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# Press Release

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

*Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participates in the 6<sup>th</sup> Speakers' Summit of the PA-UfM*

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Speakers Summit of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) which was held in Strasbourg under the current European Parliament Presidency of the PA-UfM.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Speakers Summit of the PA-UfM was opened by Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament and President of the PA-UfM, and by Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship. President Tajani and Commissioner Avramopoulos agreed that the Mediterranean region requires increased cooperation between countries in the north and in the south. They also said that cooperation is particularly important in order to address the ongoing migration crisis and humanitarian tragedy unfolding at the EU's doorstep. They emphasised that the role of national parliaments is now more important than ever and called on members of parliament to recognise their power to be a united voice for a common and prosperous future of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

In his address to the members present, Speaker Farrugia explained that whilst recognising that border security is important and international agreements should be respected, it is inhumane and intrinsically wrong to leave men, women, and children out at sea or close to land and refuse them entry.

Speaker Farrugia underlined that the current practices have failed us all, mostly the younger generations who continue to witness adults too busy to build walls to realise that migration is part of the very existence and shared history of humankind.

Concluding, Speaker Farrugia reiterated that a humane migration approach should include safeguards to protect and never detain the most vulnerable, especially unaccompanied minors. Furthermore, it should provide irrevocable standards of protection for all human beings irrespective of legal status, place of disembarkation or stay, and establish efficient legal channels operating within a structured and balanced mechanism at a Euro-Mediterranean level.

Speech is herewith attached.

*The Parliamentary Assembly - Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) is an inter-parliamentary organisation bringing together the Parliaments of the EU and of the Mediterranean. It provides a unique forum to enhanced regional cooperation and dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region.*

**Attachments: none**

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