoni fost il-ġnus sabiex titjeb il-kwalità tal-ħajja u jinqerdu l-problemi ta' faqar, mard u nuqqas ta' xogħol, fost oħrajn. Din il-wirja kienet qed turi proprju illi l-ġnus jistgħu jaħdmu flimkien biex itejbu l-iżvilupp uman fid-dinja. Matul din l-inawgurazzjoni, ippareteċipaw Patri Mark Montebello, is-Sur Sammy Meilaq, l-Onor. Glenn Bedingfield u l-Onor. Karl Gouder.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

XV International Convention Lions Club, Walled Cities

The Lions Club brought together representatives from cities around the world that are surrounded by ancient walls, with the aim to discuss their preservation and to learn more about the technicalities of how such restoration can be done from each other's experiences. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia delivered the opening speech at the XV International Convention Lions Club, Walled Cities, which took place on the 2 June. In his address, Speaker Farrugia gave an overview of Malta as a country with an important geo-strategic position throughout history, but also as an island adorned with a large concentration of fortified walls that surround its towns and cities. He spoke about Malta's fortifications, some of which date back to the Bronze Age, and said that all these fortifications are a reminder of the constant struggle that the Maltese faced to defend their country against invasion. Speaker Farrugia said that today, besides being the centre of Maltese political, administrative and business transactions, and a major tourist attraction, Valletta with its fortifications is a UNESCO World Heritage site. He showed pride in the fact that throughout the years, Malta changed from a fortress colony into a country promoting peace and dialogue.

"Against Weapons of Mass Destruction" Exhibition

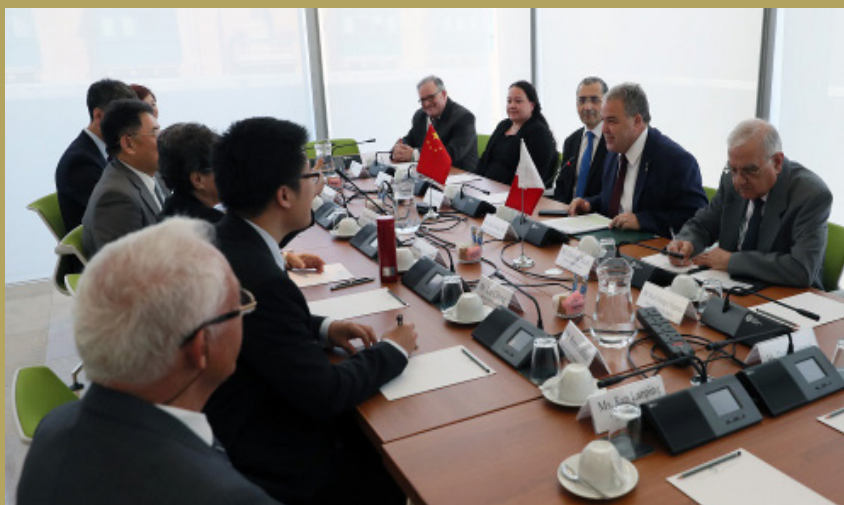
On 2 June, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia inaugurated an exhibition titled 'Against Weapons of Mass Destruction', which was held at the entrance of the Parliament building. In his address, the Speaker emphasized how wars lead to loss of life, as well as harm to humanity. He went on to say that the misuse of resources, as well as investment in weapons of mass destruction are missed opportunities for development in other sectors such as education, industry and medical care. Hon. Farrugia emphasized that the future of humanity must be based on fundamental human rights and collaboration among nations in order to improve quality of life and eliminate problems such as poverty, disease and lack of work, among others. This exhibition showed precisely that nations can work together to improve human development in the world. Fr Mark Montebello, Mr Sammy Meilaq, Hon. Glenn Bedingfield and Hon. Karl Gouder also participated in the inauguration.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

L-Ispeaker jiltaqa' mal-President tal-Assoċjazzjoni Ċina-UE

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rċieva żjara ta' korteżija mill-President tal-Assoċjazzjoni Ċina-UE u mill-eks Viċi President tal-Kumitat Permanenti tar-Repubblika Popolari taċ-Ċina Wuyun Qimuge fit-8 ta' Ġunju. F'kelmtejn tal-okkażjoni, l-Ispeaker semma r-relazzjonijiet eċċellenti li ilhom jeżistu bejn Malta u r-Repubblika Popolari taċ-Ċina minn mindu ġew stabbiliti relazzjonijiet diplomatiċi fl-1972. L-Ispeaker zied jgħid li matul is-snin kien hemm ħafna żjarat ta' livell għoli u żjarat ta' korteżija bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi, filwaqt li semma kif fil-lista ta' sħab kummerċjali ta' Malta, iċ-Ċina tinsab fl-għaxar post. Huwa tenna l-appoġġ ta' Malta għall-politika "One China" li fuqu huma mibnjin ir-relazzjonijiet Sino-Maltin u rrefera wkoll għall-Assoċjazzjoni Ċina-UE, bl-attivitajiet tagħha li huma intiżi biex jippromwovu l-kooperazzjoni bejn iċ-Ċina u l-UE. Is-Sinjura Qimuge qablet ma' dak li qal l-Ispeaker u esprimiet ir-rieda tal-poplu Ċiniż li jikkopera mal-Maltin u jsaħħaħ ir-relazzjoni ta' bejniethom. L-Ambaxxatur tar-Repubblika tal-Poplu taċ-Ċina għal Malta Cai Jinbaio, u l-President tas-Socjetà ta' Hbiberija Malta-Ċina s-Sur Reno Calleja kienu prezenti għal-laqgħa.



L-Ispeaker jattendi d-29 ċerimonja tal-gradwazzjoni tal-Istitut tal-Liġi Marittima Internazzjonali

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia attenda d-29 ċerimonja tal-gradwazzjoni tal-Istitut Internazzjonali tal-Liġi Marittima fil-Mużew Marittimu ta' Malta fil-Birgu. Matul din iċ-ċelebrazzjoni li saret fil-11 ta' Ġunju, 42 student ngħataw il-grad ta' Master of Law fil-Liġi Marittima Internazzjonali filwaqt li seba' studenti oħra ngħataw il-grad ta' Master of Humanities fil-Liġi Marittima Internazzjonali. L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia pprezenta l-premju prestigjuż Professur Walter Müller għall-Aħjar Proġett ta' Tfassil ta' Liġi Marittima.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

The Speaker meets the President of the China-EU Association

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy visit by the President of the China-EU Association and former Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Republic of China Wuyun Qimuge on 8 June. In his address, the Speaker recalled the excellent relations which have existed between Malta and the People's Republic of China since diplomatic relations were established in 1972. Speaker Farrugia added that over the years there have been many high-level and courtesy visits between the two countries, while noting that China is Malta's tenth largest trading partner. He reiterated Malta's support for the 'One China' policy on which Sino-Maltese relations are based and also referred to the China-EU Association, with its various activities to promote China-EU cooperation. Ms Qimuge agreed with the Speaker's viewpoints and went on to express the willingness of the Chinese people to cooperate with the Maltese and strengthen relations. The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta Cai Jinbaio, and President of the Malta-China Friendship Society Mr Reno Calleja were also present for the meeting.

The Speaker attends 29th graduation ceremony of the International Maritime Law Institute's

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia attended the International Maritime Law Institute's 29th graduation ceremony at the Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa. During this celebration, which took place on the 11 June, 42 students were awarded the Degree of Master of Law in International Maritime Law whilst another seven students were awarded the Degree of Master of Humanities in International Maritime Legislation. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presented the prestigious Professor Walter Müller Prize for the Best Maritime Legislation Drafting Project.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

Konferenza Nazzjonali fil-Jum Internazzjonali kontra d-Droga

L-ewwel Konferenza Nazzjonali fl-okkażjoni tal-Jum Internazzjonali kontra l-abbuż mid-droga saret fil-Parlament fis-26 ta' Ġunju. F'kelmtejn tal-okkażjoni, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia qal li fid-dinja hemm madwar 250 miljun ruħ li huma milquta minn din il-problema, li minnhom madwar 89 miljun jinsabu fl-Ewropa. Huwa tkellem fuq kif l-abbuż mid-droga jaffettwa lill-individwi u lill-familjari tagħhom u stqarr li hemm problemi fis-soċjetà li jistgħu jwasslu lil dak li jkun biex jabbuża mid-droga. Waqt din il-konferenza l-Ispeaker Farrugia faħħar lil kull min jaħdem fil-kura preventiva u riabilitattiva ta' min ikun milqut mill-abbuż tad-droga. Hu appella wkoll sabiex il-forzi tal-ordni u dawk ġudizzjarji jagħmlu l-almu tagħhom biex jipproċedu b'suċċess fil-konfront tat-traffikanti tas-sustanzi sintetiċi. L-Ispeaker qal li dejjem kien hemm qbil fost il-politiċi fil-ġlieda kontra d-droga u awgura li jkomplu jikkollaboraw sabiex jittieħdu miżuri kontra t-traffikar tad-droga u l-organizzazzjonijiet kriminali involuti, filwaqt li jeħilsu lil dawk li huma milquta mill-vizzju u l-abbuż tad-droga u jipprevjenu li jintlaqtu nies oħra minn dan il-vizzju qerriedi.



Wirja fl-okkażjoni taċ-ċentinarju mill-indipendenza tal-Polonja

Fil-15 ta' Ġunju, il-Parlament ospita wirja fl-entrata tiegħu li timmarka ċ-ċentinarju minn meta l-Polonja reggħet kisbet l-indipendenza tagħha. F'kelmtejn tal-okkażjoni, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia qal li filwaqt li ma nistgħux ninsew dak li kellhom jgħaddu minnu kemm Malta u kemm il-Polonja, illum dawn huma żewġ pajjiżi bi storja kburiya u kultura rikka, li jiffurmaw parti intrinsika mill-Ewropa u li għandhom futur mill-aqwa quddiemhom. L-Ispeaker enfasizza wkoll l-importanza li l-pajjiżi Ewropej jaħdmu flimkien bħala unjoni ta' nazzjonijiet meta jiffaċċjaw sfidi bħall-migrazzjoni, li mhix problema ta' stati individwali. Fil-kummenti finali tiegħu, semma kif il-prinċipji fundamentali u l-prosperità li jgawdu l-Ewropej tal-lum, ġew sforz is-sagrifiċċji ta' dawk li ġew qabilna, u għaldaqstant m'għandna qatt nassumu li l-paċi u l-prosperità huma għal dejjem.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

National Conference on the International Day against Drugs

The first National Conference held on the International Day against drug abuse was organised in the Parliament on 26 June. In his address, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia said that there are about 250 million people worldwide affected by this problem, 89 million of which are from Europe. He spoke about the way drug abuse affects individuals and their families and stated that there are problems in society which can lead people to abuse drugs. During the conference Speaker Farrugia praised all those who work in the preventive and rehabilitative sector to care for those affected by drug abuse. He also appealed to the authorities to do their best to successfully convict traffickers of synthetic substances. The Speaker said that politicians were always united in the fight against drugs and he augured that they would continue to collaborate and to take measures against drug trafficking and criminal organizations, while helping those affected by addiction and drug abuse and preventing others from being afflicted by this devastating habit.

Exhibition to mark the centenary of Polish independence

On 15 June, Parliament hosted an exhibition in its foyer to mark the centenary of the regaining of independence by Poland. In his address, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia said that whilst not forgetting what both Malta and Poland had to endure, they are now countries with a 'proud history and rich culture' which form an intrinsic part of Europe and with a prosperous future ahead of them. In his address Speaker Farrugia also emphasized the importance of European countries working together as a union of nations when facing challenges such as migration, which is not a problem of single states. In his concluding remarks, while saying that today's Europeans share fundamental principles and prosperity, the Speaker remarked that these only came about as a result of the sacrifices of those who came before us, and thus we should never take peace and prosperity for granted.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

L-Ispeaker jirċievi żjara ta' korteżija mill-Alternattiva Demokratika

Fil-25 ta' Ġunju, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia, laqa' għall-ewwel darba b'mod uffiċjali lit-tmexxija u lill-membri tal-Alternattiva Demokratika. Iċ-Chairperson, is-Sur Carmel Cacopardo wera l-aprezzament tiegħu għax-xogħol li sar mill-uffiċċju tal-Ispeaker bi tnejn għall-Att dwar l-Istandards fil-Ħajja Pubblika filwaqt li esprima x-xewqa tiegħu li dan l-Att ma jdumx ma jidhrol fis-seħħ. Matul din il-laqgħa ġew diskussi diversi materji, fosthom il-bżonn ta' miżuri li jkomplu jsaħħu l-kontabilità, id-dritt taċ-ċittadini li jipprezentaw petizzjonijiet lill-Parlament, ix-xandir parlamentari, u x-xhieda li jidhru quddiem il-komitati parlamentari.



Kommemorazzjoni tas-Sette Giugno

Iċ-ċerimonja tas-Sette Giugno tfakkar il-ġrajjet li seħhew meta l-poplu rribella għall-fatt li kien qed ibati l-ġuħ minhabba żieda qawwija fil-prezz tal-ħobż. Fl-1919, dawn l-avvenimenti enfasizzaw il-bżonn ta' riformi soċjali u ekonomiċi, li eventwalment wasslu għall-għoti tal-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner tal-1921, li permezz tagħha l-Maltin ingħataw id-dritt li jmexxu affarijiet lokali b'mod awtonomu. Il-Parlament Malti jfakkar dawn l-avvenimenti kull sena b'ċerimonja ta' tqegħid ta' kuruni mal-monument tas-Sette Giugno u b'diskors mill-Ispeaker, li din is-sena saru fis-6 ta' Ġunju, fi Pjazza San Ġorġ, il-Belt Valletta.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

The Speaker receives a courtesy visit by Alternattiva Demokratika

On 25 June, for the first time Speaker Anġlu Farrugia officially welcomed the leaders and members of the Alternattiva Demokratika. Chairperson Mr Carmel Cacopardo showed his appreciation for the work done by the Speaker's office leading to the Act on Standards in Public Life while expressing his wish for the Act to enter into force without delay. Several issues were discussed during the meeting, including the need for measures to further strengthen accountability, the right of citizens to submit petitions to Parliament, the parliamentary broadcasting, and witnesses appearing before parliamentary committees.

Sette Giugno Commemoration

The Sette Giugno ceremony commemorates the uprising by starving crowds against the steep increase in the price of bread. Back in 1919, these events highlighted the need for social and economic reforms, which eventually led to the granting of the 1921 Amery-Milner Constitution, through which the Maltese were given the right to self-government on local matters. The Maltese Parliament commemorates these events every year with a wreath-laying ceremony at the foot of the Sette Giugno monument and a speech by the Speaker of the House, which were held on 6 June at St George Square, Valletta.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT (KONT.)

Tnedija tat-tmien volum mis-serje *Is-Sedja Titkellem*

Fid-9 ta' Awwissu, l-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia nieda t-tmien volum tal-publikazzjoni 'Is-Sedja Titkellem', li fih jiġbor id-deċiżjonijiet mogħtija mis-Sedja (*rulings*) mill-bidu tat-13-il Leġiżlatura sal-4 ta' Lulju 2018. F'konferenza stampa, l-I-speaker qal li wasal iż-żmien li jsir xi tibdil fir-regolamenti tal-Kamra. Huwa spjega kif id-dritt tal-privileġġ parlamentari jgħib miegħu dmirijiet u responsabbiltajiet u għandu jiġi użat b'mod responsabbli mill-membri tal-Parlament. L-I-speaker ta rendikont tad-deċiżjonijiet mogħtija mis-Sedja, u għamel referenza partikolari għal dik dwar l-ammissibilità ta' interpellanzi parlamentari u oħra dwar x'jikkostitwixxi *point of order*. Barra minn hekk l-I-speaker ta rendikont tal-ħidma parlamentari li saret fit-13-il Leġiżlatura. Huwa semma' wkoll ix-xogħol li jibqa' jsir meta l-Parlament ma jkunx qed jiltaqa', u ħa l-okkażjoni sabiex jirringrazzja lill-impjegati tal-Parlament, li illum huma parti integrali minn istituzzjoni ħajja u attiva.



