



16.12.2019

## MISSION REPORT

Following the ad-hoc delegation to Malta - 2-4 December 2019

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Members of the mission:

Sophie in 't VELD	(Renew) (Leader of the mission)
Roberta METSOLA	(EPP)
Birgit SIPPEL	(S&D)
Sven GIEGOLD	(Verts/ALE)
Lars Patrick BERG	(ID)
Assita KANKO	(ECR)
Stelios KOULOGLOU	(GUE/NGL)

## Summary of the mission

For the third time since the murder of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia on 16 October 2017, the European Parliament decided to send a fact-finding delegation to visit Malta from 2 to 4 December to take stock of recent developments in the investigation and with regard to the rule of law.

The LIBE delegation to Malta was organised in the light of latest developments in the investigation on the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia and the ensuing growing distrust in the population towards the institutions, in particular the government. The delegation came to reaffirm that Malta is fully part of the EU and as such, preserving integrity in the country is of utmost importance for the Union as a whole, the foundation of which relies on mutual trust. The MEPs presence in the country was meant to send a clear message that EU institutions are concerned about the situation in the country.

While earlier delegations had visited the country with a broader scope, ranging from the ongoing police inquiry on the journalist's murder to corruption issues, regulation of the finance industry and the selling of passports, this mission was to focus on the investigation and the functioning of the Rule of Law in the country.

Led by the Chair of the LIBE Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group, Sophie IN'T VELD, the delegation included also Roberta METSOLA, Birgit SIPPEL, Sven GIEGOLD, Lars Patrick BERG, Assita KANKO, , Stelios KOULOGLOU and (see annex 2). The delegation enquired about the status of investigations on the murder, stressing again that justice needed to be served for the family of the victim but also a proper functioning for the country as whole. Further, the need for investigations on alleged corruption cases was recalled. The status of institutional reforms, notably following recommendations of the Venice Commission, was also in the focus. The delegation insisted that short-term political change cannot in itself restore trust in the authorities.

MEPs met with the Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and other government members, the President of the Republic, the Leader of the Opposition and the Speaker of the House, the police, the Attorney General, the Ombudsman, representatives of civil society, advocates and journalists, as well as members of the family of Daphne Caruana Galizia (see full programme in annex 1).

Regarding the position of the Prime Minister, the delegation clarified that it is for the Maltese Parliament to decide whether he still has the support of a majority. However, in view of developments of the investigation and given the suspension of the Parliament announced on the last day of the visit, the delegation shared its position as to the possible consequences of the current situation with a Prime Minister having lost trust staying in office for another few weeks before actually stepping down. . Moreover, they stressed that at this stage, the strong fears in the population that the investigation may be compromised and the perception in itself that the Prime Minister may be in a position to do so were clear signs that trust had disappeared. Consequently, trust in Maltese authorities is in their view undermined.

The delegation noted that while the murder investigation had clearly progressed in recent weeks, serious corruption and financial crime allegations - such as those raised in Daphne Caruana Galizia's blog or revealed by the Panama papers - were not being inquired. They recognised the dedication of police services and that new elements had recently come to light,

however other suspicions also have to be investigated vigorously. They took note and welcomed the fact that Europol was still associated and called for them to remain associated in all steps of the investigation.

A number of other issues related to fundamental rights and the Rule of Law were also recorded during the visit, such as restrictions to the right for demonstration, hate campaign against supporters of the murdered journalist, attacks to media freedom, notably with the persisting libel cases against the Caruana Galizia family and intimidations against journalists. MEPs felt a clear need for reforms to be carried out rapidly and fully, worried that the bipartisan culture has become toxic and hinders progress.

The delegation reiterated its call for the Commission to finally open the dialogue with Maltese authorities in the context of the Rule of Law framework without any further delay. With regards to corruption allegations, investor citizenship, residence schemes and visas in particular, the delegation views that the Commission should also consider how to preserve the integrity of the Schengen system and fight serious cross-border crime when one member does not comply with obligations nor meet the required standards.

Finally, the delegation expressed its commitment to continue to closely monitor the situation, notably through the LIBE committee and its Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group.

## **Summary account of meetings**

### **Tuesday 3 December**

**8:30 - 9:30 Meeting with Prime Minister** Joseph MUSCAT, the Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government Dr. Owen BONNICI and with the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Chris FEARNE

Venue: Auberge de Castille, Valletta.

