

Courtesy translation

From the Vatican, 11 July 2020

Your Excellency,

Dear Fra' Ruy,

I have learned that, today, you have convened the Council Complete of State for November 7, in compliance with the requirements of Article 145 of the Code. I am pleased with this important deliberative act which cannot but find the unanimous consent and support of the members of the Order.

I also note the wise decision to postpone the Extraordinary Chapter General until a date to be defined. The possibility of postponement, however, was already foreseen as a possible eventuality in the letter of convocation of the Chapter, given the unpredictability of the evolution of Covid-19 as well as the impossibility of knowing at what point the work of preparing the texts for the reform of the Order's Constitutional Charter and Code was at. In this regard, I can reassure you that I and the group of legal advisers are working hard on the texts but, as you can well understand, it is difficult for me today to make predictions about the timing as it is a complex and accurate process.

As for the timing, in fact, it must be kept in mind that after a first revision of the texts by myself and my collaborators and the summarising comparison with the two ad hoc Commissions established by the Grand Magistracy, a consultation on the draft reform with the Knights of Justice and with the representatives of the Priors, Sub-Priors and National Associations will follow, as usual. Only then, once the preparatory work has been completed, the celebration of the Extraordinary General Chapter, called to express its opinion on the proposed texts, will be considered. As you can see, we have a rather important endeavour that will require time.

Dear Fra' Ruy, I am pleased to inform you that yesterday, at the Audience granted to me by the Holy Father, I was able to mention the questions concerning the Order of Malta and the Reform process underway which, as you know, is particularly close to his heart. He rejoiced at what I told him, in particular at the progress that has been made, and at the same time he asked me to make use of his feelings of closeness to the Order, with the recommendation that the spirit of harmony and communion always prevail in the sole interest of the Order's supreme good.

I'm a firmasserter of the words given to me by Pope Francis and I invite everyone to widen their gaze, overcoming any feeling of supremacy or revenge so as to be able to feel with a peaceful spirit the weight and responsibility of the historical hour that hangs over the Order. A historic hour that must find us ready and, I would say, enthusiastic to be able to offer our contribution so that the image of the Order of Malta may be perceived in its essentiality as people united by the evangelical commitment to make God known and to show concrete love for the less fortunate, faithful to the motto that for centuries has enlightened the members of the Order: *tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum!*

Together with you, Excellency, I invoke Our Lady of Philermos and Blessed Gerard to assist us in this arduous undertaking, while I offer you my most cordial greetings.

Angelo Card. Becciu  
Special Delegate to the Order of Malta