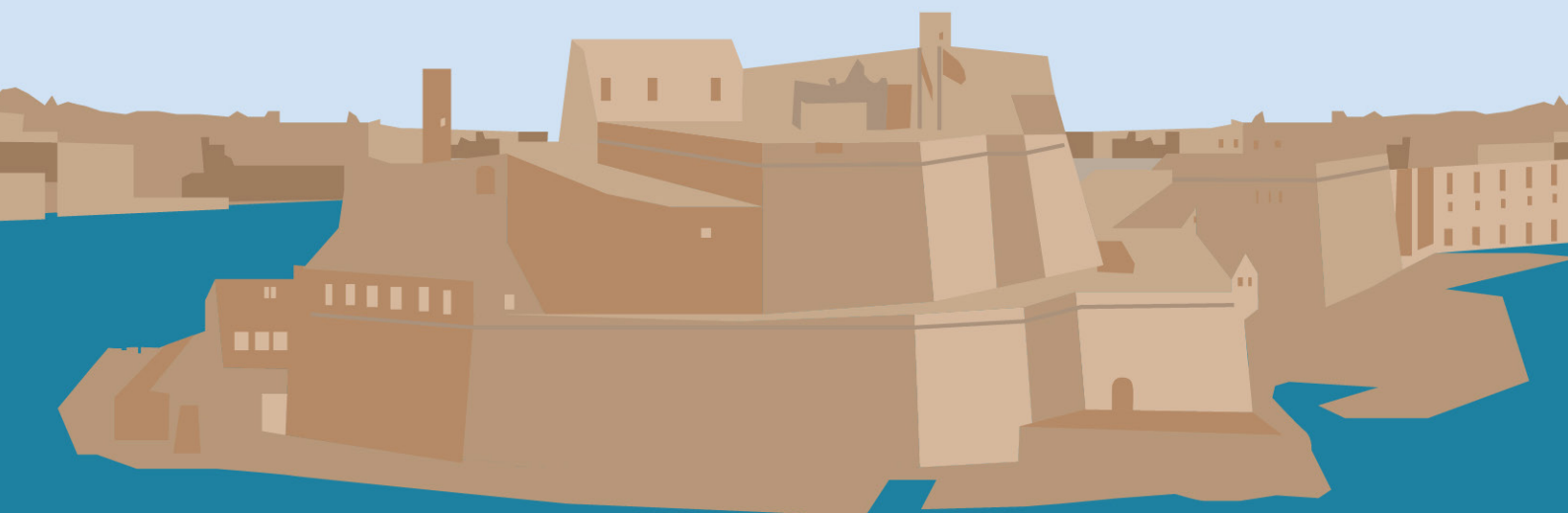
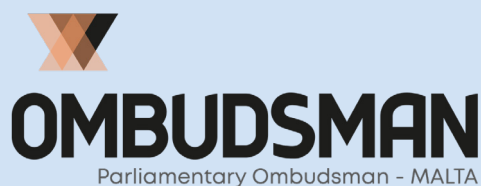


UPHOLDING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

The role of the Ombudsman

PROGRAMME

OMBUDSMAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
15 - 16 October 2025



14th October 2025

Welcome Reception and Opening of Arts for Rights Exhibition

House of Representatives - Valletta

The evening will be addressed by the Speaker of the House, the Hon. Anglu Farrugia, and the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Malta, Judge Joseph Zammit McKeon.

This event also marks the opening of Arts for Rights, an exhibition featuring paintings by twenty-one students from the Institute for the Creative Arts at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) in Mosta. The exhibition offers young artists a platform within Malta's highest democratic institution to interpret and express their understanding of human rights through visual art.

7:00pm - Departure from Radisson Golden Sands Resort

7:30pm - Welcome Reception and opening of Arts Exhibition

9:00pm - Departure from House of Representatives to hotel



15th October 2025

**Upholding Good Governance in challenging times:
the role of the Ombudsman**

Radisson Golden Sands Resort

8:30am - Registration

9:00am - **Opening Ceremony**

Speeches

Welcome Speech by the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Malta

Judge Joseph Zammit McKeon

Speech by the President of the AOM

Ms Erinda Ballanca, People's Advocate of Albania

Message by the President of the IOI

Ms Nashieli Ramírez Hernández, President of the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City