In this meeting, the leader of the delegation mentioned recent developments in the investigation of the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia and concerns that the investigation as such is not compromised. The overall atmosphere, the lack of trust in the authorities and the concerns linked to the Rule of law situation in Malta were also raised. It was clearly underlined that the EU is based on mutual trust and that if the Rule of Law is under threat in one of the Member States the entire EU is affected. In this context, it was noted that the resolution adopted on 28 March 2019 on the situation of the rule of law and the fight against corruption in the EU, specifically in Malta and Slovakia, included a clear call on the Commission to enter into dialogue with the Maltese Government in the context of the Rule of Law Framework.

In his intervention, the Prime Minister underlined that given all the accusations in the public sphere he had announced already that he would resign in the next month and that all along the investigation he did not had any access to any evidence, even though he acknowledged having been briefed as a matter of national security. He also briefly outlined the public statements he gave in connection with the investigation which were meant to ensure communication to the public. He also pointed out that the breakthrough in the investigation were achieved thanks to conscious political decisions on his part such as accepting immediately the support of FBI in the investigations, or following the advice of the Attorney General and of the police in relation

to the pardon which accelerated the progress in the investigations. The involvement and support of Europol and FBI in the murder investigation were also underlined during the discussion. In the exchange, the possible involvement of Members of his cabinet, and in particular of Mr Schembri, was also mentioned by Members of the delegation as well as the ensuing distrust in the public sphere by part of the population. The Prime Minister acknowledged this lack of trust as one of the reasons that lead to his resignation and that he assumed his political responsibility for a lack of political judgement on his part. As regards the recent protests, he mentioned that he did not criticised them but noted that protests should never lead to violence in general. The meeting held with the family in view of adjustments to the terms of reference for the public inquiry were also mentioned as well as the fact that the public inquiry will now enter into office. During this meeting, the Prime Minister denied having had access to the evidence collected by the investigating authorities.

On questions linked to the follow up to Venice Commission recommendations, the Minister of Justice underlined the recent law that was passed for decoupling the functions of the Attorney General as prosecutor and as adviser of the government and that this law will now enter into force before the end of the year. On the recommendation linked to strengthening the independence of judiciary, in particular as regards the procedure for the appointment of judges, it was noted that meetings are organised under the Chairmanship of the President with significant progress. As soon as an agreement is reached on the draft law which needs a two-thirds majority in the House then law will be submitted for adoption.

### **10.30 - 11.30 Meeting with the President of the Republic of Malta George VELLA**

Venue: Sant' Anton Palace, Attard

The President of the Republic opened by generally deploring the situation in which his country is placed, declaring that “Malta deserves better”. He then replied to a series of questions that led him to recall the constitutional limits in which his “non-executive” presidency has to operate.

Regarding the practice of presidential pardon, he recalled that the President has to act “on the advice of Cabinet or Prime Minister” and cannot go beyond this advice. In such cases, the President seeks advice from other sources as well (police, Attorney General - who is also legal adviser to the government, private advice from constitutional lawyers) but his only constitutional possibility to mark disagreement with the Cabinet’s advice is his own resignation.

Going further on his constitutional powers, the President stressed also that he cannot dismiss the Prime Minister but can only accept his resignation. He could also ask the Prime Minister to leave office should a majority of Members of Parliament from the government’s side were to give evidence that the Prime Minister did not hold their confidence anymore. He would then be in a position to nominate a successor backed by the House.

In respect to possible lacunae of the Maltese constitution, he recalled that he is chairing the Commission for the review of the constitution following recommendations from the Venice Commission. He insisted as well on the tradition of excellence linked to the history of the Judiciary power in Malta. He stressed his role in facilitating the emergence of an agreement between the two parties going in the direction of the recommendations while taking the local culture and history of the country into account. He insisted that beyond parties, the constitution belongs to the people. A process of public consultation was therefore opened which he assessed

as successful. The consultation is about to be published online and a panel of experts was appointed to analyse the contributions. On the whole, the President expressed confidence in the ongoing reform process which he assessed to be close from an agreement between the two political parties. He cautioned against raising the threat of activating Article 7 TEU at this stage which he felt premature.

