



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

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Tajani meets the Minister for Tourism of Malta, Hon Karmellu Vella

Vice-president and Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry Antonio Tajani met today in Brussels Hon Karmellu Vella, Minister for Tourism in Malta.

During the meeting they discussed the urgent need to modernize European visa policy. It is widely accepted that visa policy has a security but also an economic dimension. This has to be translated into concrete measures.

In times where the EU is seeking jobs and growth, the potential of attracting more foreign tourism should be fully exploited. In a country such as Malta the importance of tourism in terms of GDP is particularly high. Tajani and Vella also discussed the need to link closer air transport with tourism. They both highlighted that the Mediterranean represents one third of world tourism destinations and this is an asset for the whole Europe. Finally, they agreed to organize beginning of 2014 and event in Valetta on tourism and SMEs taking advantage of the incoming entry into force of the COSME program.

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