L-I-speaker jilqa' grupp ta' scouts minn madwar l-Ewropa

L-I-speaker Anġlu Farrugia laqa' grupp ta' scouts minn Malta, mill-Ġermanja u mill-Portugall fil-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-17 ta' Awwissu. Fl-indirizz tiegħu, l-I-speaker qal li l-Moviment tal-iScouts, imwaqqaf fl-1907, issa għandu aktar minn 40 miljun scout madwar id-dinja kollha. Dan il-moviment baqa' attiv tul dan iż-żmien kollu bis-saħħa tal-fundatur tiegħu, Lord Baden-Powell, li ispira żgħażaġħ biex isiru ċittadini attivi, kemm fuq livell lokali u anki globali, filwaqt li jaħdmu għal dinja aħjar, fejn nistgħu ngħixu flimkien f'paċi u armonija, u ngawdu progress ekonomiku u soċjali. L-I-speaker Farrugia spjega kif jaħdem il-proċess ta' demokrazija rappreżentattiva u fil-kummenti finali tiegħu, tkellem dwar il-korrelazzjoni bejn id-demokrazija rappreżentattiva u l-iscouting, fejn filwaqt li l-Membri Parlamentari jippromwovu l-benesseri komuni, l-iscouts iħaddnu valuri umani tajbin sabiex iġibu bidla għal dinja aħjar. Dan l-avveniment kien indirizzat ukoll mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għaż-Żgħażaġħ, Sport u Għaqdiet tal-Volontarjat l-Onor. Clifton Grima u l-kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Ryan Callus.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Launch of the eighth volume of the series 'Is-Sedja Titkellem'

On 9 August, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia launched the eighth volume of the publication 'Is-Sedja Titkellem'. This volume brings together the rulings given by the Speaker from the beginning of the 13th Legislature to 4 July 2018. During a press conference marking the event, the Speaker mentioned the need for amendments to the regulations governing the House of Representatives. He explained how the right to parliamentary privilege carried with it duties and responsibilities, and should be used responsibly by members of Parliament. The Speaker gave an overview of the rulings given and made particular reference to the one regarding the admissibility of parliamentary questions and another one regarding what constitutes a point of order. The Speaker also gave an overview of the parliamentary work that was carried out throughout the 13th Legislature. Hon. Farrugia also mentioned the work which continues even while Parliament is not in session, and took the opportunity to thank the Parliamentary employees that today form an integral part of an active institution.

The Speaker receives a group of scouts from across Europe

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia welcomed a group of scouts from Malta, Germany and Portugal in the Parliament Chamber on 17 August. In his address, the Speaker said that the Scout Movement, founded in 1907, now brings together more than 40 million scouts all over the world. This movement has stood the test of time thanks to its founder, Lord Baden-Powell, who inspired young people to become active local and global citizens, and to work for a better place where we can live together in peace and harmony, and enjoy economic and social progress. Speaker Farrugia explained the process of a representative democracy and in his concluding comments he spoke of the correlation between representative democracy and scouting, where parliamentarians endeavour to secure the common wellbeing, whilst the scouts embrace good human values in order to bring about change for a better world. This event was also addressed by Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations Hon. Clifton Grima and Opposition Spokesperson Hon. Ryan Callus.



ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI

L-14-il Sessjoni Parlamentari tal-PA-UfM

L-Onor. Glenn Bedingfield attenda l-14-il Sessjoni Plenarja tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Unjoni għall-Mediterran (PA-UfM) li saret fil-Kajr, l-Eġittu bejn it-28 u d-29 ta' April. Is-sessjoni indirizzata is-sugġett tal-ġlieda kontra t-terroriżmu fir-reġjun Ewro-Mediterranju. Fid-diskors tiegħu huwa spjega li Malta tibqa' impenjata fil-vokazzjoni Mediterranja tagħha u tkompli tippromwovi b'mod attiv ir-rwol tal-membri parlamentari permezz ta' diversi laqgħat u inizjattivi. Huwa aċċenna li l-koperazzjoni f'fora bħalma huma l-Unjoni għall-Mediterran, il-PA-UfM u l-Istitut Internazzjonali għall-Ġustizzja u l-Istat tad-Dritt jipprovdu ambjent ideali għall-qsim tal-aħjar prattiki. Huwa nnota li bħala leġislaturi, huwa importanti li jiġi żgurat li l-leġislazzjoni domestika tkun armonizzata mal-protokoll internazzjonali u tkun f'pożizzjoni li tidentifika, tipprevjeni u tiġġielel it-terroriżmu fi ħdan qafas tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem u l-istat tad-dritt. L-Onor. Bedingfield enfazizza li Malta tibqa' impenjata li żżomm qafas legali b'saħħtu li jiżgura l-interessi nazzjonali, filwaqt li tkun strumentali biex tippromwovi u tiffaċilita l-iskambju ta' *intelligence* u informazzjoni ma' msieħba reġjonali.



Workshop organizzat mill-IIJ dwar il-Ġlieda Kontra t-Terroriżmu

Waqt diskors f'*workshop* reġjonali dwar il-ġlieda kontra t-terroriżmu organizzat mill-Istitut Internazzjonali tal-Ġustizzja (IJJ) fi Brussell fit-2 u t-3 ta' Mejju 2018, l-Onor. David Stellini enfazizza l-importanza li jkun hemm skambju awtomatiku ta' informazzjoni u *intelligence* bejn il-pajjiżi tal-UE għall-prevenzjoni ta' attacchi terroristiċi fil-ġejjieni u li jiġu stabbiliti sistemi interoperabbli ta' kontroll tal-fruntieri tal-IT li jinfirmaw direttament lill-awtoritajiet meta jsir magħruf li jkun hemm theddida fil-fruntiera tal-UE. Il-*workshop* kien maqsum f'erba' sessjonijiet prinċipali: l-ewwel wieħed iffoka fuq ir-rwol tal-membri parlamentari fil-prevenzjoni tal-kawżi primarji tal-estremiżmu vjolenti, segwit minn sessjoni oħra dwar it-tisħiħ tal-koperazzjoni mal-fornituri tas-servizz tal-komunikazzjoni bl-internet biex jitneħħa l-kontenut illegali onlajn. It-tielet sessjoni eżaminat il-kwistjoni tas-supervizzjoni parlamentari tal-intelligenza fil-kuntest ta' politika kontra t-terroriżmu li tkun konformi mal-liġi, filwaqt li s-sessjoni l-oħra kienet tiffoka fuq il-ħidma tal-IIJ b'appoġġ għar-rwol tal-parlamentari fil-ġlieda kontra t-terroriżmu. Fost il-partecipanti kien hemm rappreżentanti minn pajjiżi tal-UE u dawk mhux tal-UE, inklużi Spanja, il-Libja u l-Alġerija, li esperjenzaw attacchi terroristiċi f'dawn l-aħħar snin. Dawn qasmu l-esperjenza diretta tagħhom dwar miżuri meħuda wara l-attakki rispettivi, partikolarment il-prosekuzzjoni ta' suspettati ta' terroriżmu u l-miżuri preventivi li ttieħdu minn dakinhar.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

14th Parliamentary Session of the PA-UfM

Hon. Glenn Bedingfield attended the 14th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) which took place in Cairo, Egypt on 28 and 29 April. The session addressed the topic of counter-terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean region. During his speech he explained that Malta remains committed to its Mediterranean vocation and continues to actively promote the role of parliamentarians through various meetings and initiatives. He highlighted that cooperation in similar fora such as the Union for the Mediterranean, the PA-UfM and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law provide an ideal setting for sharing of best practices. He noted that as legislators, it is imperative to ensure that domestic legislation is in tune with international protocols and is well-positioned to detect, prevent and counter terrorism within a human rights and rule of law framework. Hon. Bedingfield highlighted that Malta remains committed to maintaining a strong legal framework that secures national interests whilst being instrumental to promote and facilitate the exchange of intelligence and information with regional partners.

IJJ Workshop on Counter-Terrorism

Speaking in a regional workshop on Counter Terrorism organised by the International Institute of Justice (IIJ) in Brussels on 2 and 3 May 2018, Hon. David Stellini highlighted the importance of carrying out automatic exchange of information and intelligence between EU countries to prevent terror attacks in the future and of establishing interoperable IT border control systems which directly alert authorities when a threat is detected at the EU border. The workshop was divided into four main sessions: the first focused on the role of parliamentarians in preventing the root causes of violent extremism followed by another session on strengthening cooperation with internet communication service providers to remove illegal content online. The third session looked at the issue of parliamentary oversight of intelligence in the context of rule of law-compliant counter-terrorism policies and another session focusing on building on the work of the IIJ in support of parliamentarians' role in counter-terrorism. Among the participants were representatives from EU and non-EU countries, including Spain, Libya and Algeria, that experienced terror attacks in recent years. They shared first-hand experience about measures taken in the aftermath of the respective attacks, particularly the prosecution of terror suspects and the preventive measures taken since.



ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

L-ICM dwar il-pakkett tal-protezzjoni tad-Data organizzat mill-Parlament Ewropew

Fil-15 ta' Meju, l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg ipparteċipat f'laqgħa interparlamentari, organizzata mill-kumitat LIBE tal-Parlament Ewropew ġewwa Brussell, dwar il-pakkett tal-implimentazzjoni tal-protezzjoni tad-data. L-għan tal-laqgħa ma' parlamentari nazzjonali kien li jaqsmu l-fehmiet tagħhom u jaqsmu prattiki tajba dwar l-implimentazzjoni tal-General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) u d-Direttiva dwar il-Protezzjoni tad-Data għal pakkett ta' infurzar tal-liġi qabel id-dhul fis-seħħ tiegħu fil-25 ta' Meju. L-Onor. Buttigieg qalet li kumpaniji żgħir f'Malta esprimew it-tħassib tagħhom dwar is-sugġett. Hi enfasizzat l-importanza li wieħed jisma' dan it-tħassib, u jargumenta li l-għodod meħtieġa għal implimentazzjoni xierqa għandhom ikunu disponibbli u mxerrda b'mod ċar fost in-negozji ta' daqs żgħir u medju (SMEs) li qed jagħmlu l-almu tagħhom biex jikkonformaw. Hi argumentat li kumpaniji iżgħar u akbar għandhom jiġu indirizzati b'modi differenti li jżidu l-livell ta' aċċettazzjoni u ġustizzja. Diversi kelliema fuq il-*panel* argumentaw li l-Istati Membri jmisshom bdew iħejju għall-implimentazzjoni tar-regoli l-ġodda minn snin qabel għaliex dan kien iżid iċ-ċertezza legali u l-fiduċja kemm fost in-negozji kif ukoll il-konsumaturi.



L-Ispeaker jattendi laqgħa organizzata mis-CPA u l-WFD

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia pparteċipa f'laqgħa organizzata mill-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA) b'kollaborazzjoni mal-Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) li saret f'Londra bejn it-18 u l-20 ta' Ġunju 2018. L-għan tal-laqgħa kien li jiġu aġġornati numru ta' rakkomandazzjonijiet li jgħinu fit-tiġħ u l-iżvilupp tad-demokrazija fil-pajjiżi membri tas-CPA. Għal din il-laqgħa attendew numru ta' Speakers u Skrivani tal-Kamra. L-Ispeaker kien akkumpanjat mill-Iskrivan tal-Kamra, is-Sur Raymond Scicluna. Il-bżonn għall-aġġornament tar-rakkomandazzjonijiet, li oriġinarjament inħarġu fl-2006, inħass wara li ttieħed kont ta' diversi bidliet li seħħew f'oqsma differenti tal-amministrazzjoni fi ħdan numru ta' pajjiżi membri, kemm oqsma politiċi, kemm soċjali u mhux b'inqas dawk teknoloġiċi. Għaldaqstant huwa importanti li l-parlamenti jkunu konxji ta' dawn l-iżviluppi sabiex ikunu jistgħu jibqgħu relevanti u effettivi bħala istituzzjoni legiżlattiva. Fost il-materji li ġew trattati kien hemm dawk konnessi ma' kwistjonijiet tal-ġeneru u tar-rappreżentanza, partikolarment ir-rappreżentanza femminili fil-Parlament, l-isfidi li żviluppaw fl-aħħar snin relatati mal-informatika u l-komunikazzjoni, kif ukoll kif iż-żgħażaġh jistgħu jiġu mħajra jipparteċipaw aktar fil-proċessi demokratiċi ta' parlament.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

ICM on the data protection package organised by the European Parliament

On 15 May, Hon. Claudette Buttigieg participated in an interparliamentary committee meeting organised by the European Parliament's LIBE Committee in Brussels on the implementation of the data protection package. The aim of the meeting with national parliamentarians was to share their views and best practices on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Directive for law enforcement package purposes, prior to its entry into force on 25 May. Hon. Buttigieg said that small companies in Malta have expressed their concerns on the subject. She emphasised the importance of listening to these concerns, arguing that the tools needed for proper implementation need to be made available and clearly disseminated among SMEs which are doing their best to comply. She argued that smaller and larger companies should be addressed in different ways, which would increase the level of acceptance and fairness. Several panellists argued that member states should have started preparing for the implementation of the new rules a long time ago as this would have increased legal certainty and confidence both among businesses and consumers.

Speaker attends meeting organised by the CPA and the WFD

The Speaker attended a meeting organised jointly between the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) organised between 18 and 20 June 2018 in London. The aim of the meeting was to update a number of recommendations which assist the strengthening and development of the democracies of members of the CPA. The meeting was attended by a number of Speakers and Clerks of the House. Speaker Farrugia was accompanied by the Clerk of the House, Mr Raymond Scicluna. The exercise of updating the recommended benchmarks issued in 2006 came about following a number of changes experienced by the members in different fora in their administrations, namely political, social, and inevitably, technological. It is thus important for parliaments to be aware of such developments so as to remain a relevant and effective legislative institution. The discussions concerned also gender issues and representation, particularly female representation in Parliament, as well as the challenges which developed in recent years, with reference to information technology and communications, including improving the participation of the young generation in democratic processes within parliaments.



ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

Id-LIX Laqgħa tal-COSAC

Iċ-Chairman tal-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, l-Onor. Edward Zammit Lewis, flimkien mal-Onor. Anthony Bezzina, membru tal-istess Kumitat, ipparteċipa fid-LIX Laqgħa tal-Kumitati Parlamentari tal-Unjoni Ewropea dwar l-Affarijiet Ewropej (COSAC) li nżammet f'Sofija, il-Bulgarija, bejn is-17 u d-19 ta' Ġunju. Il-laqgħa hija waħda minn sensiela ta' laqgħat li jsiru taħt id-dimensjoni parlamentari tal-Presidenza Bulgara tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea bit-tema 'Magħqudin inkunu aktar b'Saħħitna'. Fil-laqgħa kienu diskussi diversi temi, inkluż l-andament tal-Presidenza Bulgara. Is-sessjoni giet indirizzata mill-Prim Ministru tal-Bulgarija, Boyko Borissov li spjega kif qed jiġu indirizzati l-prijoritajiet tal-Presidenza Bulgara. Sessjoni oħra ttrattat il-progress li qed jagħmlu pajjiżi tal-Balkani fi triqithom lejn sħubija fl-Unjoni Ewropea. Temi oħra diskussi waqt il-laqgħa kienu l-pilastru tad-drittijiet soċjali tal-Unjoni Ewropea, il-politika ta' koeżjoni, kif ukoll il-prinċipji tas-sussidjarjetà u proporzjonalità.