As a guardian of the constitution and in view of his moral leadership, the President further explained his caution with public speeches given the acuteness of the institutional crisis and his need to appear as non-partisan. He was preparing for an appeal to calm and unity to be expressed on 13 December, Republic day, by which he would also show the way forward.

Eventually, the President addressed the nation on Maltese television in the evening following his meeting with the delegation.

### **11.45 - 12.30 Meeting with Attorney General Dr Peter Grech**

Venue: Palace, St. George's Square, Valletta

The Attorney General (AG) first provided an update on the recommendation to split the AG office and separate the roles of legal advisory to the Government and that of prosecution. Legislation was recently passed to this effect. Part of it already came into force, in particular for administrative recruitment, and the rest is expected to enter into force by the end of the year. The AG office will focus on the prosecution service and will gradually extend to prosecution for lower courts which so far was the responsibility of the police. The AG office will be strengthened to take on most of prosecutions within a year, with the exception of petty crimes. The AG insisted that this move needed to be gradual in order to ensure the proper provision of public office and depended on recruitment and training, for which resources have been allocated. He expressed confidence as to the success of the process.

With regard to critics on the lack of transparency of the murder investigation, he recalled the need for discretion. The discussion turned to the numerous leaks to the press, in particular concerning interrogations. The AG did not see the need for structural reform and stressed that the best protection against indiscretions is the proper preparation of all people involved in the investigation.

The AG further provided the delegation with some legal clarifications as to the murder investigation. Asked about the very short length of the preventive detention to which the Prime Minister's head of cabinet was submitted before release under no bail, with the consequent risk of absconding, the AG explained the Maltese system of preventive detention limited to 48 hours, at the end of which the suspect is either released or charged. This is entrenched in the constitution and is part of the subjects currently discussed under the auspices of the President of the Republic.

Further, the AG explained the difference between Melvin Theuma having been granted pardon while Yorgen Fenech had not by technical questions of corroboration of evidence. He recalled that while being asked for advice, the AG did not have any power of decision on pardons as the competence belonged to the executive. He indicated that direct meetings with the Prime Minister on the investigation case had been limited and he did not recall giving legal advice to the Prime Minister on the investigation case in front of his Head of Cabinet, and if so, they would have been by written. He indicated that he works mainly with the Minister of Justice.

Regarding the appointment to the Public Inquiry Panel of a magistrate having family connections with the Prime Minister's lawyer, the recusation of whom was asked by the Caruana Galizia family, the AG stressed that the magistrate was a renowned lawyer and it was up to her to accept to stand down. He cautioned about his own intervention on the matter and felt that magistrates were in position to decide themselves, however he would express his opinion if asked for advice.

Finally, on the question of the possibility of freezing assets of Yorgen Fenech, he indicated that this was one in many of the instruments at the disposal of the investigation to be used in conjunction with the police. When persons are charged in court, freezing can be ordered. This tool is regularly used and could be in this case.

**12:45 - 13:45 Meeting with Police Commissioner** Lawrence CUTAJAR, accompanied by Abdilla IAN JOSEPH; Arnaud KEITH and Zahra KURT  
Venue: Police Head Quarters, St. Calcedonius Square  
Floriana FRN 1530

This meeting was held in camera at the request of the police representatives. In this exchange, the Members of the delegation were briefed about the developments and progress registered in the investigation of the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia. Following questions by Members, the state of play and developments as regards investigations linked to cases of corruption or money laundering were also briefly tackled.

**15.00 - 16.00 Meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives** Hon Anglu FARRUGIA  
Venue : Parliament of Malta

The Speaker of the house explained security measures he had to take in recent times to limit access to the Parliament building and its public gallery. He argued that these are justified by a general duty of protection towards all Members enshrined in the Rules of Parliament and its public gallery. He acknowledged that since the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, the whole democratic life is being affected.

Discussions with the delegation further revolved around media freedom - i.a. access of journalists to the Parliament, possible anti-Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) regulation and the recent legislation abolishing criminal libels against journalists - and corruption - i.a. the possibility of an anti-corruption framework and the absence of convictions related to corruption in spite of strong suspicions having arisen notably from the publication of the Panama papers.

On the day following this meeting, i.e. the second day of the delegation visit, the Parliament announced that the House had risen for its Christmas recess and would reconvene on Monday 20 January 2019.