Speech by the President, IOI Regional Board

Mr Reinier van Zutphen, National Ombudsman of the Netherlands

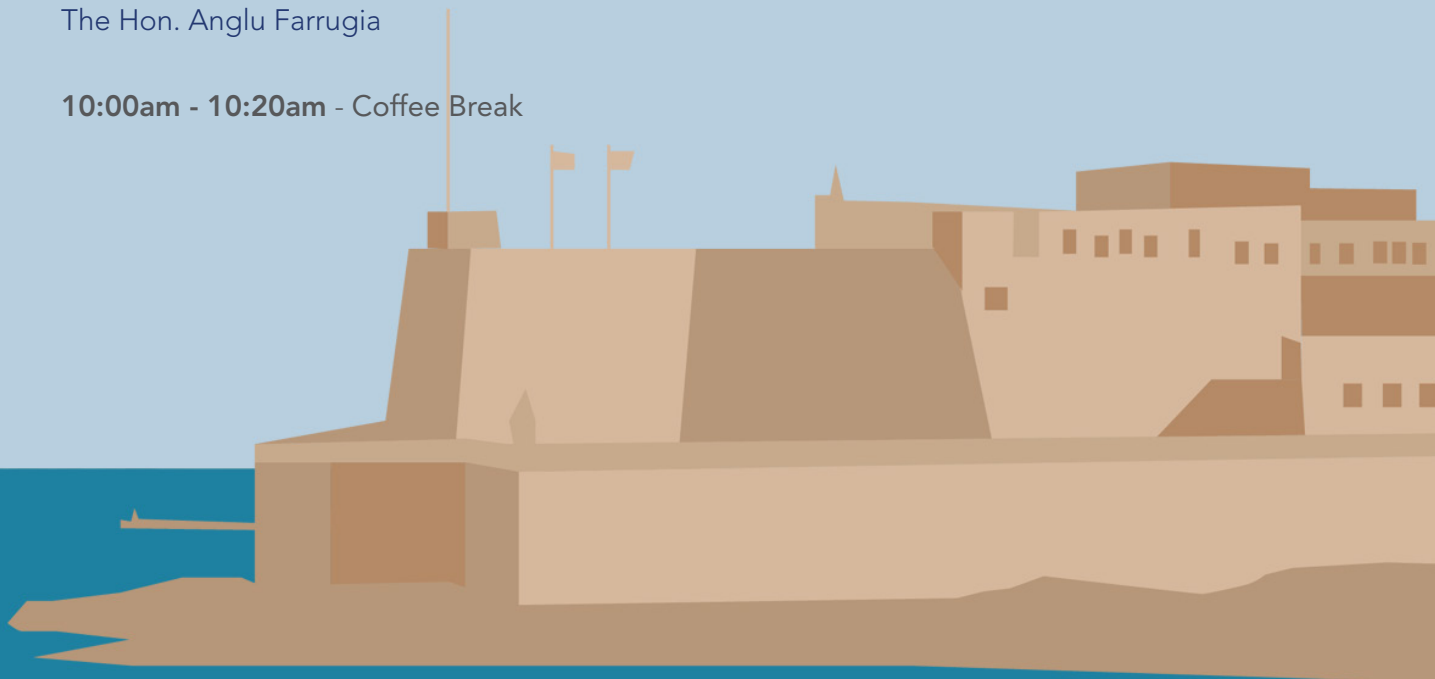
Speech by the European Ombudsman

Ms Teresa Anjinho

Speech by the Speaker of the House

The Hon. Anglu Farrugia

10:00am - 10:20am - Coffee Break



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Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen



INTERNATIONAL
OMBUDSMAN
INSTITUTE

15th October 2025

10:30am – 11:30am - Plenary Session 1

Building People's Trust: The Ombudsman as a pillar of democracy in times of change

Panel:

- Ms Margaret Kelly, **Ombudsman of Northern Ireland**
- Mr Mehmet Akarca, **Chief Ombudsman of the Republic of Türkiye**
- Ms Anahit Manasyan, **Human Rights Defender of Armenia**
- Dr Michael Frendo, **Council of Europe**
- Prof Anne Marie Thake, **Academic, University of Malta**

Panel discussion and interventions from participants

11:30am – 1:00pm Plenary Session 2

Protecting the Vulnerable: The role of the Ombudsman in upholding human rights

Panel

- Ms Debbie Kohner, **Secretary General, ENNHRI**
- Mr Dmytro Lubinets, **Commissioner for Human Rights, Ukraine**
- Ms Marina Ceyssac, **High Commissioner for the Protection of Rights, Liberties and for Mediation of Monaco**
- Judge Lorraine Schembri Orland, **Judge at the ECHR**
- Dr Dijana Možina Zupanc, **Deputy Human Rights Ombudsman of Slovenia**
- Dr Tamar Gvaramadze, **Deputy Public Defendor of Georgia**
- Mr Andreas Accardo, **Head of Institutional Cooperation and EU Charter Unit, FRA**

