

## **Press Release**

PR 140134ENG 28. 01. 2014

## AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM RAY AZZOPARDI PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS

On Thursday, 9th January 2014, H.E. Ray Azzopardi presented His Majesty King Philippe, King of the Belgians, with his Letters of Credence to accredit him as the new Ambassador of Malta to the Kingdom of Belgium. The ceremony was held at Château de Laeken, the official Royal residence.

Following the ceremony, H.E. Azzopardi was granted an audience with the King, whom acknowledged the excellent relations between the two countries, and expressed his wish to further cooperate on political, economic, educational and social issues. In turn Ambassador Azzopardi emphasised, in particular, his commitment towards furthering economic cooperation between the two States, especially on aspects of tourism and language-student exchange.

The newly accredited Ambassador also expressed his gratitude for Belgium's continued assistance in the restoration of the unique tapestries at St John's co-cathedral in Valletta. He augured that the King would one day conduct a State visit to Malta, which H.M. King Philippe greatly welcomed.

Ambassador Azzopardi was accompanied by Mr Stefan Muscat, First Secretary and Consul-General to the Kingdom of Belgium.

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