ICM dwar in-Networks tat-Trasport

L-Onor. Anthony Bezzina pparteċipa f'laqgħa Interparlamentari tal-Kumitat (ICM) organizzata fi Brussell mill-Kumitat għat-Trasport u t-Turiżmu tal-Parlament Ewropew. It-tema tal-laqgħa kienet "Investiment tal-UE fin-Networks tat-Trasport tagħha lil hinn mill-2020". L-għan tal-ICM, li sar fl-20 ta' Ġunju, kien li jipprovi lill-parlamentari l-opportunità li jaqsmu l-esperjenzi nazzjonali u jiddiskutu ma' uffiċjali għolja kemm mill-UE, kif ukoll mill-istituzzjonijiet nazzjonali dwar numru ta' kwistjonijiet, fosthom kif jistgħu jingħelbu l-ostakli eżistenti biex jingħaqdu n-networks tat-trasport u l-operazzjonijiet transkonfinali; tinħoloq sinerġija f'termini ta' objettivi u proġetti bejn il-Politika ta' Koeżjoni u l-Politika tat-TEN-T; l-estensjoni tan-networks tat-trasport tal-UE għall-pajjiżi ġirien tagħha; id-digitalizzazzjoni u d-dekarbonizzazzjoni tas-settur tat-trasport; ir-rwol tad-dimensjoni marittima u n-networks interoperabbli; il-finanzjament tal-infrastruttura tat-trasport taħt l-MFF li jmiss, u kif jista' jissaħħaħ l-involvement tas-settur privat permezz ta' strumenti finanzjarji innovattivi. L-ICM kien maqsum f'żewġ sessjonijiet prinċipali: l-ewwel waħda kienet dwar l-istat attwali u l-perspettivi futuri tan-networks tat-trasport, u t-tieni waħda kienet fuq l-isfidi u l-perspettivi għall-perjodu ta' wara l-2020 fil-qasam tal-investimenti fl-infrastruttura tat-trasport.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Meeting of the LIX COSAC

The Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, Hon. Edward Zammit Lewis, together with Committee member Hon. Anthony Bezzina, participated in the LIX Meeting of the Conference of Committees on European Affairs (COSAC) which was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, between 17 and 19 June. The meeting took place as part of the Bulgarian Parliamentary Dimension of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union with the theme 'United, We Stand Strong.' The meeting comprised a number of themed discussions which included the progress of the Bulgarian Presidency. The session was addressed by the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Boyko Borissov who explained the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency and how these were being addressed. Another session dealt with the progress of the Balkan countries towards EU accession. The social pillar of the European Union, the cohesion policy, as well as the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality were all additional themes discussed during the meeting.

ICM on Transport Networks

Hon. Anthony Bezzina participated in an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) organised in Brussels by the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism. The meeting dealt with the subject "EU Investing in its Transport Networks beyond 2020". The aim of the ICM, which was held on 20 June, was to provide parliamentarians with the opportunity to share national experiences and to discuss with high-ranking officials from both the EU and national institutions a number of issues such as overcoming the existing barriers to linking transport networks and operations across borders; creating a synergy in terms of objectives and projects between the Cohesion Policy and TEN-T Policy; extending the EU's transport networks to its neighbouring countries; the digitalisation and decarbonisation of the transport sector; the role of the maritime dimension and interoperable networks; funding transport infrastructure under the next MFF, and how to strengthen the involvement of the private sector through innovative financial instruments. The ICM was divided into two main sessions: the first was on the state of play and future perspectives regarding transport networks, and the second was on the challenges and perspectives for the post-2020 period in the field of transport infrastructure investments.



ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tal-BIMR tas-CPA

Fil-25 ta' Ġunju, delegazzjoni tal-Parlament Malti komposta mill-Onor. Edward Zammit Lewis u l-Onor. David Agius ipparteċipat fil-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA), British Isles u Reġjun tal-Mediterran (BIMR), organizzata f'Londra. Matul il-laqgħa annwali jiġu diskussi kwistjonijiet reġjonali relatati mal-BIMR. L-Onor. Edward Zammit Lewis tkellem dwar żviluppi parlamentari riċenti li seħħew f'Malta, inkluż id-dħul fis-seħħ tal-Att dwar is-Servizz Parlamentari, li stabbilixxa Servizz Parlamentari awtonomu, u t-twaqqif ta' żewġ kumitati permanenti ġodda – wieħed li jeżamina l-petizzjonijiet ippreżentati lill-Parlament jew minn Membri Parlamentari jew mill-pubbliku, u l-ieħor li jiskrutinizza ċerti ħatriet pubbliċi. Il-laqgħa ġiet segwita minn *workshop* dwar "l-Ingagg taż-Żgħażaġħ fil-Proċess Politiku". Matul l-intervent tiegħu, l-Onor. David Agius iddiskuta l-iżviluppi riċenti f'Malta, jiġifieri l-emendi kostituzzjonali u l-emendi għall-Att dwar l-Elezzjonijiet Ġenerali u l-Elezzjonijiet tal-Parlament Ewropew li jestendu d-dritt tal-vot lil persuni li għandhom sittax-il sena. L-Onor. Agius enfasizza wkoll li l-votanti żgħażaġħ mhumiex "l-elettori tal-ġejjieni, iżda l-votanti tal-lum", peress li jistgħu jinfluwenzaw ir-responsabbiltajiet taż-żgħażaġħ mil-lum.



Il-11-il Forum Parlamentari dwar l-Intelliġenza u s-Sigurtà

L-Speaker Anġlu Farrugia pparteċipa fil-11-il Forum Parlamentari dwar l-Intelliġenza u s-Sigurtà, li sar f'Berlin fit-2 ta' Lulju. Dan il-forum kien organizzat bi sħab bejn Membru tal-Kungress Amerikan u l-President tat-Taskforce tal-Kungress dwar it-Terroriżmu u l-Gwerra Mhux Konvenzjonali, Robert Pittinger, u Johannes Selle, Membru tal-Bundestag. Il-Forum kien jikkonsisti f'sitt diskussjonijiet li ttrattaw, temi importanti fil-qasam tas-sigurtà, inkluż il-finanzjament tat-terroriżmu, l-evaljazzjoni tat-taxxa, it-traffikar tal-persuni, is-serq tal-identità, il-kriminalità ċibernetika, is-sanzjonijiet, il-qsim tal-informazzjoni, il-korruzzjoni u s-sħubija pubblika-privata. Id-diskussjonijiet taw lill-membri parlamentari opportunità li jirċievu l-għarfien l-aktar riċenti, b'hekk japprofondixxu l-għarfien tagħhom filwaqt li jagħmlu d-domandi u jiddiskutu affarijiet ta' interess komuni ma' membri parlamentari oħrajn. Fl-indirizz tiegħu, l-Speaker Farrugia staqsa dwar kemm hu effettiv l-infurzar tar-regolamentazzjoni kontra l-ħasil tal-flus fl-UE, waqt li ddefenda l-qafas regolatorju ta' Malta fil-qasam tal-iGaming. L-Speaker saħaq li n-nuqqas ta' traċċi tal-verifika jagħmluha diffiċli ferm li l-ħasil tal-flus u l-finanzjament tat-terroriżmu jiġu eradikati kompletament. Huwa ssuġġerixxa li l-UE u l-Istati Uniti jaġixxu b'mod kollettiv fi sforz sabiex jitwaqqaf il-finanzjament ta' gruppi terroristiċi. L-Speaker Farrugia sejjah għal approċċ ħolistiku sabiex jiġu ttrattati l-attakki ċibernetiċi u l-aħbarijiet foloz.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

BIMR Annual General Meeting of the CPA

On 25 June a delegation of the Maltese Parliament composed of Hon. Edward Zammit Lewis and Hon. David Agius participated in the Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly (CPA), British Isles and Mediterranean Region (BIMR), organised in London. The annual meeting discusses regional matters relating to the BIMR. Hon. Edward Zammit Lewis spoke about recent parliamentary developments in Malta, including the enactment of the Parliamentary Service Act, which set up an autonomous Parliamentary Service, and the fact that the Maltese Parliament has approved the setting up of two new standing committees – one which examines petitions submitted to Parliament either by MPs or by the public, and the other which scrutinises certain public appointments. The meeting was followed by a workshop on “Youth Engagement in the Political Process”. During his intervention, Hon. David Agius discussed recent developments in Malta, that is, the constitutional amendments and amendments to the General Elections and the European Parliament Elections Act to extend the right to vote to persons who are sixteen years of age. Hon. Agius emphasised that young voters are not the “voters of the future, but voters of today”, since they may influence the responsibilities of youth as of today.

11th Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

Speaker Anglu Farrugia participated in the 11th Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum, held in Berlin on 2 July. The Forum was co-organised by US Congressman and Chairman of the Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare Robert Pittinger, and Johannes Selle, Member of the Bundestag. The Forum comprised six panel discussions, each of which discussed topical issues in the field of security, including terrorism funding, tax evasion, human trafficking, identity theft, cybercrime, sanctions, information sharing, corruption and public-private partnerships. The panel discussions provided parliamentarians with an opportunity to receive the latest knowledge, deepening their understanding through raising their own concerns and posing their questions, as well as discussing matters of mutual interest with other parliamentarians. In his address, Speaker Farrugia questioned the effectiveness of anti-money laundering enforcement in the EU, defending Malta’s regulatory regime in the field of iGaming. He highlighted the difficulty in completely eradicating money laundering and terrorism funding due to the lack of an audit trail. He suggested that the EU act collectively with the United States of America in its efforts to stop funding to terrorist groups. Speaker Farrugia further called for a holistic approach for tackling cyber-attacks and fake news.



ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

Laqgħa tal-Presidenti tal-COSAC

L-Onor. Glenn Bedingfield, Membru tal-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, ipparteċipa fil-Laqgħa tal-Presidenti tal-Kumitati Parlamentari tal-Unjoni Ewropea dwar l-Affarijiet Ewropej (COSAC) li nżammet bejn it-8 u d-9 ta' Lulju fi Vjenna. Din il-laqgħa, li hija parti mill-programm interparlamentari tal-Presidenza Awstrijaka tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea, tiġi organizzata f'kull presidenza bi preparazzjoni għall-laqgħa plenarja tal-COSAC. Taħt it-tema 'Ewropa li tipproteġi' il-laqgħa ffukat fuq żewġ temi prinċipali: il-prijoritajiet tal-Presidenza Awstrijaka tal-Kunsill, u l-futur tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Fis-sessjoni dwar il-prijoritajiet tal-Presidenza Awstrijaka, l-Onor. Bedingfield tkellem dwar l-immigrazzjoni illegali. Huwa argumenta li l-Unjoni Ewropea hija għaqda ta' pajjiżi li jippromwovu l-paċi, it-tolleranza u s-solidarjetà, u li għandu jkun l-istess prinċipju tas-solidarjetà li jiggwida lill-istati membri biex jaħdmu flimkien fuq kwistjonijiet li jgħumu. L-Onor. Bedingfield sostna li l-ebda pajjiż Ewropew m'għandu jhossu abbandunat fuq xi kwistjoni, u Malta u l-ġirien tagħha ma għandhomx jithallew jerfgħu l-piż tal-problema tal-immigrazzjoni waħedhom. Huwa tenna l-bżonn li jinbidlu r-regoli ta' Dublin u awgura li tinstab soluzzjoni dejjiema għal din il-kriżi.



It-Tielet Summit tal-Ispeakers tal-Parlamenti tal-pajjiżi fiċ-Ċentru u l-Lvant tal-Ewropa

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia indirizza t-tielet Summit tal-Ispeakers tal-parlamenti tal-pajjiżi fiċ-ċentru u l-lvant tal-Ewropa, li giet organizzata mis-Sejm tar-Repubblika tal-Polonja fit-12 ta' Lulju. L-Ispeaker Farrugia pparteċipa fid-dibattitu dwar 'Il-Parlamenti fil-politika internazzjonali', fejn issottolinea l-importanza ta' assemblej fil-promozzjoni tal-fehim reċiproku, il-koperazzjoni u l-promozzjoni tal-paċi, iżda wkoll sabiex jinstabu soluzzjonijiet komuni għall-isfidi ta' kuljum li jiffaċċjaw il-pajjiżi fir-reġjun, kif ukoll sabiex jinbtu proġetti ta' koperazzjoni fis-setturi tal-ekonomija, dak soċjali u dak kulturali. Waqt li rrefera għall-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Mediterran (PAM), li s-segretarjat tagħha ilu ospitat f'Malta mill-2007, u li saret ċentru tal-eċċellenza għad-diplomazija parlamentari reġjonali, l-Ispeaker Farrugia awgura li l-istess isir mill-parlamenti tal-pajjiżi fiċ-ċentru u l-lvant tal-Ewropa. Fil-margini tal-istess laqgħa, l-Ispeaker kellu laqgħa bilaterali ma' Talat Xhaferi, Speaker tal-Assemblea tal-eks Repubblika Jugoslava tal-Maċedonja, li fiha ġew diskussi materji ta' interess komuni, partikolarment l-importanza li tissaħħaħ ir-relazzjoni parlamentari bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting

Hon. Glenn Bedingfield, member of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, participated in the Meeting of the Chairpersons of Standing Committees on European Affairs of Parliaments of EU Member States (COSAC), held in Vienna on 8 and 9 July. This meeting, which forms part of the interparliamentary dimension of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, is organised during each presidency in preparation for the COSAC plenary session. Themed 'A Europe that protects', the meeting focused on two main themes: the Austrian Presidency's priorities for the Council, and the future of the European Union. In the session about the priorities of the Austrian Presidency, Hon. Bedingfield spoke of illegal immigration. He argued that the European Union is an organisation of countries that promote peace, tolerance and solidarity, and that it is this principle of solidarity that should guide member states to work together on any issues that arise. Hon. Bedingfield stated that no European state should feel abandoned about any topic, and, thus, that Malta and its neighbours should not carry all the weight of the migration problem on their own. He reiterated the need to change the Dublin regulations and augured that a long-term solution to this crisis be found.

3rd Summit of Speakers of Central and Eastern European Parliaments

Speaker Anglu Farrugia addressed the 3rd Summit of Speakers of Central and Eastern European Parliaments organised by the Sejm of the Republic of Poland on 12 July. Participating in the debate on 'Parliaments in international politics', Speaker Farrugia highlighted the importance of regional interparliamentary assemblies not only in promoting mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace, but in seeking common solutions to the daily challenges faced by countries in the region and engaging in joint ventures in the economic, social, and cultural fields. Referring to the Parliamentary Assembly for the Mediterranean (PAM), whose secretariat has been hosted in Malta since 2007 and which has been transformed into a centre of excellence for regional parliamentary diplomacy, Speaker Farrugia augured that the Central and Eastern European Parliaments will follow in the steps of the PAM. On the margins of the summit, the Speaker had a bilateral meeting with Talat Xhaferi, Speaker of the Assembly of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, wherein issues of mutual interest were discussed, particularly the importance of enhancing the parliamentary relationship between the two countries.



ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

Is-27 Sessjoni Annwali tal-OSCE PA

Delegazzjoni tal-Parlament Malti, immexxija mill-Onor. Etienne Grech u magħmula mill-Onor. Silvio Grixti u l-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia, ipparteċipat fis-Sessjoni Annwali tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Organizzazzjoni għas-Sigurtà u l-Koperazzjoni fl-Ewropa (OSCE PA) li saret f'Berlin, il-Ġermanja, bejn is-7 u l-11 ta' Lulju, bit-tema 'Nimplimentaw l-Impenji tal-OSCE: ir-Rwol tal-Parlamenti'. Is-Sessjoni Annwali fetħet b'laqgħa tal-Kumitat Permanenti, segwita minn sessjonijiet plenarji u laqgħat tat-tliet kumitati ġenerali. Is-Sessjoni Annwali ffukat fuq ir-rapporti u l-abbozzi tar-riżoluzzjonijiet ipprezentati mit-tliet kumitati ġenerali u s-16-il riżoluzzjoni supplimentari proposti minn membri individwali.

