

Speech by
H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca
President of Malta
at the
Maltese-Algerian Business Forum
Held in Algeria
19th January 2016

Thank you, Honourable Prime Minister, for your kind words. The presence here today bears testimony to the importance that we place on continuing to build closer collaboration with Algeria, and to go even further, the existent friendship between our two peoples. I would like to thank you for the warm welcome I received, to my delegation, on our arrival in your country earlier this afternoon.

The presence in Algeria testifies the good will of both our countries to increase commercial interaction, collaboration, partnership and joint ventures.

The central and geostrategic location of Malta in the Mediterranean Sea offers Malta the opportunity to be a bridge between Europe and the African region.

Malta's accession to the European Union in 2004, continues to reinforce Malta's vocation and mission in the Mediterranean, to

en Algeria and Malta, not only benefit our two people
mpacts on the entire Mediterranean region.

a and Malta share a long history of mutual friendshi
f the nineteenth century, Algeria was the preferred desti
ice for Maltese migrants. The number of Maltese pec
a increased to 10,000 in 1865, comprising 25% of all M
l at the time.

t, I have been informed that Maltese people were a
nt of the non-French European population in Algeria, c
ineteenth century, and that most of their descendants rem
a to this very day.

vo friendly countries enjoy a healthy historical backg
akes us proud. Diplomatic relations between our cou
ver a period of forty years.

ime when Malta was diversifying its economic policy

almost four decades, I am honoured to say that our relations have reached an unprecedented peak during these last months. The recent developments in our bilateral relations have opened new horizons for both countries to work closely together.

At present, commercial flows between our two countries are far from reaching their potential; however, it is clear that both our countries have much more to offer each other. The possibilities for mutual economic, commercial trade and investment relations between our two countries are undoubtedly immense.

The official visit to Algeria by my Prime Minister, Dr J. Chirac, and the accompanying delegation precisely two months ago, marked an important milestone which further strengthened our bilateral relations, where new avenues for cooperation are being explored.

I am thus particularly pleased to address this very important

countries. In fact, I am proud to state that a number of companies are here to follow up contacts established during my previous visit.

Without a doubt, friendly nations and peoples, as well as business connectivity between them, and the introduction of direct flights between our two countries in June 2013, was a step in the right direction.

The setting up of the Maltese Consulate in Algiers in 2014, and the appointment of a new Maltese Ambassador to Algeria, will provide a solid framework for continued progress in all spheres, particularly in bilateral trade and economic spheres, as well as in the cultural domain. The signing of the Air Services Agreement between our two countries is also another crucial step in the right direction.

On the other hand, I also believe that the revival of the Malta-Algeria Commission, after an absence of 28 years, will also encourage

ment. This is imperative for the facilitation of collaborations and joint ventures between our businesses.

views Algeria as a country with abundant resources and economic potential. As the Algerian Government seeks to diversify its economy, Malta stands firm in its commitment and assist in this diversification drive.

Malta's economic diversification comes at a time when Malta's economic performance is very significant. Malta's economy is growing, and is entering new economic pastures. Malta is strengthening its economic operations while excelling in a number of the most important sectors, such as Maritime Services, Financial Services, Information Technology, Pharmaceuticals and Energy. I am pleased to say that a number of Maltese businesses have already successfully involved with their Algerian counterparts in joint ventures including those in the security

able energy, education, Information Technology, Agriculture, Fisheries, as well as waste management, can also be explored on the same lines, I am compelled to mention Malta's educational institutions that offer world-renowned education and training in that order. Malta has no natural resources except for its people. Progressive governments have thus invested heavily in education as Malta's ability to attract high value-added investments depends on our capacity to provide the human resources required. I am aware that the English language is a primary focus for the Maltese government. English is also one of our official languages. English language schools in Malta offer excellent training to meet the constant demand by commercial companies to provide a high quality workforce.

Malta is already a beneficiary to the Erasmus Plus Programme. I look forward for Algerian students to follow suit.

onal training, including the opening of private educa
es here in Algeria.

d therefore like to reiterate my pleasure to be here in A
be present for this Algerian-Maltese Business Forum.

interactions between our respective gover
entatives and business communities are of the u
tance.

time to build a comprehensive and diversified bu
nship with the growing recognition of our complem
ths to the mutual benefit of both countries. I strongly fe
isit should be instrumental towards the establishmen
se – Algerian Business Council, to provide an ongoing p
would contribute to more commercial and econom
ion between our countries.

and Algeria have the required ingredients to effect

future of Maltese-Algerian economic cooperation also
ing closer linkages between our two peoples, and
pment of new synergies, with Malta being the gatev
e and Algeria to Africa.

er to create such collaboration between our companie
ial that companies get to know about the capabilities
unities available in our untapped markets.

ld therefore like to conclude my address to both the Al
altese entrepreneurs present here today by encouraging
nge ideas and explore all possibilities of investment as v
lement joint projects and ventures so that our combined
ad to mutual gains.

that this Business Forum will give you a clearer idea o
an work together, and I augur that the Business to Bu
igs during this evening and tomorrow will allow y

forward to seeing your endeavours coming to fruition at the
business Forum, and indeed beyond, for the benefit of
us, our countries and our region.

you.