Hon. Carmelo Abela
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament of Malta

European Parliament

Thursday, 12 November 2026

Maternity arrangements for Members of Parliament

Dear Mr Speaker,

I am writing to ask you to initiate a discussion between the parliamentary groups on introducing clearer maternity arrangements for Members of Parliament.

As the European Parliament's rapporteur on the Work-Life Balance Directive, I worked to strengthen support for parents and carers. I believe the same commitment to reconciling public and family responsibilities should guide how our parliaments organise their work.

The Standing Orders provide for approved leave of absence. However, a more explicit framework could give Members greater certainty during pregnancy and after childbirth, including on the duration of leave and the protection of their parliamentary remuneration.

There is also the question of voting. Becoming a mother should not mean losing the opportunity to participate in parliamentary decisions.

The European Parliament's reform, championed by President Roberta Metsola, offers a useful model. It provides for Members to delegate their vote to a colleague for up to three months before their expected delivery date and six months after childbirth, subject to ratification and implementing rules.

I would ask that consideration be given to a similar, voluntary mechanism in Malta, with clear safeguards governing authorisation, voting instructions and transparency, subject to assessment against our parliamentary and constitutional framework.

A discussion through the House Business Committee could identify the changes needed and establish a practical way forward. Clear maternity-leave provisions and a means of preserving voting rights would be concrete steps towards a more inclusive Parliament.

Yours sincerely,



David Casa
Member of the European Parliament
PN Head of Delegation in the European Parliament