Panel discussion and interventions from participants

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm - Buffet Lunch



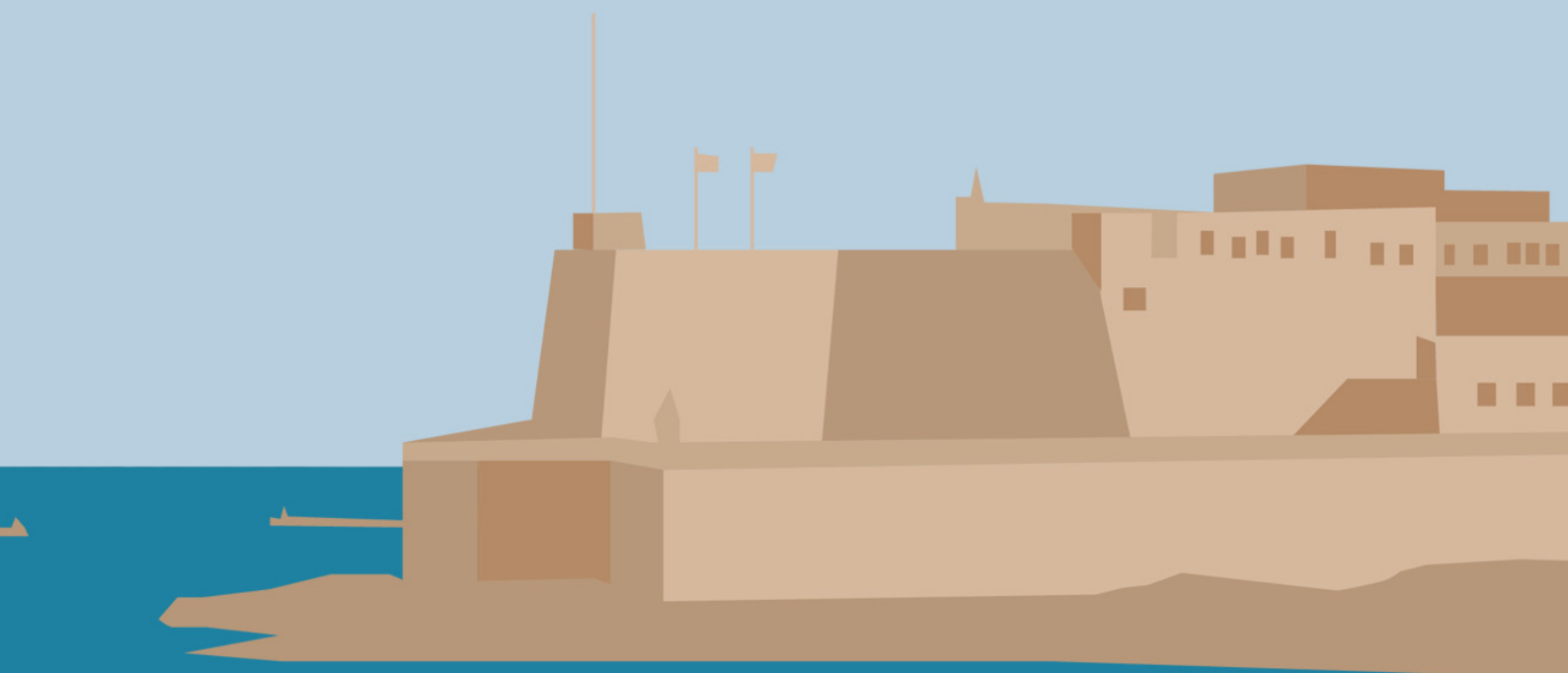
Official 30th Anniversary Reception under the auspices of H.E Myriam Spiteri Debono, President of Malta

The Palace, Valletta

The official commemoration will be held at the Grand Master's Palace, the historic seat of the President of the Republic and a landmark in the heart of Valletta's St George's Square. Built by the Knights of St John as the first edifice in the new capital, the Palace has served as a centre of power for over 450 years, including as the Governor's Palace during the British period and the seat of Malta's first constitutional parliament in 1921.

Guests will enjoy a private tour of the Palace Armoury, one of the world's finest collections, and the State Rooms before the ceremony.

