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## EU's 60th anniversary an opportunity for open and sincere dialogue on its future

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The European Union is at a historic crossroad and the marking of its 60th anniversary on the 25th of March provides its Member States with an opportunity to evaluate the Union's course, launching an open and sincere dialogue on their common future, said the Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, Carmelo Abela.

"The EU's future is in our hands. We must address citizens' concerns and frustrations, while working to make a real difference at all levels," he told a meeting of EU General Affairs Council Ministers belonging to the Party of European Socialists (PES) in Berlin, on behalf of the Minister for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto Louis Grech. The Ministers exchanged views in preparation of the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, with special focus on the EU's economic and social dimensions as well as its internal and external challenges.

"In the current European scenario, Europe's social soul needs to re-emerge," said Minister Abela. "Having a strong social Europe is to everyone's advantage. Economic growth must be accompanied by job creation, which will improve citizens' wellbeing by contributing towards combating poverty and social exclusion."

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