

President El Sisi Meets Malta's Prime Minister

On the sidelines of the High-Level Forum Africa-Europe in Vienna, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi met today with the Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph Muscat.

The President lauded the historic relations that bind the two countries and looked forward to ushering in a new phase of cooperation and increasing consultations and the exchange of visits between ministers in the two countries. This is in addition to stepping up cooperation in the fields of tourism and investment in order for the Maltese companies to benefit from the opportunities available in Egypt, especially in the mega national projects.

Malta's prime minister expressed his country's appreciation for the leadership and people of Egypt. He also confirmed the strong friendship and longstanding ties that the two countries share and added that Malta looks forward to promoting them across various fields. He affirmed that Malta is keen to closely coordinate and consult with Egypt and valued its role in promoting stability in the Middle East and Mediterranean regions, as well as its efforts to counter terrorism, extremism and illegal migration.

The meeting touched on ways to enhance bilateral relations and reviewed regional and international issues of mutual interest, particularly illegal migration, given that both Egypt and Malta are destinations as well as crossing countries for migrants. Both sides agreed on the importance of addressing this issue from a comprehensive perspective to deal with the root causes in the source countries and not sufficing with short-term security solutions.

Light was also shed on Egypt's upcoming chairmanship of the African Union, starting February 2019, and highlighting the opportunities present in this regard to launch trilateral cooperation between the two countries and African countries.

The meeting also touched on the latest developments in Libya. President El Sisi reviewed Egypt's efforts for a political settlement in Libya. Both views agreed on the importance of the role of the Libyan national army in supporting stability in the country, as well as backing the mission of the UN envoy and supporting the formation of a national unity government.

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