This was a first introductory meeting between DG Astola (TA) and Permanent Representative Azzopardi where the Ambassador wanted to discuss the Anti-Money Laundering Legislation, the Maltese Individual Investor Programme and the reforms in Malta following the report by the Venice Commission on Constitution arrangements and separation of powers.

The meeting happened in a constructive atmosphere. The Ambassador underlined MT willingness to continue progress in all these areas. He gave a general reply to issues raised by TA, without going into specific details.

Reforms in Malta following Venice Commission report

OUT OF SCOPE
Anti-Money Laundering Legislation

Citizenship by investment schemes/Maltese Individual Investor Programme

The Ambassador underlined the importance of engaging with the Commission on this topic and underlined the important role of the Expert Group. He mentioned the Citizenship by Investment Due Diligence Conference to take place on 11 June 2019. Key players on this topic would come together (e.g. banking/industry actors) and the MT Ambassador extended the invitation to the Commission. It is not yet clear if participants from the expert group will be invited but the Ambassador was open to this idea. DG Astola referred to the issue that investors do not need to physically reside in Malta for any period of time (only a requirement to hold a residence permit for 12 months) From the answer of the Ambassador it appears that for Maltese authorities physical presence does not appear to be a precondition for meeting the residence requirement (businesses require to move frequently).

Present:
- MT Ambassador Daniel Azzopardi and
- COMDG Tiina Astola, (JUST 02) and (JUSTC.1)

Present:
- (JUST/C1) and (JUST/02)