6:00pm	Departure from Radisson Golden Sands Resort
6:40pm	Tour of the Palace Armoury
8:00pm	30th Anniversary Commemoration
10:00pm	Departure to hotel



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16th October 2025

Upholding Good Governance in challenging times: the role of the Ombudsman

Radisson Golden Sands Resort

8:30am - Welcome Coffee

9:00am – 10:15am Plenary Session 3

Advancing Ethical Governance: Strengthening integrity and the principles of good administration

Panel

- Mr Tony Sultana, **Principal Permanent Secretary – Malta**
- Mr Charles Deguara, **Auditor General – Malta**
- Ms Maria Stylianou-Lottides, **Ombudsman of Cyprus**
- Ms Maija Sakslin, **Deputy Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland**
- Mr Vit Alexander Schorm, **Deputy Ombudsman of Czech Republic**

Panel discussion and interventions from participants

10:20am – 11:40am Plenary Session 4

Embracing Technological Innovation: The Ombudsman's role in the age of digitalisation and artificial intelligence

- Ms Tena Šimonović Einwalter, **Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia**
- Ms Ulle Madise, **Chancellor of Justice of Estonia**
- Mr David Bondia, **Ombudsman of Barcellona**
- Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, **Director, Secretary of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe**
- Prof Alexiei Dingli, **Academic on AI, University of Malta**

Panel discussion and interventions from participants

11:40am – 12:00pm - Coffee Break

12:00 - Closing Ceremony

Speeches

Conference Rapporteur's Report

Prof Anne Marie Thake

Concluding Remarks by the Parliamentary Ombudsman,

Judge Joseph Zammit McKeon

Concluding Address by the Leader of the Opposition

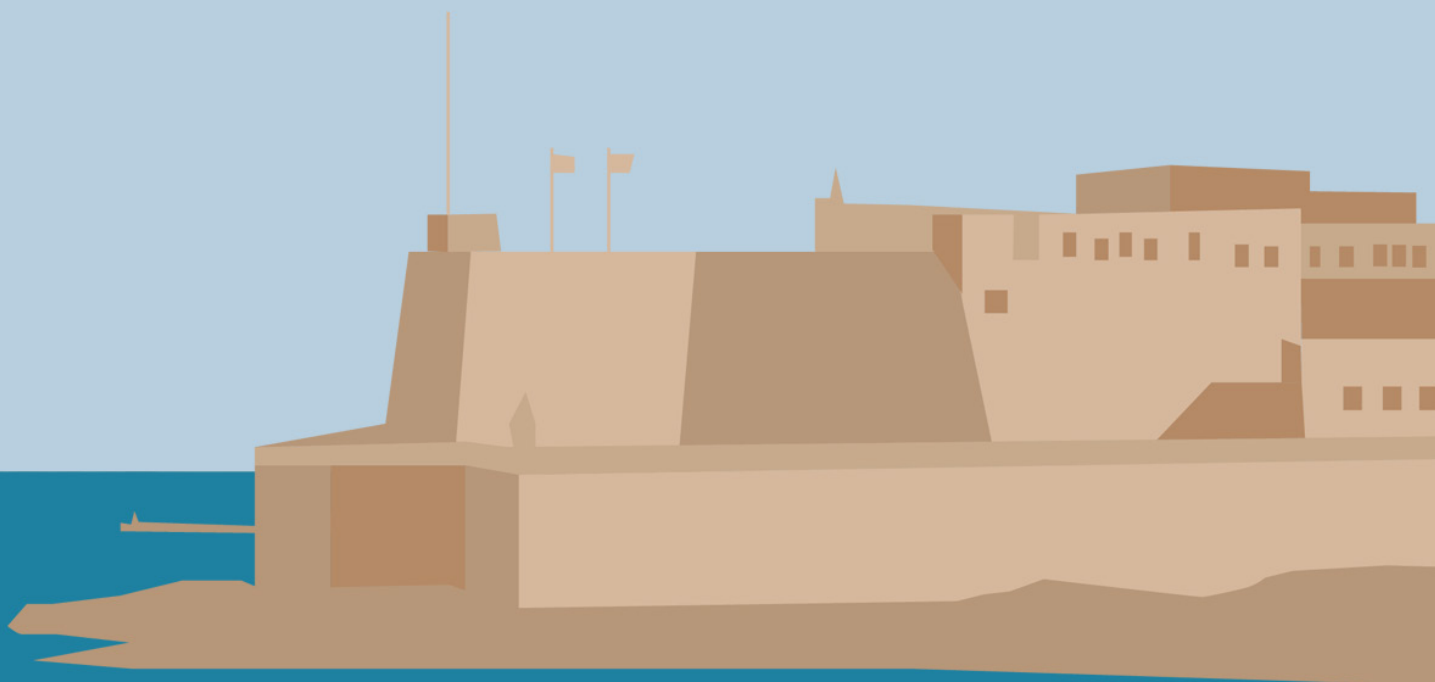
The Hon. Alex Borg

Concluding Address by the Prime Minister

The Hon. Robert Abela

Family Photo

13:15 - Stand up lunch



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Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen

2:30pm - AOM General Assembly

Open only for AOM Members

Separate Agenda

Informal Dinner hosted by the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Malta

Evening

7:00pm - Informal Dinner - Nenu - The Artisan Baker - Mġarr

(Return transport from the hotel will be provided)