B'reazzjoni għar-rapport tat-Tieni Kumitat Ġenerali dwar l-Affarijiet Ekonomiċi, ix-Xjenza, it-Teknoloġija u l-Ambjent, l-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia ssottolinea s-serjetà tal-isfidi li jgħibu magħhom it-tibdil fil-klima u t-tniġġis tal-arja, partikolarment l-impatt tagħhom fuq id-disponibbiltà tal-ilma.

Id-delegazzjoni Maltija tat is-sapport tagħha lil numru ta' abbozzi ta' riżoluzzjonijiet u emendi pprezentati fid-diversi laqgħat tas-Sessjoni Annwali. L-Onor. Farrugia pprezenta abbozz ta' riżoluzzjoni dwar il-prijorità li għandhom jingħataw iż-żgħażaġħ u l-ħtieġa li dawn jingħataw is-sapport meħtieġ sabiex jilħqu l-potenzjal tagħhom, liema abbozz irċieva l-appoġġ ta' 41 membru parlamentari minn 29 delegazzjoni differenti. Din ir-riżoluzzjoni supplimentari tħares lejn iż-żgħażaġħ bħala s-sinsla tas-soċjetà tal-lum u l-mexxejja tal-futur u b'hekk bħala fattur integrali għall-iżvilupp tal-paċi sostenibbli, il-prevenzjoni tal-kunflitt, il-ġlieda kontra l-estremiżmu u biex jiġu megħluba l-isfidi tad-dinja. Għalhekk, iż-żgħażaġħ għandhom jingħataw is-sapport neċessarju sabiex jiżviluppaw sens ta' benesseri u impenn ċiviku, kif ukoll opportunitajiet adegwati biex ikunu jistgħu jikkontribwixxu f'kull attività li taħdem għall-iżvilupp tal-paċi u s-sigurtà. Ir-riżoluzzjoni supplimentari giet approvata b'emenda waħda u giet inkluża fid-Dikjarazzjoni Finali tas-Sessjoni Annwali, li kopja tagħha għandha tiġi pprezentata lill-Kunsill Ministerjali tal-OSCE aktar tard din is-sena.

L-Onor. Etienne Grech u l-Onor. Godfrey Farrugia pparteċipaw ukoll fid-dibattitu ġenerali li sar fis-sessjoni plenarja, fejn tkellmu dwar it-tema tal-migrazzjoni. L-Onor. Grech sejjaħ għal zieda fil-qsim tal-piż tal-migrazzjoni u għal kurituri legali għall-migrazzjoni, waqt li l-Onor. Farrugia lmenta dwar il-pass li bih il-Kunsill Ministerjali tal-OSCE jimplementa r-riżoluzzjonijiet u r-rakommandazzjonijiet tal-OSCE PA. Il-membri tad-delegazzjoni Maltija pparteċipaw ukoll f'attivitajiet organizzati fil-margni tas-27 Sessjoni Annwali, kif ukoll fl-elezzjoni ta' numru ta' uffiċjali għolja tal-OSCE PA.



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

27th Annual Session of the OSCE PA

A delegation of the Maltese Parliament, led by Hon. Etienne Grech and comprising Hon. Silvio Grixti and Hon. Godfrey Farrugia, took part in the 2018 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) in Berlin, Germany, between 7 and 11 July, themed 'Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments'. The Annual Session kicked off with a meeting of the Standing Committee, followed by plenary sessions and meetings of the three general committees. The Annual Session focused on reports and draft resolutions presented by each of the general committees and 16 supplementary items proposed by individual members.

Reacting to the report of the Second General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment, Hon. Godfrey Farrugia highlighted the seriousness of climate change, air pollution and their impact on the availability of water.

The Maltese delegation also supported a number of draft resolutions and various amendments presented in the various meetings of the Annual Session. Notably, Hon. Farrugia presented a draft resolution on prioritising youth and supporting young people to reach their potential, which he had submitted and which had garnered the support of 41 parliamentarians from 29 different delegations. This supplementary item posits that young people, as the backbone of today's society and the leaders of the future, are integral to building sustainable peace, preventing conflict, countering extremism and overcoming the world's challenges. Thus, young people must be given the necessary support to develop a sense of wellbeing and civic commitment, as well as adequate opportunities to be able to contribute to all peace-building and security efforts. The supplementary item was approved with one amendment and included in the Final Declaration of the Annual Session, a copy of which will be presented to the Ministerial Council of the OSCE later this year.

Hon. Etienne Grech and Hon. Godfrey Farrugia also participated actively in the plenary general debate, during which they both spoke on the topic of migration. Whilst Hon. Grech called for increased burden-sharing and for the creation of legal corridors for migration, including asylum seekers, Hon. Farrugia lamented the track-record of the OSCE's Ministerial Council in implementing the resolutions and recommendations made by the OSCE PA.

The members of the Maltese delegation also participated in side events organised in the margins of the 27th Annual Session, as well as the election of a number of senior officials of the OSCE PA.

ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI (KONT.)

Il-550 Anniversarju tal-Parlamentarizmu fil-Polonja

Fit-13 ta' Lulju fuq stedina tal-Ispeaker tas-Sejm tar-Repubblika Pollakka, is-Sur Marek Kuchciński, u l-Ispeaker tas-Senat tar-Repubblika Pollakka, Stanislaw Karczewski, l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, attenda għaċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet li kkommemoraw il-550 Anniversarju mill-ewwel seduta tas-Sejm Ġenerali, liema seduta kienet saret fis-sena 1468 mir-Re Kazimierz Jagiellonczyk f'Piotrków. Iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet tnidew b'quddiesa fil-Kattidral ta' San Ġwann Battista f'Varsavja, segwita minn sessjoni tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali li saret fis-Sala Prinċipali tal-Kastell Irjali. Din is-sessjoni kkommemorat kemm il-550 Anniversarju ta' Parlamentarizmu Pollakk, kif ukoll iċ-ċentinarju mill-kisba mill-ġdid tal-indipendenza Pollakka. L-Ispeaker Farrugia kellu laqgħa bilaterali mall-Ispeaker tas-Senat, Stanislaw Karczewski. Iż-żewġ dinjitarji ddiskutew ir-relazzjonijiet bilaterali bejn Malta u l-Polonja fl-oqsma politiċi, ekonomiċi u kulturali, il-koperazzjoni parlamentari kif ukoll ir-relazzjonijiet mal-UE.



Sessjoni Inawgurati tal-Parlament Internazzjonali għat-Tolleranza u l-Paċi

Fis-6 ta' Lulju l-Kamra tad-Deputati ospitat is-sessjoni inawgurati tal-Parlament Internazzjonali għat-Tolleranza u l-Paċi. Dan il-Parlament Internazzjonali huwa wieħed minn żewġ pilastru ewlenin tal-Kunsill Globali għat-Tolleranza u l-Paċi. Il-Parlament Internazzjonali ser ikun jinkludi f'ames kumitati, li ser jirrigwardaw iż-żgħirażgħ u n-nisa; l-affarijiet legali u leġiżlattivi; l-affarijiet internazzjonali; il-kultivazzjoni tal-paċi u l-iżvilupp sostenibbli. Fl-indirizz tal-ftuħ tiegħu, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia spjega li l-Kunsill Globali u l-Parlament Internazzjonali għat-Tolleranza u l-Paċi jhaddnu u jippromwovu ideoloġija importanti li l-paċi hija proċess li qatt ma jintemm, u li jinvolvi l-kapaċità li jittrasforma l-kunflitti b'empatija, bi kreattività u bla vjolenza. Il-membri jistgħu jippromwovu t-tolleranza u l-paċi kemm fil-pajjiżi tagħhom kif ukoll bejn pajjiżi differenti biss permezz ta' għarfien tal-isfidi komuni u ta' djalogu ekwu bejn l-imsieħba. L-Ispeaker Farrugia rrefera għar-rwol ta' Malta fil-promozzjoni tad-djalogu bejn reġjuni u stati differenti, partikolarment permezz tas-sehem ta' Malta fil-promozzjoni tal-idea li l-pajjiżi tal-Mediterran għandhom jiġu inkluzi fl-Att Finali ta' Helsinki tas-CSCCE, issa OSCE. Il-membri nnominat mill-Parlament Malti għall-Parlament Internazzjonali u l-Kumitat tiegħu għall-Affarijiet Internazzjonali, l-Onor. Glenn Bedingfield, ippropona li dan il-kumitat jinkludi l-migrazzjoni fil-ħidma tiegħu, bil-għan li tiġi indirizzata l-kriżi umanitarja kurrenti. Id-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa, l-Onor. Chris Fearne, il-Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u l-Promozzjoni tal-kummerċ, l-Onor. Carmelo Abela, il-kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni għall-Affarijiet Barranin, l-Onor. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, u l-eks Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin, Dr George Vella, indirizzaw is-sessjoni tal-ftuħ. L-Onor. David Stellini kien preżenti wkoll għal din is-sessjoni.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

550th Anniversary of the Polish Parliamentarism

On the invitation of the Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Marek Kuchciński and the Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Stanislaw Karczewski, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia attended the celebrations of the 550th Anniversary of the first General Sejm sitting on 13 July, which was convened in 1468 by King Kazimierz Jagiellonczyk in Piotrków. The celebrations started with Holy Mass at the Arch Cathedral Basilica of St John the Baptist in Warsaw, followed by the session of the National Assembly, held at the Main Hall of the Royal Castle, which session commemorated the 550th Anniversary of Polish Parliamentarism and the centenary of Poland regaining independence. Speaker Farrugia also had a bilateral meeting with the Marshal of the Senate, Stanislaw Karczewski. The two dignitaries discussed Polish-Maltese bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural spheres, parliamentary cooperation as well as relations with the EU.

Inaugural Session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace

The inaugural session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace was hosted by the House of Representatives on 6 July. The International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace is one of the two main pillars of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace. The International Parliament will include a total of five committees dealing with youth and women; legal and legislative matters; international matters, cultivating peace and sustainable development. In his opening address, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia explained that the Global Council and the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace encapsulate and promote an important ideology that peace is a never-ending process and involves the capacity of transforming conflicts with empathy, creativity and without violence. Only through shared understanding of common challenges and equal dialogue between partners can members promote tolerance and peace not only within their national borders, but also across states. Speaker Farrugia referred to Malta's role in promoting dialogue between different regions and states, notably through advocating for Mediterranean countries to be included into the Helsinki Final Act of the CSCE, now OSCE. The Maltese Parliament's nominee to the International Parliament and its Committee on International Matters, Hon. Glenn Bedingfield, proposed that the said committee include migration in its working sessions with a view to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health, Hon. Chris Fearne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Hon. Carmelo Abela, Opposition spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici and former Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr George Vella addressed the opening session. Hon. David Stellini was also present during the opening session.



DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO

Bħal-lum sena se nkunu qegħdin niċcelebraw l-għeluq il-mitt sena mill-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno u allura tajjeb li f'din l-okkażjoni wieħed imur lura fiż-żmien biex jara minn fejn tlaqna, jara minn xiex għaddejna biex wasalna s'hawn, u jħares 'il fejn irridu nimxu.

Wara t-tmiem tal-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija pajjiżna beda jiffaċċja problemi kbar fil-qasam tal-agrikoltura. Dawn il-problemi bdew jirriżultaw, fost oħrajn, f'nuqqas ta' ikel bażiku u bdew iħallu l-effett tagħhom fuq il-poplu. Il-prezz għoli tal-qamħ, u allura tal-ħobż, kien wieħed mill-fatturi li wassal lill-poplu li jirribella kontra l-ħakma Ingliża fil-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin.

Iżda din ma kinitx ir-raġuni ewlenija li wasslet għall-irvellijiet tal-1919; kien hemm ukoll l-iżviluppi politiċi ta' dak iż-żmien li kkontribwixxew għall-avvenimenti li qegħdin infakkru llum.

Fl-ewwel laqgħa tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali, li nżammet fil-25 ta' Frar 1919 kienet tressqet riżoluzzjoni mill-fazzjoni mmexxija minn Dr Enrico Mizzi li kienet tgħid li Malta għandha tingħata drittijiet bħal pajjiżi oħrajn skont il-Konferenza tal-Paċi ta' Versailles. Dan kien ifisser li pajjiżna jingħata l-indipendenza mill-Imperu Ingliż. Din ir-riżoluzzjoni, però, kien hemm oppożizzjoni qawwija għaliha, speċjalment minn Sir Filippo Sceberras, li kien qiegħed jistenna biss li jkun hemm gvern responsabbli. Kien sar attentat biex jaslu għal riżoluzzjoni moderata, iżda finalment din giet imwarrba wkoll biex ma jkunx hemm qasma bejn il-fazzjonijiet moderati u estremisti.

Ftit ġranet qabel l-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno s-Segretarju tal-Istat tal-Kolonji kien informa lil Sir Filippo Sceberras li l-gvernatur li kellu jiġi f'pajjiżna, Lord Plumer, kellu jagħmel studju dwar is-sitwazzjoni li jsib u kellu jirrapporta lura lil Londra dwar il-possibbiltà li Malta tingħata amministrazzjoni aktar xierqa għall-pajjiż.

Li gara kien li s-segwaċi ta' Dr Enrico Mizzi kienu qalu li l-gvern Imperjali ma kellux jiġi mogħti fiduċja. Fost dawn, kien hemm anke studenti universitarji, li kienu

aktar jassoċjaw ruħhom ma' Enrico Mizzi, li fl-isfond ta' dan it-tqanqil politiku u ta' kwestjonijiet oħra marbuta mal-Università, kienu għamlu protesta kbira fis-16 ta' Mejju 1919. Din il-protesta tant kienet kbira li anke l-membri tal-Korp tal-Pulizija u l-impjegati tal-Posta kienu hedded li joħroġu bi *strike*.

Kien hemm imbagħad is-segwaċi estremisti tal-politiku Manwel Dimech, li kien qanqal ħsibijiet radikali u ideat nazzjonalisti qawwija fost dawk li kienu qiegħda. Matul l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija Manwel Dimech kien ġie eżiljat f'Lixandra, l-Eġittu, u kien ġie ordnat jibqa' hemmhekk sakemm imut, kif fil-fatt ġara; minkejja dan, l-ideat u l-motivazzjoni tiegħu baqgħu b'saħħithom ħafna fost il-Maltin. Infatti s-segwaċi tiegħu wkoll kienu determinati li jaraw lil pajjiżna jikseb l-indipendenza u li jwaqqfu stat sekulari demokratiku li ma jkollu l-ebda ndħil minn forzi esterni. Dan kien konsonanti sew mal-ħsibijiet ta' Enrico Mizzi, u għalkemm it-tnejn kienu ġejjin minn fazzjonijiet differenti, f'dan kienu tal-istess fehma.

Tajjeb ngħid li l-effetti tal-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno kienu ħafna. L-Ingliżi rrealizzaw li ma kellhomx jieħdu aktar lill-Maltin *for granted*. Tant hu hekk, li l-progress kostituzzjonali ġie aċċellerat u fl-20 ta' Novembru ta' dik is-sena stess, il-Maltin ġew imwiegħda li jkollhom il-Parlament tagħhom u li jkollhom ukoll il-ġurisdiżjoni fuq l-affarijiet interni – dak li nirreferu għalih bħala *s-self-government*. Iżda kellhom jgħaddu kważi sentejn sakemm pajjiżna ġie mogħti Kostituzzjoni ġdida fit-30 ta' April tal-1921. Dik is-sena stess kienu saru l-elezzjonijiet f'Ottubru, u mbagħad infetaħ l-ewwel Parlament Malti f'Novembru.