**16: 15 - 17:00 Meeting with the Ombudsman**, Mr MIFSUD accompanied by Dr Monica BORG GALEA, Head of Investigations and Mr Jurgen CASSAR, Research and

Communications Officer.

Venue: Europe House

The Ombudsman stressed the very limited resources of the office which operates with 20 staff members. He referred to the annual number of complaints received which reaches about 600 and is rather stable except around election-times where more complaints are received. Some complaints relate to electoral favouring, although in a rather limited way. In the same way, no particular trend can be noted in relation to corruption-related complaints. Regarding the range of topics touched upon, the Ombudsman stressed limitations of his office which can act only in areas related to complaints.

### **17:00 - 18:00 Meeting representatives of the family of Daphne CARUANA GALIZIA**

Venue: Europe House

The family, represented by two sons and their father, discussed latest progress in the investigation on the assassination of the journalist. They confirmed the climate of distrust perceived by the delegation. They shared their views on the complexity of the case, which involves a constellation of interests that may have led to commissioning the murder and on the different layers involved, beyond the actual perpetrators. They regretted the lack of systematic approach from the police in informing the family on progress of the investigation and expressed hope that this would be corrected for future cases. They questioned the role of the Prime Minister and his Head of Cabinet in the investigation. They expressed satisfaction as to the then imminent start of the public inquiry they had been calling upon for months. They questioned however the lack of progress on corruption cases raised by their mother and spouse and by the Panama papers.

This led to discussing the more general and structural need for institutional reform in the country. The family referred in particular to issues related to the separation of power and independence of authorities, notably the way the judiciary or police authorities are appointed. Those serious rule of law issues have to be tackled for restoring trust in the institutions, in particular by implementing the recommendations of the Venice Commission. Serious doubts were raised by the family on the importance of criminal interests in the country and their links with the government authorities.

Further, they discussed their intention to set up a foundation in Daphne Caruana Galizia's name. The delegation recalled that the European Parliament has decided to create a European Daphne Caruana Galizia prize for investigative journalism however implementation is taking longer than expected.

The family expressed the fact that they have not yet been able to mourn after the murder of their mother and wife as justice has not yet been done. The delegation reaffirmed its support and commitment to continue monitoring the situation, so that justice is done for the journalist but also for the Maltese people, and further so that trust in the institutions is restored.

### **18:00 - 19:00 Meeting with the Leader of the opposition**

Venue: Parliament Opposition Room

The Leader of the Opposition handed a set of documents (mostly in Maltese) over to the Chair of the Delegation which illustrate "Steps taken by the Opposition to limit Government

interference in investigation”<sup>1</sup>.

Asked about the steps his party would take to re-establish calm in the country and trust in the institutions if back in government, the Leader of the Opposition indicated that these would be spelled out prior to election. He could already refer to the issue of financing of political parties which at the moment is too dependent on business. The bipolarisation of public life would need to be tackled, starting with the media sector. Functions of the Attorney General would need to be separated between prosecution, legal advice to government and heading the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU). Appointments in the police, including the Police Commissioner, would also need to be reformed.

He further stressed that none of the opposition politicians were mentioned in the Panama papers and he refused to see Malta as “a gateway for corruption” and he stated that this type of corruption was not linked to Opposition when it was in power for 25 years but only linked to the current government, and not to Malta itself.

### **20:00 - 21:00 Meeting with Manuel DELIA and Clemence DUJARDIN (activists)**

Venue: Excelsior Hotel

*See below report on Round table with non-governmental organizations active in the field of Rule of law and Fight against corruption.*

### **Wednesday 4 December**

#### **8:45 – 10.00 Round table with non-governmental organizations active in the field of Rule of law and Fight against corruption**

Venue: Europe House

- Alessandra Dee Crespo, Dr Vicky Ann Cremon, Paula Fleri Soler (Repubblika)
- Neil FALZON/ Carla CAMILLERI (Aditus, Human Rights NGO)
- Andrew BORG CARDONA, Lawyer and anti-corruption Activist
- Louiselle VASSALLO, Ann DEMARCO, Sammi DAVIS, Paula FLERI SOLER (Occupy Justice)
- Ranier FSADNI
- Wayne Flask (Moviment Graffiti)

Individual activists and representatives of NGOs active in the field of human rights, the fight against corruption and for upholding Rule of law shared their views on the general climate in

