



Press Release

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Maltese Parliament delegation attends Inter-Parliamentary Committee meeting on enforcing citizens' rights

Simon Busuttill attended an Inter-Parliamentary Committee Meeting on empowering parliaments and enforcing citizens' rights in the implementation and application of Union law, held at the European Parliament in Brussels on 27 November.

The meeting was divided into a number of sessions. The first one was divided into the following panels: the transposition and implementation of the 2008 Directive on mediation in civil and commercial matters; the transposition and implementation of the 2014 Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on environment; the transposition and implementation of the 2004 Regulation on air passengers' rights. The second session was divided into two panels: the first on the transposition of EU legislation into domestic law - challenges faced by national Parliaments; and the second was on challenges in the implementation of EU Law at national level. The third session focussed on the role of ombudsmen and petitions committees in detecting breaches of EU law.

Busuttill intervened during the first session, under the second sub-item on the transposition and implementation of the 2014 Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, about environmental impact assessments and potential conflicts of interest. Busuttill also intervened in the debate held during the panel on challenges in the implementation of EU Law at national level, where he called on the European Commission to be more impartial and transparent about the implementation of legislation in certain policies. He also recommended the PETI and JURI committees to establish a structure enabling cooperation between the European Parliament and the national Parliaments on the implementation of EU legislation, to ensure it is properly implemented even in case of resistance from national authorities.

Panel speakers and parliamentarians mentioned several important issues related to citizens' rights and how these can be strengthened in the implementation and application of Union law. To mention a few, panel speakers argued that more EU citizens and businesses are left without the multiple benefits deriving from greater use of mediation; the increased focus on compliance mechanisms and how this can benefit Better Regulation initiatives; that there is a scope for national parliaments to improve compliance, and as a consequence, the enjoyment of EU rights by air passengers, which needs to improve; and that national parliaments are becoming more important, moving from a bystander to a team player, which is positive for democratic legitimacy. National parliaments should therefore be involved during the transposition phase. There were also a number of recommendations, such as, the

importance of making information available in order to enable public participation before the decision-making process and to allow them to access information after the decision is made.