Meta nfakkru l-irvellijiet u r-raġunijiet li wasslu għalihom, ma nistgħux ma nfakkru ukoll il-mod li bih inqatlu l-erba' Maltin. Filwaqt li tlieta minnhom – Manwel Attard, Ġuże Bajada u Wenzu Dyer – intlaqtu minn tiri li ġew sparati minn uffiċjali Ingliżi, Carmelo Abela, miet mewta daqstant ieħor tassew kerha. Quddiem il-palazz tal-Kurunell Francia, li kellu waħda mill-impjegati tal-qamħ f'Malta, kien hemm

DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

xi nies miġbura. Ġara li xi wħud minnhom daħlu fil-palazz tal-Kurunell u bdew jittgħu l-għamara u anke xi oġġetti tal-fidda għal barra. Is-soldati Ingliżi li kienu għassa mad-dar ta' Francia ma fetħux in-nar fuq in-nies, però dakinhar filgħaxija, waqt li xi membri tal-Armata Ingliża kienu qegħdin inadffu l-palazz u l-madwar tiegħu, Carmelo Abela, li kien vicin id-dar ta' Francia, beda jsejjaħ lil ibnu. Żewġ ufficjali tal-Armata Ingliża marru biex jarrestawh, u għaliex irrezistiehom, peress li huwa kull ma kien qiegħed jagħmel kien li jsejjaħ lil ibnu, wieħed mill-marines ġera lejh u tah daqqa ta' bajunetta ġol-istonku. Konsegwenza ta' hekk, Carmelo Abela miet disat ijiem wara, preċiżament fis-16 ta' Ġunju 1919.

Kif qed nitkellmu dwar il-vittmi tas-Sette Giugno, ta' min wieħed isemmi li kif jargumentaw uħud mill-istoriċi Maltin, mhux eskluż li żewġ Maltin oħra, Francesco Darmanin u Toni Caruana, mietu wkoll kaġun tal-irvellijiet li qed infakkru llum.

Dan qed ngħidu għaliex tajjeb li wieħed anke jirrifletti ftit fuq il-mod li bih kienu jiġu ttrattati l-Maltin li sfidaw l-awtoritajiet biex iġġieldu għad-drittijiet tagħhom, u wkoll sabiex inkunu nistgħu napprezzaw it-tbatijiet li għaddew minnhom missirijietna biex wasalna fejn wasalna.

Hawnhekk irrid nagħmel referenza għat-teżi li kiteb Fr Tony Sciberras – membru tas-Socjetà ta' San Pawl, ħabib tiegħi u Mosti bħali – bl-isem *The Incarnational Aspect of the Spirituality of Joseph De Piro*. F'din it-teżi Fr Sciberras fisser l-uġiġħ li għadda minnu Monsinjur Joseph De Piro, li kien ukoll membru tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali. Huwa kiteb li:

"In general those who participated in the three day event were people who wanted to fight for their legitimate rights. This was the only reason why De Piro intervened in such a delicate situation. In spite of the fact that he even risked his own life, the Servant of God spent three days going here and there, at one time meeting some British officer, at another time the Commissioner of Police, at

another time members of the Assembly, and at other times, even the mob. It seems befitting to stress all this by a statement published eight years later:

Fr Joseph De Piro, a priest whom nobody can accuse of any fault, is an example of integrity, devoted dedication and holiness. He is also a patriot, who was involved in heartbreaking events – the disorders and deaths on 7 June 1919. On that occasion he was in the midst of firing and close to the injured. De Piro is, for the Church and his native country, an exemplary priest and an ideal patriot. Everyone should love and admire him."

Mela anke waqt l-irvellijiet, Monsinjur De Piro ħass li kellu jingħaqad mal-folla. Tant hu hekk li fit-teżi tiegħu Fr Sciberras kompli jispjega li minn riċerka li għamel f'manuskritti tal-istess De Piro rrizulta, u nikkwota:

"The shooting of four men by the British soldiers on 7 June 1919, made all Maltese join forces and forget their different opinions about various aspects of their lives. In fact on the 8th June 1919 there met at the "Giovine Malta", a central building in Valletta, a group of volunteers who created a Committee which would gather money for the families of the victims who died or were wounded the day before. In the fourth meeting of this Committee, Sir Filippo Sciberras was chosen as honorary president and Dr Enrico Mizzi as secretary. De Piro was one of the clerics to join them. He was made the cashier of this Committee."

Dan il-kumitat iltaqa' 52 darba, bl-aħħar darba tkun f'Jannar tal-1926. Fil-Minuti tal-laqgħat ta' dan il-kumitat wieħed isib l-informazzjoni li kienet ġiet miġbura mill-istess membri u jsib ukoll il-lista tan-nies li ġew megħjuna u l-ammont ta' flus li ngħata kull wieħed. Dan qed ngħidu biex nuri kif l-istorja tgħallimna li meta jkun hemm l-għaqda, u meta jkun hemm il-kollegġjalità, l-interess nazzjonali u l-ġid komuni joħorġu aktar b'saħħithom, bħalma ġara wara l-avvenimenti tas-Sette Giugno.

DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

Propriu fid-diskors li għamilt sena ilu kont tkellimt dwar il-bżonn li l-Parlament iservi bħala post fejn bl-aktar mod ħieles wieħed jiddibatti fl-interess nazzjonali. Kont għedt ukoll li kull Membru jiġi elett permezz ta' proċess demokratiku u allura għandu jkun ta' eżempju għan-nies li jirrappreżenta. Fil-fatt, kont anke għamilt referenza għar-rwol taċ-ċittadin fil-ħidma tal-Parlament u kont għedt, bħalma għedt f'diversi okkażjonijiet preċedenti, li m'għandux ikun hemm abbuż mill-privileġġ parlamentari f'din l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż. Kont għedt ukoll li f'dan ir-rigward, wasal iż-żmien li nibdew inħarsu lejn mudelli li jindirizzaw din il-kwestjoni u li fl-eżerċizzju li kien għaddej biex nirrevedu l-Ordinijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra, kellna naraw li ndaħħlu regolamenti li jagħtu dinjità akbar lill-Parlament, inkluż fil-mod ta' kif Membru jindirizza lill-Kamra. Fil-fatt kont għidt li:

“Kif qed nitkellem dwar x'nixtieq nara jidhol fl-Ordinijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra, ma rridx ninsa nerga' nsemmi d-dritt tat-twegiba taċ-ċittadin għal dak li jingħad dwaru fil-Kamra tad-Deputati. Fid-diskors tiegħi tal-2015 jiena kont għidt hekk:

“Hemm ħafna x'wieħed jagħmel biex dejjem itejjeb il-livell ta' trasparenza u l-kontabilità ta' kull wieħed u waħda minna lejn il-poplu li nirrappreżentaw. Pereżempju, naħseb wasal iż-żmien li nindirizzaw il-kwestjoni ta' meta ċittadin iħossu aggravat b'dak li jintqal fil-konfront tiegħu fil-Parlament, u f'dan ir-rigward ngħid li wasal iż-żmien li jkun hemm mekkanizmu li jagħti dritt għar-rimedju lill-istess ċittadin. Ovvjament dan irid isir mingħajr ma nnaqqsu d-dritt u l-privileġġ li jgawdi Membru Parlamentari tal-Kamra, għaliex dan il-privileġġ qiegħed hemm biex Membru Parlamentari jkun jista' jittellem mingħajr biza'.”

Nemmen li jekk nagħtu dan id-dritt liċ-ċittadin, inkunu qegħdin inressquh aktar lejn il-Parlament għaliex inkunu qed nuruh bil-provi li jista' jsemma' leħnu anke fl-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż. Fl-istess ħin inkunu qegħdin nuruh li l-Parlamentari huma lesti li jkunu aktar kontabbli lejn il-poplu għaliex dan il-pass fih innifsu huwa kontroll għal min ikun irid jabbuża

mill-privileġġ parlamentari.”

Dan qiegħed ngħidu biex nenfasizza li kulhadd għandu jkun responsabbli għal għemilu u ma jistax ikun li sena wara sena nibqgħu niġu għal din il-kommemorazzjoni fejn infakkru episodju tassew ikrah fl-istorja ta' pajjiżna – u s-sena d-dieħla jekk Alla jrid se jkollna ċ-ċentinarju ta' dawn l-irvellijiet – u nkunu għadna mingħajr proċedura stabbilita biex min jabbuża, jirrispondi għal għemilu. Il-Membru Parlamentari huwa rappreżentant tal-poplu u jkun min ikun, u jkun qiegħed fuq liema naħa tal-Kamra jkun qiegħed, dejjem għandu jerfa' r-responsabbiltà li dak li jgħid, jgħidu b'mod onest u fl-aħjar interess tal-pajjiż. L-ebda Membru m'għandu jabbuża minn dan id-dritt. Għalhekk ngħid li wasal iż-żmien li nirrevedu l-Ordinijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra sabiex jidhol fis-seħħ rimedju għal dak iċ-ċittadin li jħoss li kien hemm abbuż tal-privileġġ parlamentari fil-konfront tiegħu.

U ladarba qed nitkellem dwar l-Ordinijiet Permanenti, nixtieq nagħmel ukoll referenza għal kwestjoni li qamet meta l-Kumitat dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi kien qiegħed jiddiskuti r-rapport tal-Awditur Ġenerali “Analysis of the Effectiveness of Enemalta Corporation Fuel Procurement” fil-Leġiżlatura li għaddiet. Uħud mill-qrati tagħna, inkluż is-Sede Kostituzzjonali, irrimarkaw li l-linji gwida għal xhieda li jidhru quddiem il-Kumitat dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi, liema linji gwida kienu ġew abbozzati u sussegwentement approvati miż-żewġ naħat fil-Kumitat dwar ix-Xogħol tal-Kamra fl-2011, m'għandhomx japplikaw fil-konfront ta' persuni li ġew imħarrka bħala xhieda quddiem il-Kumitat dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi. Dan minkejja li d-dritt tas-silenzju fil-linji gwida huwa mħares bl-artiklu 19, li jgħid li xhud għandu dritt ma jwegibx kull domanda li tista' tinkriminah. Fuq dan il-punt il-Qorti Kostituzzjonali kkontendiet li minbarra li ma tirrispondix għal dawk id-domandi li jinkriminawha, persuna li tintalab tixhed quddiem il-Kumitat għandha dritt assolut għas-silenzju jekk tkun għaddejja minn proċeduri kriminali. Ma nħossx li f'dan l-istadju għandi nikkummenta aktar peress li hemm appell pendent.

DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

F'dan ir-rigward, inħoss li wasal iż-żmien li l-Ordniġiet Permanenti tal-Kamra jiġu riveduti għaliex ma jistax ikun li meta jiġi biex jiskrutinja l-użu korrett ta' fondi pubbliċi, il-Kumitat dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi – kumitat importanti ħafna – jiġi mxekkel u ppreġudikat bi proċeduri fil-qrati, u saħansitra b'sentenzi tal-qorti li ngħataw żmien wara li ntemmet il-leġiżlatura li matulha nqala' l-każ. Minbarra r-reviżjoni tal-Ordniġiet Permanenti tal-Kamra, u tal-linji gwida rispettivi, biex naraw li dawn ikunu jirriflettu dak li jiġi deċiż fl-appell, għandna nħarsu wkoll lejn il-possibilità li jsiru emendi fil-Kodiċi dwar l-Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili sabiex xhieda li tingħata quddiem kumitat parlamentari, ma tkunx tista' titqies bħala evidenza quddiem tribunal jew qorti tal-gustizzja.

Dan li qed jiġi propost jirrifletti, sa ċertu punt, dak li nsibu fil-proċeduri u l-prattiki tal-House of Commons Ingliża fejn l-istess xhieda huma protetti mill-privileġġ parlamentari, li l-baži tiegħu jinsab fil-Bill of Rights tal-1689, liema privileġġ hu meqjus bħala prinċipju fundamentali f'demokrazija parlamentari. Fil-prattika dan ifisser li bħall-Membri Parlamentari, ix-xhieda li jidhru quddiem kumitati parlamentari huma eżenti minn kull passi legali li jistgħu jittieħdu kontribom, kemm ċivili kif ukoll kriminali, fir-rigward tal-evidenza li jkunu taw. Hawnhekk irrid ngħid ukoll li fil-Parlament Ingliż teżisti ċertu reċiproċità fis-sens li f'dan ir-rigward għandhom ir-regola tas-*sub judice* li tillimita l-mod ta' kif Membru kif ukoll xhud jista' jirreferi għal materji li jkunu qed jiġu trattati fil-qrati tal-gustizzja.

Xtaqt nitkellem ukoll dwar l-effetti li l-awtonomija amministrattiva ħalliet fil-ħidma parlamentari minn mindu din daħlet fis-seħħ f'Jannar tal-2017. Ftit tal-ġimgħat ilu ġejt mistieden bħala *keynote speaker* fil-Commonwealth People's Forum li ġie organizzat fil-qafas tal-attivitajiet konnessi mal-laqgħa taç-CHOGM li saret ġewwa Londra lejn tmiem April.

Fl-indirizz tiegħi dwar is-separazzjoni tal-poteri, tkellimt dwar il-mixja tal-Parlament Malti lejn l-awtonomija amministrattiva, anke fil-kuntest

tal-Latimer House Principles tal-Commonwealth. Enfasizzajt li biex Parlament ikun tassew wieħed ħieles, l-amministrazzjoni tiegħu trid tkun waħda awtonoma, li l-milja tagħha tintlaħaq meta l-Parlament ikun tassew indipendenti mill-Eżekuttiv mil-lat ta' allokkazzjoni finanzjarja, li hija s-sitwazzjoni li illum jinsab fiha l-Parlament Malti. Sodisfatt illi dan l-argument sab ruħu wkoll fid-dikjarazzjoni ta' dan il-Forum.

Ftit ġimgħat biss wara t-tielet anniversarju mill-mixja tal-Parlament lejn il-binja l-ġdida ma nistax ma nirreferix għall-isfidi li din ġabet magħha, speċjalment f'dak li jirrigwarda l-isparju għaż-żamma tal-arkivji kif mitlub mill-Ordniġiet Permanenti tal-Kamra. Dan ukoll minbarra nuqqas ta' uffiċċji għall-ħaddiema, kemm dawk attwali kif ukoll dawk li s-Servizz Parlamentari għandu bżonn biex dejjem ikompli jsaħħaħ is-servizzi li joffri sabiex jilħaq l-aspettattivi kemm tal-Membri kif ukoll tal-pubbliku. Issa li l-amministrazzjoni hija waħda awtonoma, din ir-responsabilità hija kollha tal-istess Servizz Parlamentari.

Kif tafu, tul dawn l-aħħar snin ġew imwaqqfa numru ta' kumitati permanenti ġodda, fosthom il-Kumitat Permanenti dwar il-Petizzjonijiet, il-Kumitat Permanenti dwar il-Ħatriet Pubbliċi, kif ukoll il-Kumitat Permanenti dwar il-Konsiderazzjoni ta' Abbozzi ta' Liġi Aġġunt, li komplew żiedu r-responsabbiltajiet fuq is-Servizz Parlamentari. Nistennew li dan il-piż ikompli jizdied meta jinħatar il-Kumitat dwar *Standards* fil-Ħajja Pubblika.

Kif diġà kont ħabbart fid-diskors tiegħi eżatt sena ilu u kif ġie ddikjarat fil-pjan finanzjarju tas-Servizz Parlamentari għas-sena kurrenti, li ġie mgħoddi mill-Kumitat Permanenti dwar ix-Xogħol tal-Kamra u approvat b'mod unanimu fil-plenarja, il-Korporazzjoni għar-Riġenerazzjoni tal-Port il-Kbir (GHRC) ġiet identifikata sabiex tgħinna nizviluppaw is-sotterran tal-binja tal-Parlament, jiġifieri s-sit li għexieren ta' snin ilu serva bħala wieħed mill-istazzjonijiet tal-ferrovija ta' pajjiżna.

DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAS-SETTE GIUGNO (KONT.)

L-applikazzjoni għall-iżvilupp ta' dan is-sit giet approvata mill-Awtorità tal-Ippjanar proprju l-gimġha l-oħra. Tajjeb li nżid ngħid li d-disinn tal-istruttura sar b'rispett sħiħ lejn l-istorja u l-patrimonju, u f'dan ir-rigward qabel ma nħareġ il-permess saru laqgħat mal-awtoritajiet rispettivi sabiex jiġi aċċertat li fil-proposti li saru ma tkun qed issir l-ebda ħsara lill-wirt storiku.

Il-pjanijiet jaħsbu sabiex fl-*area* msemmija, ikun hemm ir-raba' kamra għall-kumitati mgħammra bit-teknoloġija neċessarja sabiex kif isir fil-kmamar tal-kumitati l-oħra, il-proċeduri jiġu traskritti kif ukoll imxandra b'mod viżiv. Dan sabiex jinżamm il-livell għoli ta' trasparenza li lhaqna fil-ħidma tagħna minn mindu l-Parlament mexa għall-binja l-għdida.

Fil-pjanti tajna prominenza għal post fejn jistgħu jinżammu l-arkivji tal-Parlament, u għal dan il-għan ser ikunu qed jiġu installati miżuri kemm ta' sigurtà kif ukoll ta' kontroll tal-klima sabiex il-materjal arkivjat ma jiġix degradat biż-żmien. Hawnhekk mhux qed nirreferi biss għal dokumenti, iżda wkoll għal materjal awdjoviziv ta' seduti parlamentari passati.

Nista' ngħidilkom li matul is-sena jkollna numru konsiderevoli ta' talbiet, kemm minn studenti universitarji, kif ukoll minn studjużi tal-istorja, li b'mod regolari jżuru l-Parlament sabiex jagħmlu r-riċerki tagħhom fl-arkivji tagħna. Għaldaqstant il-proġett ser jinkludi wkoll libreriya ta' referenza li ma tkunx biss għall-użu tal-Membri Parlamentari u għall-impjegati tal-Parlament, iżda wkoll għall-pubbliku.

Fl-aħħar iżda mhux l-inqas, dan il-proġett se jippermettilna nżidu l-ispazju minn fejn jistgħu jaħdmu r-riċerkaturi u l-librara tal-Parlament, li xogħolhom huwa li jassistu lill-Membri fil-qadi ta' dmirijethom, kemm lokalment kif ukoll barra minn Malta meta jipparteċipaw f'laqgħat interparlamentari. Dan il-pass se jippermettilna wkoll nindirizzaw ir-responsabbiltajiet tas-Servizz Parlamentari, li dejjem qed jiżdiedu, primarjament minħabba ż-żieda ta' kumitati ġodda kif semmejt aktar qabel.

Nispera li x-xogħol fuq dan is-sit jaqbad ritmu mgħaġġel biex kemm jista' jkun il-proġett ikun finalizzat fl-iqsar żmien possibbli. Ninsab fiduċjuż li bis-saħħa ta' dan il-proġett, l-akbar benefiċjarju se jkun il-pubbliku, għaliex l-iskop primarju ta' dan ix-xogħol huwa dak li jiżdied u jitjieb l-aċċess għax xogħol li jsir f'din l-oġġla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż.

Irrid ukoll nagħmel referenza għall-proġett ta-*childcare centre* li qed isir flimkien mal-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol, mal-Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Ewropej u l-Ugwaljanza, u mal-Ministeru għas-Saħħa; il-pjanijiet jinsabu fi stat avanzat u kulma qed nistennew huwa li jinħareġ il-permess tal-Awtorità tal-Ippjanar sabiex ikollna dan is-servizz fil-vicinanzi tal-binja tal-Parlament. Minn *survey* riċenti li sar fost il-Membri Parlamentari kif ukoll l-istaff tal-Parlament biex inkunu nafu eżattament x'konkurrenza hija mistennija għal din il-facilità, s'issa jidher li hemm numru sabiħ ta' persuni li lesti li jużaw dan il-*childcare centre*. Qed isir minn kollox biex sakemm jitlesta dan il-proġett u jinħarġu l-permessi mill-awtoritajiet, tinstab alternattiva vijabbli.

Kif tapprezzaw, Parlament li jrid jibqa' wieħed relevanti fiż-żmenijiet tal-lum, irid ikun wieħed proattiv li jindirizza l-bżonnijiet u l-aspettattivi tal-Membri Parlamentari u tal-pubbliku. Jekk ma nagħmlux hekk ma nkunux qed naqdu l-funzjonijiet tagħna bl-aħjar mod possibbli.

Xhieda tal-fatt li l-Parlament tagħna huwa wieħed li minkejja ċ-ċokon tiegħu jħabbatha sew ma' parlamenti ferm akbar huwa li fl-2016 il-Parlament Malti kien it-tieni Parlament fost dawk tat-28 Stat Membru tal-Unjoni Ewropea li għamel użu mis-setgħa mogħtija lilu mit-Trattat ta' Liżbona biex jesprimi t-tħassib tiegħu dwar proposti tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea li ma jkunux konformi mal-prinċipju tas-sussidjarjetà.

Nittama li din l-okkażjoni tal-lum isservi sabiex il-poplu, kif għandu kull dritt, ikun jaf x'qed isir f'din l-oġġla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż, u wkoll biex wieħed jirrifletti dwar l-istat tad-demokrazija parlamentari f'pajjiżna, li dejjem għandha tinżamm fuq l-oġġla pedestal, kif jixirqilha.

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO

A year from now we will be celebrating the centenary of the Sette Giugno riots and it is thus fitting that on this occasion we go back in time to see where we departed from, observe what we went through in order to arrive where we are today, and look ahead to where we want to go.

After the end of World War I, our country began to face major problems in agriculture. Among other things, these problems resulted in a lack of basic food, which started to be felt by the population. Wheat prices, and, consequently, the price of bread, soared, leading the people to rebel against British rule at the beginning of the twentieth century.

But this was not the only reason that led to the riots of 1919; the political developments of the time also contributed to the events we are commemorating today.

In the first meeting of the National Assembly, which was held on 25 February 1919, the faction led by Dr Enrico Mizzi submitted a resolution which stated that, like other countries, Malta should be granted rights in accordance with the Versailles Peace Conference. This meant that Malta should be granted independence from the British Empire. However, this resolution found strong opposition, especially from Sir Filippo Sceberras, who only envisaged a responsible government. An attempt was made to reach an agreement on a moderate resolution, which attempt was nonetheless rejected to avoid a split between the moderate and the extremist factions.

A few days before the Sette Giugno riots, the Secretary of State for the Colonies had informed Sir Filippo Sceberras that the new governor to be assigned to our country, Lord Plumer, was to carry out a study about the situation in Malta and report back to London about the possibility that Malta be granted a more befitting administration.

What happened was that Dr Enrico Mizzi's followers stated that the Imperial government was not to be trusted. These followers included university students

who associated themselves with Enrico Mizzi and who, in the midst of all this political turmoil and other issues related to the University, had organised a huge protest on 16 May 1919. The scale of the protest was such that even members of the Police Corps and postal workers had threatened to strike.

Then there were the extremist followers of the politician Manwel Dimech, who had sparked radical thoughts and nationalist ideas among the unemployed. During World War I Manwel Dimech had been exiled to Alexandria, in Egypt, and had been ordered to stay there until his death, as in fact happened; in spite of this, his ideas and motivation remained strong among the Maltese people. In fact, his followers were determined to see our country gain its independence and establish a secular democratic state with no interference from external forces. This was very much in consonance with the thoughts of Enrico Mizzi, and although the two came from different factions, in this they were of the same mind.

One should note that the effects of the Sette Giugno riots were many. The British realised that they could no longer take the Maltese for granted. So much so that constitutional progress was accelerated and on 20 November of that same year, the Maltese were promised their own Parliament as well as jurisdiction on internal affairs – what we refer to as self-government. However, two years had to go by before our country was granted a new Constitution on 30 April 1921. That same year, elections were held in October and the first Maltese Parliament was opened in November.

When we recall the riots and the reasons that led to them, we cannot fail to recall the manner in which these four Maltese men were killed. Whilst three of them – Manwel Attard, Ġuże Bajada and Wenzu Dyer – were killed by shots fired by British officers, Carmelo Abela likewise suffered a truly horrible death. There was a small gathering in front of the palace belonging to Colonel Francia, who owned one of the flour mills in Malta and at one point a number

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)

of people entered the Colonel's palace and started throwing out furniture and some silverware. The British soldiers who were guarding Francia's home did not open fire on them, but that evening, while some members of the British Army were cleaning the palace and its surroundings, Carmelo Abela, who was in the vicinity of the Francia's house, called out to his son. Two Army officers went to arrest him, and when he resisted them, as he was only there in search of his son, one of the marines ran towards him and stabbed him in the stomach with a bayonet. Subsequently, Carmelo Abela died nine days later, on 16 June 1919.

Whilst on the subject of the Sette Giugno victims, one might wish to note that according to some Maltese historians, it is not excluded that two other Maltese citizens, Francesco Darmanin and Toni Caruana, also lost their lives as a consequence of the events we are commemorating today.

I am saying this not only because one ought to reflect on the way the Maltese were treated when they defied the authorities to fight for their rights, but also to be able to appreciate the sufferings our forefathers had to bear in order for us to arrive where we are today.

I now wish to refer to a thesis written by Fr Tony Sciberras – a member of the Society of St Paul, a friend of mine, also from Mosta like me – with the title *The Incarnational Aspect of the Spirituality of Joseph De Piro*. In this thesis, Fr Sciberras explained the suffering of Monsignor Joseph De Piro, who was also a member of the National Assembly. He wrote that:

“In general those who participated in the three-day event were people who wanted to fight for their legitimate rights. This was the only reason why De Piro intervened in such a delicate situation. In spite of the fact that he even risked his own life, the Servant of God spent three days going here and there, at one time meeting some British officer, at

another time the Commissioner of Police, at another time members of the Assembly, and at other times, even the mob. It seems befitting to stress all this by a statement published eight years later:

Fr Joseph De Piro, a priest whom nobody can accuse of any fault, is an example of integrity, devoted dedication and holiness. He is also a patriot, who was involved in heartbreaking events - the disorders and deaths on 7 June 1919. On that occasion he was in the midst of firing and close to the injured. De Piro is, for the Church and his native country, an exemplary priest and an ideal patriot. Everyone should love and admire him.”

Therefore, even during the riots, Monsignor De Piro felt that he had to join the crowd. So much so that, in his thesis, Fr Sciberras continued to explain that research he carried out in the manuscripts of the same De Piro shows that, and I quote:

“The shooting of four men by the British soldiers on 7 June 1919, made all Maltese join forces and forget their different opinions about various aspects of their lives. In fact on the 8th June 1919 there met at the “Giovine Malta”, a central building in Valletta, a group of volunteers who created a Committee which would gather money for the families of the victims who died or were wounded the day before. In the fourth meeting of this Committee, Sir Filippo Sciberras was chosen as honorary president and Dr Enrico Mizzi as secretary. De Piro was one of the clerics to join them. He was made the cashier of this Committee.”

This committee met 52 times, the last time being in January 1926. In the Minutes of the meetings of this committee one can find the information that was gathered by the members and also the list of people who were helped, and the amount of money given to each. I am saying this to show that history teaches us that when there is unity, and when there is collegiality, the national interest and the common good come out stronger; as indeed happened after the events of Sette Giugno.

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)

During last year's speech I remarked upon the need for Parliament to serve as a place where one can debate freely in the national interest. I also said that each Member is elected by means of a democratic process and therefore should be of example to the people he represents. In fact, I had also referred to the citizen's role in Parliament's work and mentioned, as I had done on previous occasions, that parliamentary privilege should not be abused. In this regard I had also said that the time had come to start looking at models that address this issue and that in the exercise that was underway to revise the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, we had to introduce measures that give greater dignity to Parliament, including in the way Members address the House. In fact I had said that:

“One further amendment I would like to see being moved to the Standing Orders of the House, concerns the citizen's right of reply. In 2015, on this occasion, I remarked:

“Much remains to be done to continue improving the level of transparency and accountability of each and every one of us towards the people we represent. For instance, I believe that the time has come to address issues which arise when citizens feel aggrieved by statements made about them in Parliament, and to establish a mechanism which grants citizens a right of redress. This obviously needs to be done without impinging on Parliamentary rights and privileges, since these are intended to allow Members of Parliament to speak without fear.”

I believe that by granting this right, we would be bringing the citizen closer to Parliament because we would be tangibly providing him with the means to voice his concerns in the highest Institution. At the same time, we would be showing him that the Members of Parliament are ready to be more accountable because this step in itself should serve as a means of control in respect of those who abuse their parliamentary privileges.”

I am saying this to emphasise that everyone must be responsible for their actions and it cannot be that year after year we return to this commemoration where we recall a truly terrible episode in the history of our country – and, God willing, next year there will be the centenary of these riots – and remain without an established procedure which ensures that anyone guilty of abuse is held responsible for his actions. The Member of Parliament is a representative of the people and no matter who he is, and no matter which side of the House he sits on, he should always bear the responsibility to speak honestly and in the best interest of the country. No Member should abuse of this right. Therefore, I believe that it is high time that the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives be revised in order to provide a remedy for those citizens who feel aggrieved by the abuse of parliamentary privilege.

Whilst on the subject of the Standing Orders, I would also like to refer to an issue that arose when the Public Accounts Committee was discussing the Auditor General's report *Analysis of the Effectiveness of Enemalta Corporation Fuel Procurement*, in the previous Legislature. Some of our courts of law, including the Constitutional Court, have remarked that the guidelines for witnesses appearing before the Public Accounts Committee, which guidelines were drafted and subsequently approved by both sides in the House Business Committee in 2011, should not apply with regard to persons summoned as witnesses before the Public Accounts Committee. This despite the fact that the right to silence in the guidelines is guaranteed by Article 19, which states that a witness has the right not to answer any question that might incriminate him. On this issue the Constitutional Court contended that, apart from not answering incriminating questions, a person who is asked to testify before the Committee has an absolute right to remain silent if this person is going through criminal proceedings. I believe I should not comment further at this stage in view of pending appeal proceedings before said Court.

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)

In this regard, I feel that the time has come for the Standing Orders of the House to be revised because it is not acceptable that, when conducting parliamentary scrutiny on the correct use of public funds, the Public Accounts Committee – a very important committee – is hindered and prejudiced by court proceedings and court judgements delivered after the legislature during which the case in question had arisen had come to an end. Apart from the revision of the Standing Orders and the respective guidelines, to ensure that these reflect the outcome of the appeal proceedings, we should also consider the possibility of amending the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure so that testimony given before a parliamentary committee cannot be considered as evidence before a tribunal or a court of justice.

What is being proposed reflects, to a certain extent, the procedures and practices of the UK House of Commons where witnesses are protected by parliamentary privilege, the basis of which is to be found in the Bill of Rights of 1689, which privilege is considered to be a fundamental principle in a parliamentary democracy. In practice, this means that, like Members of Parliament, witnesses that appear before parliamentary committees are exempt from both civil and criminal legal action with regard to the testimony they give. Here, I would also like to say that in the UK Parliament there exists a degree of reciprocity in the form of the *sub judice* rule which limits how much a Member or a witness can refer to matters that are being treated in the law courts.