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<sup>1</sup> These included: Advice sought from law Professor Kevin Aquilina; public statements urging the Prime Minister to step away; a motion in Parliament for an urgent debate on the investigations carried out concerning the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia; an appeal to constituted bodies urging them to weigh in on the matter to ensure that justice is done; a call on the President when more revelations emerged that linked the Office of the Prime Minister directly to the assassination; a call on Government Ministers and backbenchers to sack Joseph Muscat; a statement that the Opposition continued to insist that Joseph Muscat is to leave immediately so that justice is done and seen to be done; a statement regarding Court having ordered a Magisterial inquiry on three Ministers regarding the transfer of state hospitals to Vitals involving Chris Cardona, Konrad Mizzi and Edward Sicluna; a statement on the boycott by the Opposition of all events where Joseph Muscat was present.

which they operate.

In the exchange, the following elements were mentioned:

- the concerns on the climate of tension between the government and activists, of polarisation between partisans of the government and the opposition; it was underlined that there are severe problems with the rule of law and that a thorough reform is needed; concerns were voiced that the current constitutional reform is politicised and that civil society is not sufficiently consulted or involved;
- in relation to the investigation on the journalist's murder, they underlined the atmosphere of distrust towards the cabinet and the Prime Minister, and called for his resignation;
- given the recent developments in the investigation, the whole concept of immunity and pardons should be reformed;
- on the protests held in the last days it was noted that there were no violent protests and they deplored that the Speaker of the House blocked the access to the gallery for security reasons which they consider to be unprecedented and unfounded;
- as regards the Venice Commission recommendations, they expressed distrust on the willingness of authorities to follow them and put them into practice;
- it was recalled how authorities put obstacles to the expression of support and mourning to Daphne Caruana Galizia, with the regular cleaning up and dismantling of the informal memorial set up in front of the Ministry of Justice; in this context it was underlined that no improvements of the situation as promised by the Government took place in the last year;
- a general feeling of impunity of people in or close to the government was described; the large scale corruption, the lack of investigation of money laundering cases or of other recent corruption cases which were repeatedly mentioned in the press in fields such as energy, construction, health services were also pointed out; the financing of all political parties was also mentioned as an area of concern and the influence of private interests in the public life being a concern for many years already - regardless of the political party in power;
- the division of the media into pro- government or opposition financed outlets was also considered a problem and the reform of the media legislation was mentioned as necessary;
- the importance of monitoring of the situation of the rule of law in the country and of a constant international pressure was also pointed out as a necessary premise to ensure an improvement in the situation.

Prior to this round-table, the delegation had met in the evening of 3 December with Manuel DELIA and Clemence DUJARDIN, activists representing respectively Repubblica and Occupy Justice who could not attend the meeting of 4 December. Discussions revolved around the same topics as those of the general meeting with NGOs.

### **10.00 - 11:15 Meeting with journalists and representatives Daphne Project**

Venue: Europe House

- Jacob BORG (Times of Malta and Daphne Project);

- Caroline MUSCAT (The Shift News);
- Sylvana DEBONO (Newsbook.com.mt)
- Neil CAMILLERI/Rachel ATTARD (Malta Independent);
- Chris PEREGIN (LovinMalta);
- Matthew VELLA (Malta Today)

The group of journalists met by the delegation stressed the general climate of hate, intimidation and constant pressure in which they have to work. They reported intimidations taking different forms, from actual physical threats to legal campaigns through libels. They pointed to the government to which they can hardly access to exert their profession, in particular when it comes to questioning the relationship between the Prime Minister and his former head of cabinet or the investigation on the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia. They referred to an actual campaign orchestrated by the ruling party and directed against independent media presented as public enemies. They reported fearing for their safety.

Journalists questioned the integrity of the murder investigation. They pointed to the lack of independence of the police which, until the most recent arrests, reported directly to the Prime Minister and his head of cabinet. They recalled that the Prime Minister still has much control over who is to be listened to, appoints the police commissioner and recurs to pardons. Beyond the question of independence of public authorities, they pointed to questions of culture. They blamed the Maltese extreme bi-partisan system, which extends to the press and ownership of the media and entails subservience towards political parties. Maltese people including journalists are expected to belong to one side or the other and this jeopardises independent media work.

