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# Press Release

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

### *The Maltese Parliament for Enterprises*

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over the Maltese Parliament for Enterprises. This special plenary session brought together economic operators as well as members of parliament to an informal dialogue on matters pertaining commerce and industry, such as the provision of skilled and trained workers to address the needs of the Maltese economy, competitiveness in the global market, innovation and sustainable development.

The Speaker recalled that the Maltese Parliament for Enterprises constitutes part of Parliament's Outreach Programme with Citizens. Through such a programme, the House of Representatives seeks dialogue with citizens so as to encourage individuals and civil society to actively participate in the political discourse, and contribute to the decision-making process. Such a programme complements the links that the House of Representatives maintains at European, Mediterranean and international levels.

The Speaker affirmed that people have a right to live in dignity. This is a shared responsibility amongst governments and economic operators. Whereas governments are expected to provide the ideal environment for commerce and industry to progress, economic operators are to conduct their businesses in a good ethical behaviour, according to the law, respecting the rights of consumers, workers' rights and other third-party rights. These important precepts should not be looked upon as inhibiting business activities, but as a necessity aimed at consolidating the sound relationship between economic operators and social partners which would secure economic and social order for any economy to move ahead.

Speaker Farrugia also emphasised the need for businessmen to have market access. In this regard, he underlined the need to carefully study the international situation and offer programmes of collaboration. One should not look at other traders as mere competitors but seek and devise win-win opportunities to entice traders become collaborators and partners.

The meeting was attended by members of parliament, Christoph Leidl, President of the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, also known as Eurochambres, and members of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry.

Amongst those who addressed the meeting were the Leader of the Opposition Adrian Delia and Prime Minister Joseph Muscat.