I would also like to speak about the effects of administrative autonomy on parliamentary work ever since this entered into effect in January 2017. A few weeks ago, I was invited to address, as one of the keynote speakers, the Commonwealth People's Forum that was organised within the framework of the activities connected to the CHOGM meeting that was held in London at the end of April.

In my address about the separation of powers, I spoke about the journey of the Maltese Parliament

towards administrative autonomy, also in the context of the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles. I emphasised that for a Parliament to be truly free, its administration must be autonomous; culminating when Parliament is absolutely independent from the Executive in terms of financial allocation, which is the situation that the Maltese Parliament currently enjoys. I am pleased to say that this argument was also included in the declaration of this Forum.

After only a few weeks from the third anniversary of Parliament's move to the new building, I must not fail to refer to the challenges encountered following said relocation, especially with regard to the parliamentary archives we are legally bound to keep in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders of the House. This apart from the lack of office space for the current parliamentary staff complement as well as those required by the Parliamentary Service in order to continue strengthening the services offered to meet the expectations of both the Members of Parliament and the public. Now that we enjoy administrative autonomy, this responsibility falls squarely on the Parliamentary Service.

As you know, during these last years a number of parliamentary standing committees have been set up, including the Committee on Petitions, the Committee on Public Appointments, as well as the Adjunct Committee for the Consideration of Bills, that have increased the responsibilities of the Parliamentary Service. We expect this demand to continue to grow when the Committee on Standards in Public Life is appointed.

As I had already announced exactly a year ago in my speech, and also as outlined in the financial plan of the Parliamentary Service for the current year, which plan was passed by the House Business Committee and approved unanimously by the House, the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation (GHRC) was identified to assist us in the development of the Parliament building's underground level, that is, the site that decades ago served as one of our

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE SETTE GIUGNO (CONT.)

country's railway stations. The relative development permit was issued by the Planning Authority just last week. I should add that the design of the structure was carried out in full respect of Malta's history and heritage, and in this regard meetings with the respective authorities were held in order to ascertain that this historical site would be fully protected from any structural damage.

The plans include a fourth committee room in the said area which will be equipped with the necessary technology like all the other committee rooms, allowing the proceedings to be transcribed and broadcast visually. This is being done to maintain the high level of transparency that we have reached since Parliament moved into the new building.

One of the main features in the design refers to the Parliamentary archives, which area is to be equipped with security and climate control facilities to limit any form of deterioration. Here, I am not only referring to the printed documents, but also to audio visual media of past parliamentary sessions.

I can tell you that during the year we receive a considerable number of enquiries, both from university students, and historians who regularly use our Parliamentary archives for research purposes. Therefore, the project will also include a reference library that will not only be available to Members of Parliament and Parliamentary employees, but also to the public.

Last but not least, this project will enable us to increase the space where Parliament's research staff and librarians can carry out their duties to assist the Members to perform their parliamentary mandate, both locally and abroad when they participate in interparliamentary meetings. This step will also enable us to address an increase in the Parliamentary Service's workload, primarily due to the added responsibilities arising from the new committees mentioned earlier.

I hope that work on this project will soon gain momentum so that it is completed in the shortest possible time. I am confident that the public will be the one to benefit most from this project which is intended to increase and improve access to the work carried out in this highest institution of the country.

I also want to refer to the childcare centre project which is being undertaken together with the Ministry for Education and Employment, the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality, and the Ministry for Health; the plans are at an advanced state awaiting a Planning Authority permit, so that this service is made available in the vicinity of the Parliament building. A recent survey carried out amongst Parliamentary Members and staff has indicated that there is a demand for this facility. Efforts are underway to find a viable alternative until this project is completed and permits are duly issued.

As you can appreciate, a Parliament that aims to remain relevant in this day and age, has to adopt a proactive approach in order to efficiently address the needs and expectations of Members of Parliament and the public. Failing to do so means that we would not be fulfilling our functions in the best way possible.

Bearing witness to the fact that our Parliament, despite its small size, compares well with far larger parliaments is that in 2016 the Maltese Parliament was ranked second amongst those of the 28 Member States of the European Union that made use of the power conferred on them by the Lisbon Treaty to express concern about those proposals of the European Commission that did not comply with the principle of subsidiarity.

I hope that today's opportunity serves to inform the citizens, as is their right, about what is being done in the highest institution of the country, and also for one to reflect on the state of parliamentary democracy in our country, which should always be kept on the highest pedestal, as is fitting.

IL-PARTITI POLITIČI FL-EWWEL PARLAMENT MALTI - IL-PARTIT TAL-ĦADDIEMA

Matul l-ewwel snin tas-seklu għoxrin, għadd ta' gruppi politiċi kienu qegħdin jieħdu forma aktar definita. Il-klassi tal-ħaddiema wkoll ħolqot il-korp rappreżentattiv tagħha meta f'Ottubru tal-1920 giet stabbilita *La Camera del Lavoro*. Il-membri fundaturi ħatru lil Dott. Pierre G. Frendo bħala l-president tal-*Camera* filwaqt li għażlu lill-Kurunell William Savona bħala l-vice president.

L-iżviluppi kienu pjuttost mgħagħgla, hekk kif dawn kienu xprunati wkoll mit-tnejniet għall-elezzjonijiet taħt l-ewwel Kostituzzjoni tas-*Self-Government* ta' Malta tal-1921. L-organizzazzjonijiet politiċi ziedu fl-interess u l-momentum waqt li kienu qegħdin ifittxu l-kandidati sabiex joħorġu għall-elezzjoni tal-Assemblea Legiżlattiva u tas-Senat Maltin. Fil-15 ta' Mejju 1921, *La Camera del Lavoro* bidlet isimha u minn hawn 'il quddiem kienet magħrufa bħala l-Partit tal-Ħaddiema. Il-mexxej magħżul ta' dan il-partit kien William Savona, iben Sigismondo, politiku ta' esperjenza ta' tmiem is-seklu dsatax.

Għall-elezzjoni tal-Assemblea Legiżlattiva li kellha ssir fit-18 u d-19 ta' Ottubru 1921, il-Partit tal-Ħaddiema ppreżenta 16-il kandidat, filwaqt li għall-elezzjoni tas-Senat, li kienet skedata għall-5 u s-6 ta' Ottubru, kien hemm 5 kandidati tal-partit.

Meta ħarġu r-riżultati finali, il-Partit tal-Ħaddiema rnexxielu jgħib 4,742 vot jew 23.2% tal-voti totali u b'hekk eleggħa 7 kandidati għall-Assemblea Legiżlattiva. Ir-riżultat tas-Senat għall-Partit tal-Ħaddiema kien jaqra 598 vot li kien ifisser li huwa kellu żewġ senaturi.

Is-seba' membri tal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema li ġew eletti fl-Assemblea Legiżlattiva kienu Vincenzo Farrugia, Michael Borg, il-Kurunell Michael Dundon, Dott. Pierre G. Frendo, Leone Portelli, Dott. Paolo Borg Grech, u Vincent Busuttil.

Iż-żewġ senaturi kienu Alfons Maria Galea, negozjant, awtur u filantropu, u l-Mons. Prof. Michael Gonzi, aktar tard Isqof ta' Għawdex u mbagħad Arcisqof ta' Malta.

Il-mexxej tal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema, il-Kurunell William

Savona, kien elett bħala membru speċjali tas-Senat għat-*Trade Union Council*, filwaqt li ma rnexxilux jiġi elett fl-Assemblea Legiżlattiva mill-Ewwel Distrett.

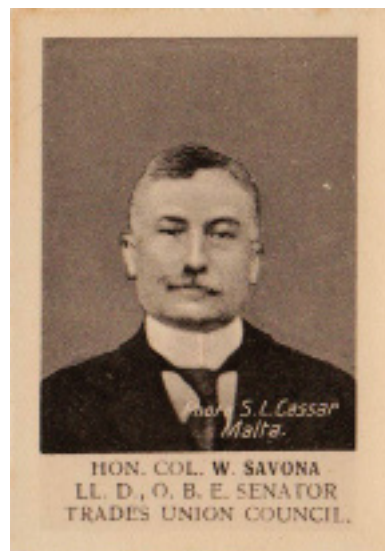
Għal ftit xhur, il-Partit tal-Ħaddiema fforma koalizzjoni mal-*Unione Politica Maltese* li kien il-partit fil-gvern. Din il-koalizzjoni nħolqot minħabba li l-gvern kien ġie megħlub 15 għal 12 fil-vot dwar l-estimi għall-1922–1923. Il-Gvernatur Lord Plumer, li xtaq isolvi l-impass, ippropona lill-Partit tal-Ħaddiema sabiex jissieħeb fil-gvern, liema talba giet aċċettata. Dan kien ifisser li mid-9 ta' April 1922 sa Jannar 1923 il-Partit tal-Ħaddiema kellu żewġ Ministri – il-Kurunell William Savona ħa l-Ministeru tal-Posta, l-Agricoltura u s-Sajd, filwaqt li l-Kurunell Michael Dundon ħa r-responsabbiltà għall-Ministeru tas-Saħħa. Kif giet, waqt li Savona kien il-mexxej tal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema f'dak iż-żmien, Dundon kien se jkun is-suċċessur tiegħu fis-snin ta' wara.

William Savona, l-ewwel mexxej tal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema, tweled il-Belt Valletta fl-1868 f'familja fejn l-ambjent politiku kien preżenza ta' kuljum minħabba missieru li, minbarra li kien għalliem u aktar tard Direttur tal-Edukazzjoni, kien ukoll wieħed mill-figuri politiċi prominenti fid-deċennji finali tas-seklu dsatax. William studja fl-Università ta' Malta u ggradwa bħala avukat. Kien ukoll bniedem militari; issieħeb fir-*Royal Malta Artillery* u matul l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija serva fit-teatru tal-gwerra Ewropew. Huwa laħaq il-grad ta' kurunell u nħatar MBE. Meta Savona rtira mis-servizz militari fl-1919, huwa ssieħeb ma' *La Camera del Lavoro* u daħal fil-ħajja politika. Wara li okkupa l-vice presidenza tal-*Camera*, huwa sar il-president, u għalhekk il-mexxej, tal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema li kien għadu kif ġie ffurmat. Savona kompli bil-karriera politika tiegħu meta fl-elezzjoni tal-1924 huwa rnexxielu jikseb siggħu fl-Assemblea Legiżlattiva. Dan is-suċċess madankollu ma ġiex ripetut fl-elezzjoni tal-1927, u wara li naqas milli jiġi elett huwa rtira mill-politika ftit wara.

L-ewwel president tal-*Camera*, Dott. Pierre G. Frendo, ukoll tweled il-Belt Valletta, fis-sena 1876. Avukat u awtur distint, huwa daħal fl-arena politika u kkontesta l-elezzjonijiet tal-1921 mal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema. Billi

IL-PARTITI POLITIĊI FL-EWWEL PARLAMENT MALTI - IL-PARTIT TAL-ĦADDIEMA (KONT.)

gie elett, Frendo sar il-mexxej tal-membri tal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema fl-Assemblea Leġislattiva. Fis-sena 1923 Frendo ddecieda li jirreżenja mill-Partit tal-Ħaddiema biex iwaqqaf il-partit tiegħu stess bl-isem ta' Partit Nazzjonalista Malti. Għalkemm ipprezenta ruħu bħala kandidat għall-elezzjoni tal-1927 ma' dan il-partit, huwa naqas milli jiġi elett. Fl-1930, wara li reġa' bidel fehmtu, reġa' ssejheb mal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema u kkontribwixxa għall-kawża tal-Partit bil-kitbiet tiegħu.



Il-Mexxej tal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema fl-1921, il-Kurunell William Savona.

The Leader of the Labour Party in 1921, Col. William Savona.



Bolla li turi r-Re Ġorġ V, stampat fuqha l-kliem 'SELF-GOVERNMENT' biex timmarka l-għoti ta' kostituzzjoni tas-self-government lil Malta fl-1921. Il-valur ta' din il-bolla kien ta, ¼ d (kwart ta' penny jew farthing - tliet ħabbiet).

A stamp featuring King George V, overprinted with 'SELF-GOVERNMENT' to mark the granting of a self-government constitution to Malta in 1921. The value of this stamp was ¼ d (one-fourth penny or one farthing - tliet ħabbiet).



Comm. Prof. George Cassar huwa Associate Professor fl-Istitut għat-Turiżmu, l-Ivvjaġġar u l-Kultura tal-Università ta' Malta. Huwa soċjologu storiku u pedagoġista b'interessi ta' riċerka fl-Istorja u s-Soċjoloġija tal-Edukazzjoni; il-Pedagoġija tal-Patrimonju Kulturali, l-Istorja u l-Istudji Soċjali; l-Istorja tat-Taġġim tal-Istorja; l-Istudju tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann (SMOM); l-Istorja u l-Kultura ta' Malta; il-Patrimonju u l-Kultura; it-Turiżmu Kulturali; u l-Istorja u s-Soċjoloġija tal-lkel. Huwa l-awtur jew l-editor ta' kotba u rivisti akkademiċi, u ppubblika għadd ta' studji fil-ġurnali u kapitli f'kotba relatati mal-oqasma ta' interess tiegħu.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FIRST MALTESE PARLIAMENT - LABOUR PARTY

During the early years of the twentieth century a number of political groupings were taking a more definite shape. The working class too created its representative body when in October of 1920 *La Camera del Lavoro* was established. The founding members appointed Dr Pierre G. Frendo as the Camera's president while they chose Col. William Savona as vice-president.

Developments were quite rapid, these also being spurred by the preparations for the elections under Malta's first Self-Government Constitution of 1921. Political organisations gained interest and momentum while they looked for candidates to stand for election to the Maltese Legislative Assembly and Senate. On 15 May 1921 *La Camera del Lavoro* changed its name and was from now on known as the Labour Party (LP). Its chosen leader was William Savona, son of Sigismondo, a seasoned politician of the late nineteenth century.

For the election to the Legislative Assembly which was to take place on 18 and 19 October 1921, the Labour Party put together 16 candidates, while for the Senate election, which was scheduled for 5 and 6 October, there were 5 Labourite candidates.

When the final results came out the LP had managed to garner 4,742 votes or 23.2% of the total vote thus electing 7 candidates to the Legislative Assembly. The Senate result for the LP read 598 votes which meant that it had two senators.

The seven LP members who made it to the Legislative Assembly were Vincenzo Farrugia, Michael Borg, Col. Michael Dundon, Dr Pierre G. Frendo, Leone Portelli, Dr Paolo Borg Grech, and Vincent Busuttill.

The two senators were Alfons Maria Galea, a merchant, author and philanthropist, and Mgr Prof. Michael Gonzi, future Bishop of Gozo and later Archbishop of Malta.

The leader of the LP, Col. William Savona, was elected as a special member of Senate for the Trade Union

Council, while he did not manage to get elected to the Legislative Assembly from the 1st District.

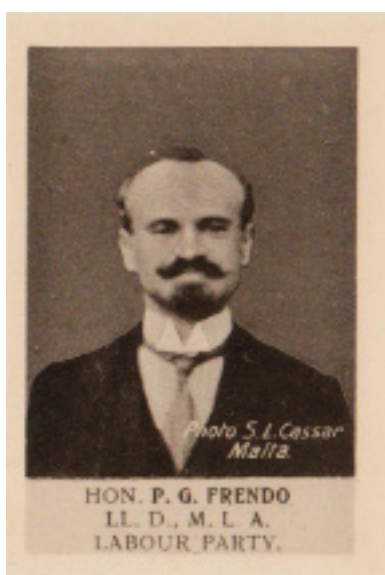
For a few months the LP formed a coalition with the *Unione Politica Maltese* which was the governing party. This coalition came about because the government had been defeated 15 to 12 in the estimates vote for 1922-1923. Governor Lord Plumer, wishing to resolve the impasse, proposed to the LP to join the government, which request was accepted. This meant that from 9 April 1922 until January 1923 the LP had two Ministers – Col. William Savona took over the Ministry of Posts, Agriculture and Fisheries, while Col. Michael Dundon took responsibility for the Ministry of Health. As it happened, while Savona was the current Labour leader, Dundon would succeed him in later years.