Journalists referred to many stories which would deserve serious police investigation, ranging from corruption around planning and development activities, selling of passports and visas, dubious banking practices involving cross-border interests. They questioned the absence of such investigations. In relation to the investor citizenship, residence schemes and visas, they raised the difficulty to access information, since the government only publishes a cumbersome list of people having acquired such citizenship sorted by first names.

Reference was made by Members of the delegation to the possibility of legislating against SLAPP and to European Parliament funds to support journalists travelling to Strasbourg. Further, the delegation reaffirmed their support and commitment to continue close monitoring of the murder investigation and of rule of law issues in the country, including media freedom.

### **11:30 – 12:45 Meeting with representatives of the Chamber of advocates**

Dr Louis DE GABRIELE (President), Dr Stefan CAMILLERI (Secretary General) and Dr Anna MIFSUD BONNICI (Member), Dr Stephen TONNA LOWELL (Member)  
Venue: Europe House

The meeting started with a statement by the representatives of the Chamber of Advocates that underlined that they expect that the Prime Minister gives his resignation as soon as possible.

In the exchange, the following points were mentioned:

- the system of judicial appointments should be changed, taking the most of the Venice Commission Recommendations; in this context they recalled their recommendation that

the practice according to which the government itself makes a recommendation for nominations should be stopped; the need to distance the executive from the appointment of judges was also pointed out;

- the Recommendations of the Venice Commission should be implemented without delay and the current constitution needs a reform;
- the recommendation that appointments for the positions of Attorney General and Police Commissioner to be done by a qualified majority of 2/3 in the House of Representatives; the same strict procedure should be applied in case of removal;
- safeguards should be in place as regards conflicts of interest, in particular given that Malta is a small country; lobbying the government should be also regulated;
- as regards the question that on the major corruption allegations, it is unusual that police does not open investigations, and that this is done on a regular basis by magistrates, it was answered that the police should investigate, and that the magistrate investigating should be an exception and not the rule;
- they expressed trust in the judges in Malta, underlined that indeed the reform of the appointments should be continued and that the increasing the credibility and integrity of the system is necessary.

### **13:00 - 13:30 Press conference**

The press release issued at the end of the mission is available on the European Parliament website:

[Press release - Malta: MEPs conclude fact-finding visit to assess Caruana Galizia murder inquiry](#)

### **Conclusions**

**As a follow up of this mission, the Members of the delegation reached the following key findings:**

- there are concerns that the delayed resignation of Prime Minister Muscat poses a risk, real or perceived, to integrity of the murder investigation; the failing of addressing the climate of distrust and the negative perceptions of the government's actions might be also a source of concern and in this context it is of maximum importance that the investigations continue without undue interference and that justice is served;
- acknowledged the progress in police investigation of the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia, while recognising that the case is far from being closed; in this context, noted that the authorities mentioned the good cooperation with Europol which has to be continued;
- welcomed the establishment of an Independent Public inquiry with a precise scope and timeline which addressed substantive criticisms and now satisfies all parties;
- in the context of concerns as regards the situation of the rule of law in the country, the recommendations of the Venice Commission have to be duly followed up, in particular as regards the decoupling of the functions of the Attorney General and the current system of judicial appointments; acknowledged that steps were taken to initiate reforms, but ensuring the transparency of the process and a real consultation of the civil society is very important to restore the credibility;
- the lack of investigation and progress as regards the cases of corruption and money

laundering remains a source of concern;

- further steps need to be taken to ensure media freedom and safety of journalists; ensuring a real support and protection for civil society remains to be achieved;
- financing of political parties is an area of concern and clear steps need to be taken to separate business life from political life;
- based on the findings of this mission and of concerns linked to the rule of law situation, the Members reiterate the call on the Commission to enter into dialogue with the Maltese Government in the context of the Rule of Law Framework, as already included in the EP resolution adopted on 28 March 2019 on the situation of the rule of law and the fight against corruption in the EU, specifically in Malta and Slovakia;

## Annex I

### Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

#### Mission to Malta Draft programme

Monday 2 December (Recommended flight on late evening)

