



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

*The President*

**Ms Ana GOMES**

Member of the European Parliament  
Chair

of the *ad hoc* Delegation to Malta

[anamaria.gomes@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:anamaria.gomes@europarl.europa.eu)

Réf ► J.Dem.223\_TM/BA

Strasbourg, 9 May 2018

Dear Ms Gomes,

*Dear Ana,*

Thank you very much for sending me the report on the visit of a delegation of the European Parliament to Malta. This report raises a number of important issues, some of them outside the area of expertise of the Venice Commission, others well within our competence.

According to our Statute the Venice Commission cannot address an issue concerning a specific country without a request to do so. Such a request may be made by the country concerned, an organ of the Council of Europe or the European Union (including the European Parliament) or OSCE.

We have not received such a request. You know probably better whether the Maltese authorities could be persuaded to make a request to the Venice Commission.

Your suggestion to have an informal meeting seems to me the best way forward. I'd be grateful if you could suggest a meeting during a session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Yours sincerely,

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Gianni BUQUICCHIO