William Savona, the first leader of the LP, was born in Valletta in 1868 in a family where the political environment was a daily presence due to his father Sigismondo who, besides being a teacher and later Director of Education, he was also one of the prominent political figures in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. William studied at the University of Malta and graduated as a lawyer. He was also a military man, joining the Royal Malta Artillery and serving during World War One in the European theatre of war. He reached the rank of colonel and was made a MBE. When Savona retired from military service in 1919 he joined *La Camera del Lavoro* and entered the political fray. After occupying the vice-presidency of the *Camera*, he became president, and thus leader, of the newly formed Labour Party. Savona continued with his political career when in the 1924 election he managed to get a seat in the Legislative Assembly. This success was not however repeated in the 1927 election and after failing to get elected he retired from politics a little later.

The first president of the *Camera*, Dr Pierre G. Frendo, was also born in Valletta, in the year 1876. A distinguished lawyer and author, he entered the political arena and contested the 1921 elections with the Labour Party. As he was elected, Frendo became

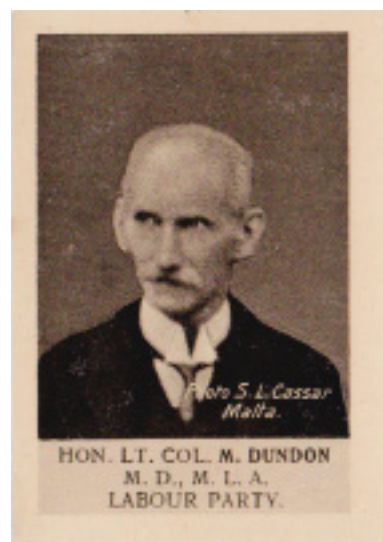
POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FIRST MALTESE PARLIAMENT - LABOUR PARTY (CONT.)

the leader of the LP members in the Legislative Assembly. In the year 1923 Frendo decided to resign from the LP to set up his own party called *Partit Nazzjonalista Malti*. Though presenting himself as a candidate for the 1927 election with this party, he failed to get elected. In 1930, having another change of heart, he rejoined the LP and contributed to the Party's cause by his writings.



Dr Pierre G. Frendo was the first and last President of *La Camera del Lavoro*.

Dott. Pierre G. Frendo kien l-ewwel u l-aħħar President ta' La Camera del Lavoro.



Lt.Col. Michael Dundon succeeded Savona as Leader of the Labour Party.

It-Tenent Kurunell Michael Dundon kien is-suċċessur ta' Savona bħala Mexxej tal-Partit tal-Ħaddiema.



Comm. Prof. George Cassar is Associate Professor in the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture of the University of Malta. He is a historical sociologist and pedagogist with research interests in the History and Sociology of Education; the Pedagogy of Heritage, History and Social Studies; the History of History Teaching; the Study of the Order of St John (SMOM); the History and Culture of Malta; Heritage and Culture; Cultural Tourism; and the History and Sociology of Food. He is the author or editor of books and academic journals, and has published numerous papers in journals and chapters in books related to his areas of interest.

EFEMERA STAMPATA DWAR IL-POLITIKA F' MALTA

IL-PROPAGANDA POLITIKA MATUL

L-EWWEL FAŽI TAS-SELF-GOVERNMENT (1921–1930)

L-attività politika tal-partiti f' Malta assumiet ton niggiezi pjuttost qawwi minn kmieni u ċertament sa-żmien li l-partiti politiċi bdew jikkontestaw l-elezzjonijiet li saru wara l-ghoti tal-Gvern Responsabbli fl-1921. L-ewwel elezzjoni ġenerali Maltija għall-Assemblea Legiżlattiva, taht dik li saret magħrufa wkoll bħala l-kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner, saret fit-18 u d-19 ta' Ottubru 1921, filwaqt li dik għas-Senat saret fil-5 u s-6 ta' dak ix-xahar stess.

Erba' partiti politiċi rnexxielhom jiksbu siggijiet fl-Assemblea Legiżlattiva. L-Unione Politica Maltese, Partit konservattiv immexxi minn Monsinjur Ignazio Panzavecchia, kisbet 7 siggijiet, filwaqt li l-Partit Kostituzzjonali pro-Brittaniku ta' Strickland u l-Labour Party li kien għadu kemm tfaċċa, irnexxielhom jeleggu 7 rappreżentanti kull wiehed. Il-Partito Democratico Nazionalista pro-Taljan ta' Enrico Mizzi elegga 4 mill-kandidati tiegħu. Minhabba l-fatt li l-ebda wiehed mill-erba' partiti ma kellu maġġoranza assoluta fl-Assemblea, l-ewwel legiżlatura kienet destinata li tkun waħda instabbli. L-ewwel baġit ipprezentat mill-Prim Ministru tal-U.P.M., Joseph Howard, ġie megħlub, u l-Gvernatur Plumer talab lil-Labour Party sabiex jingħaqad mal-U.P.M. sabiex tinkiseb maġġoranza li taħdem. Il-koalizzjoni damet biss sa Jannar 1923, meta l-Labour Party ħareġ mill-koalizzjoni u għal darba oħra Howard mexxa gvern ta' minoranza.

Id-diskors ta' Howard lil dawk il-Maltin li kienu qegħdin jgħixu Ruma, diskors li kien meqjus bħala pro-Taljan, qajjem l-oppożizzjoni ħarxa tal-Partit Kostituzzjonali u tas-sostenituri tiegħu – inkluża stampa b'saħħitha – u huwa kien imġieghel jirreżenja. Is-suċċessur tiegħu, Francesco Buhagiar, mexxa l-gvern ta' minoranza sat-telfa suċċessiva fl-Assemblea f'April 1924 u kellhom isiru elezzjonijiet bikrija f'Gjunju ta' dik is-sena.

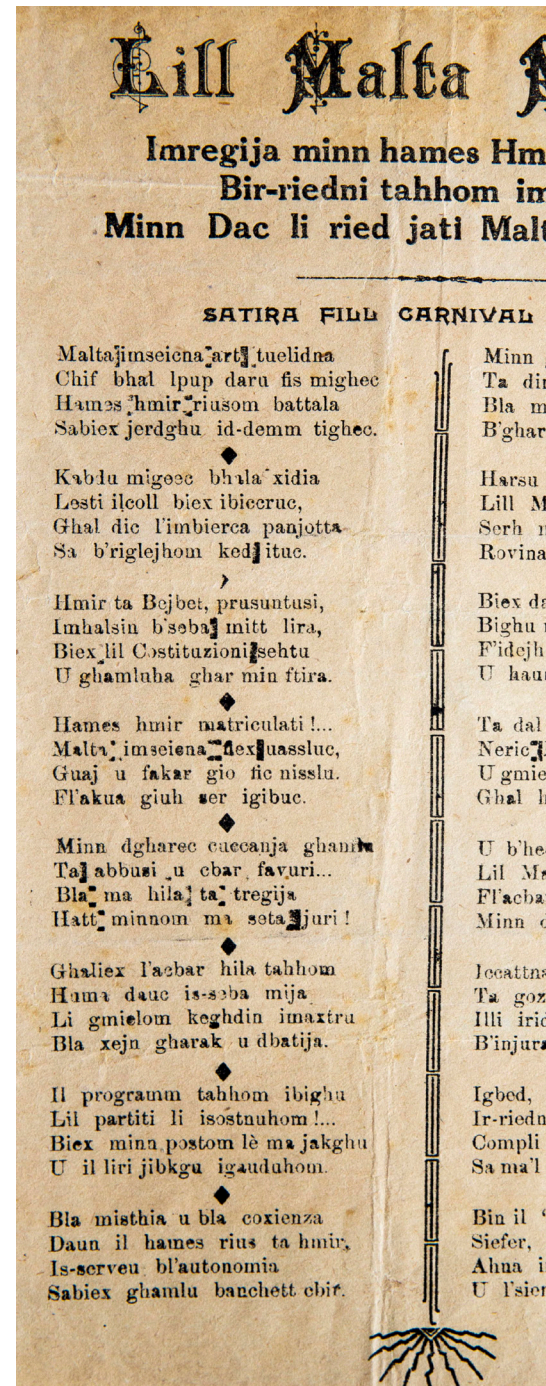
Il-volantin politiku li qiegħed jiġi riprodott tqassam waqt il-Karnival tal-1924, f'it xhur biss qabel il-kriżi finali u l-elezzjoni bikrija. Kompust f'rima Maltija minn Emanuele Cauchi u stampat fil-Progress Press, kien ovvjament il-ħidma tal-magna propagandistika mgħammra u ffinanzjata pjuttost tajjeb ta' Strickland. Waqt li takkuża lill-gvern b'inkompetenza, abbuż tal-poter u korruzzjoni, is-satira tkompli biex timplika li l-gvern fil-fatt kien pupazz ikkontrollat mill-veru ħati – Enrico Mizzi – li kien jiġbed l-ispaga ta' gvern dgħajjef biex jissodisfa l-iskemi pro-Taljani tiegħu għal Malta. L-aħħar strofa tal-poeżija tiġbor fil-qosor il-poeżija iebes, fejn tirreferi wkoll għal missier Mizzi, Fortunato (1844–1905), li f'waqt minnhom kien ġie deskritt mill-Isqof Pietro Pace (1889–1914) bħala 'inimicus homo' – 'l-għadu tal-umanità'.

'Bin il "Għadu tal Bniedem"
Siefer, mur, itlak minn magħna
Ahna irridu lill Inglis
U l'sien Malti mahbub tagħna.'

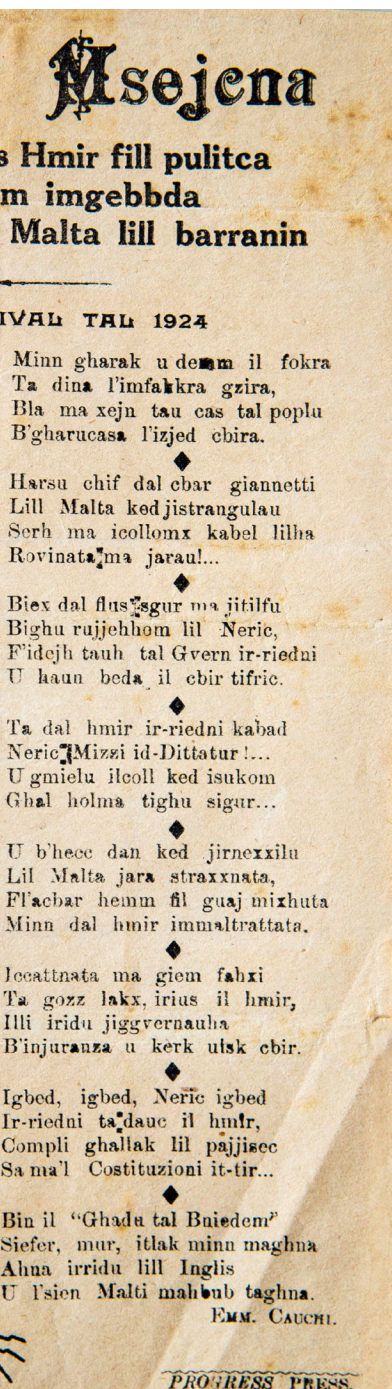


L-għan ta' din is-serje huwa li jitfa' dawl fuq ir-rwol ta' efemera stampata fix-xena politika Maltija bejn it-tieni nofs tas-seklu dsatax u l-ewwel nofs tas-seklu għoxrin. Access akbar għall-facilitajiet tal-istampar, zieda gradwali fir-rati tal-litteriżmu u l-għarfien li parti sostanzjali tal-elettorat tista' tintlaħaq biss permezz tal-użu tal-lingwa Maltija, kollha kkontribwew għaż-zieda 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.

Prof. William Zammit huwa l-Kap tad-Dipartiment tax-Xjenzi tal-Librerija, l-Informazzjoni u l-Arkivji fl-Università ta' Malta u l-President tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Arkivji. Huwa ppubblika għadd kbir ta' kitbiet dwar aspetti differenti tal-istorja tal-kotba u l-istampar f'Malta kif ukoll dwar diversi oqsma relatati mal-komunikazzjoni orali, viżwali u bil-miktub f'Malta fiż-żminijiet moderni bikrin. L-aħħar ktieb tiegħu jgib l-isem *Kissing the Gallows: A Cultural History of Crime, Torture and Punishment in Malta, 1600–1798* (Malta: BDL, 2016).



PRINTED EPHEMERA ABOUT POLITICS IN MALTA
POLITICAL PROPAGANDA DURING
THE FIRST SELF-GOVERNMENT PHASE (1921–1930)



Maltese party politics assumed a rather strong acrimonious tone quite early on and certainly by the time political parties started to contest the elections held following the granting of Responsible Government in 1921. The first Maltese general election for the Legislative Assembly, under what also became known as the Amery-Milner constitution, was held on 18 and 19 October 1921, while that for the Senate was held on the 5 and 6 of that same month.

Four political parties managed to obtain seats in the Legislative Assembly. Unione Politica Maltese, a conservative Party led by Monsignor Ignazio Panzavecchia obtained 7 seats, while Strickland's pro-British Constitutional Party and the newly-emerging Labour Party managed to elect 7 representatives each. Enrico Mizzi's pro-Italian Partito Democratico Nazionale had 4 of its candidates elected. Given the fact that none of the four parties commanded an absolute majority in the Assembly, the first legislature was bound to be an unstable one. The first budget presented by U.P.M. Prime Minister Joseph Howard was defeated and Governor Plumer asked the Labour Party to ally itself with U.P.M. to obtain a working majority. The coalition lasted only till January 1923, when the Labour Party opted out and Howard once again led a minority government.

Howard's speech to those Maltese who were residing in Rome, a speech that was considered as a pro-Italian one, aroused the staunch opposition of the Constitutional Party and its supporters – including a strong press – and he was forced to resign. His successor, Francesco Buhagiar, led the minority government until its next defeat in the Assembly in April 1924 and early elections had to be held in June of that year.

The political flier being reproduced was distributed during Carnival of 1924, just months before the final crisis and the premature election. Composed in Maltese rhyme by Emanuele Cauchi and printed at the Progress Press, it was obviously the work of Strickland's quite well-equipped and financed propaganda machine. Accusing the government of incompetence, abuse of power and corruption the satire goes on to imply that the government was actually a puppet controlled by the real culprit – Enrico Mizzi – who pulled the strings of a weak government to suit his pro-Italian schemes for Malta. The last stanza of the poem summarizes the strongly-worded poem, referring also to Mizzi's father, Fortunato (1844–1905), who had at one point been described by Bishop Pietro Pace (1889–1914) as 'inimicus homo' – 'the enemy of humanity'.

Translated as:

'Bin il "Għadu tal Bniedem"
Siefer, mur, itlak minn magħna
Ahna irridu lill Inglis
U l'sien Malti mahbub tagħna.'

'Son of the "Enemy of Humanity"
Go abroad, go, leave us
We want English
And our beloved Maltese language.'

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.

Prof. William Zammit is the Head of the Department of Library, Information and Archive Sciences at the University of Malta and the President of the National Archives Council. He has published extensively on various aspects of Maltese book and printing history as well as on various areas related to oral, visual and written communication in early modern Malta. His latest book is *Kissing the Gallows: A Cultural History of Crime, Torture and Punishment in Malta, 1600–1798* (Malta: BDL, 2016).

Hidma Parlamentari
Ġunju 2017 – Awwissu 2018

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