#### Tuesday 3 December

8:00	<i>Departure from the hotel</i>
8:30-10:00	<b>Meeting with Prime Minister Joseph MUSCAT and the Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government Dr. Owen BONNICI</b> <i>Venue : Auberge de Castille, Valletta.</i>
	<b>Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Mr Chris FEARNE</b> <i>Venue : Auberge de Castille, Valletta.</i>
10.30 - 11.30	<b>Meeting with the President of the Republic of Malta George Vella</b> <i>Venue: Sant' Anton Palace, Attard</i>
11.45 - 12.30	<b>Meeting with Attorney General Dr Peter GRECH</b> <i>Venue: Palace, St. George's Square, Valletta</i>
12:45 - 13:45	<b>Meeting with Police Commissioner Lawrence CUTAJAR , accompanied by Abdilla Ian Joseph; Arnaud Keith and Zahra Kurt</b> <i>Venue: Police Head Quarters, St. Calcedonius Square Floriana FRN 1530</i>
14:00- 14:45	<i>Sandwich lunch - individual payment (and transport)</i>
15.00 - 16.00	<b>Meeting with Hon Anġlu FARRUGIA, Speaker of the House of Representatives</b> <i>Venue : Parliament of Malta</i>
16: 15- 17:00	<b>Meeting with the Ombudsman, M. MIFSUD accompanied by Dr Monica Borg Galea, Head of Investigations and Mr Jurgen Cassar, Research and Communications Officer.</b> <i>Venue: Europe House</i>
17:00- 18:00	<b>Meeting representatives of the family of Daphne CARUANA GALIZIA</b> <i>Venue : Europe House</i>
18:00-19:00	<b>Meeting with the Leader of the opposition</b> <i>Venue : Parliament Opposition Room</i>

20:00- 21:00	Meeting with Manuel Delia, Clemence Dujardin (activists)  <i>Venue : Excelsior Hotel</i>
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### Wednesday 4 December

8:15	<i>Departure from the hotel</i>
8:45– 10:00	<b>Round table with non-governmental organizations active in the field of Rule of law and Fight against corruption</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alessandra Dee Crespo, Dr Vicky Ann Cremon, Paula Fleri Soler (Repubblika)</b></li> <li>• <b>Neil Falzon/ Carla Camilleri (Aditus, Human Rights NGO)</b></li> <li>• <b>Andrew BORG CARDONA, Lawyer and anti-corruption Activist</b></li> <li>• <b>Louiselle Vassallo, Ann Demarco, Sammi Davis, Paula Fleri Soler (Occupy Justice)</b></li> <li>• <b>Ranier FSADNI</b></li> <li>• <b>Wayne Flask (Moviment Graffiti)</b></li> </ul>
10.00 - 11:15	<b>Meeting with journalists and representatives Daphne Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jacob Borg (Times of Malta and Daphne Project);</b></li> <li>• <b>Caroline Muscat (The Shift News);</b></li> <li>• <b>Sylvana Debono (Newsbook.com.mt)</b></li> <li>• <b>Neil Camilleri/Rachel Attard (Malta Independent);</b></li> <li>• <b>Chris Peregin (LovinMalta);</b></li> <li>• <b>Matthew Vella (Malta Today)</b></li> </ul>
11:30– 12:45	<b>Meeting with representatives of the Chamber of advocates</b>  <b>Dr Louis de Gabriele (President), Dr Stefan Camilleri (Secretary General) and Dr Anna Mifsud Bonnici (Member), Dr Stephen Tonna Lowell (Member)</b>  <i>Venue: Europe House</i>
13:00- 13:30	<b>Press conference</b> <b>Chair of the delegation</b>
14:00	<i>Transport to the airport</i>

**Annex II**  
**Participants list**

**COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

**Mission to Malta**  
**2-4 December 2019**

**List of participants (by protocol order)**

**OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

	Name	Group	Full Member/ Substitute	Country
1.	<b>Sophie in 't VELD</b> <b>Chair of the delegation</b>	Renew	Full Member	The Netherlands
2.	<b>Birgit SIPPEL</b>	S&D	Full Member	Germany
3.	<b>Roberta METSOLA</b>	EPP	Full Member	Malta
4.	<b>Assita KANKO</b>	ECR	Full Member	Belgium
5	<b>Lars Patrick BERG</b>	ID	Substitute	Germany
6.	<b>Sven GIEGOLD</b>	Greens/EFA	N/A	Germany
7.	<b>Stelios KOULOGLOU</b>	GUE/NGL	N/A	Greece