

02.01.2017

## Prime Minister Joseph Muscat addresses the Slovenian Diplomats



*Malta believes that in light of the current migration situation, a compromise between the Member States of the EU is required, in order to pave the way forward.*

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat explained the priorities of the Maltese Presidency of the European Union to all Slovenian Diplomats present for their annual meeting in Ljubljana.

In his speech, the Prime Minister stated that immigration is the hardest challenge the EU has faced in recent years. The Maltese Presidency is aware of the lack of agreement between the Member States and thus is striving to achieve progress towards convergence.

It is clear that the first step is securing borders, including maritime ones. Therefore, one of the priorities should be that the agreement with Turkey, which despite all of its problems was the only step that had any impact, is replicated in the centre of the Mediterranean whilst keeping in mind the realities of this zone. This then needs to be accompanied by effective sharing of responsibility between Member States.

Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar said that his country conforms with the pragmatic attitude Malta is adopting, and offered his support for the agenda of the Presidency.

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