





No. 36

MEDAC Newsletter April 2023



Newsletter 2023, No. 36

Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies University of Malta

Discussing Contemporary Security Challenges

MEDAC Chairman at International Symposium on Neutrality

Neutrality may have served Malta, Austria, Ireland and Switzerland well in the past, but will it continue to do so in this geopolitically contested world? This was under scrutiny during an International Symposium on Neutrality on 9 March in Valletta, that was organised by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. MEDAC staff and students participated in the proceedings.

The Symposium provided insight through two panels, the first made up of high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials who discussed perspectives of neutrality from the viewpoint of their respective countries – Malta, Austria, Ireland and Switzerland. The second panel of academics from the same countries delved into the value of neutrality as a foreign and security policy principle in neutral and non-aligned states in the context of the return of war in Europe.

Mr. Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary at MFET represented Malta in the first panel and gave a clear overview of how neutrality assisted Malta in its commitment to peace and insisted that there is a need to continuously

monitor the current status of the Mediterranean security architecture and actively work upon finding new solutions for security in the region. Permanent Secretary Cutajar further underlined Malta's multilateralist's vocation and that in shaping its neutrality Malta will contribute actively to the needs of international solidarity in defence against aggression and in serving peace.

MEDAC Chairman Professor Godfrey Pirotta participated in the second panel. Prof. Pirotta provided a historical background to Malta's neutrality clause in the constitution, arguing that Malta made a mission not a cliché out of the principle of neutrality and recording its impact on Malta's role and prestige in international institutions and international affairs. Prof. Pirotta reflected on heightened contemporary challenges to security and advocated for neutral countries to work more closely together within the framework of a necessary reform of the international system.

The keynote address was delivered by Ambassador Thomas Greminger, former Secretary General of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).



Mr. Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade delivering his presentation in the first panel. To his left, Ambassador Thomas Greminger, former Secretary General of the OSCE.

Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman delivering his presentation.



MEDAC welcomes the German Minister of State for Europe and Climate Dr. Anna Lührmann

On 10 January 2023, MEDAC was honoured to welcome Hon. Dr. Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

During the visit the Hon. Minister of State Lührmann discussed the instrumental role that the German Chair in Conflict Prevention and Peace Studies plays in the Academy's postgraduate program with the Chairman of MEDAC, Amb. Prof. Godfrey Pirotta. German Ambassador to Malta, Amb. Haßmann as well as members of the Minister of State's delegation, the Director of

MEDAC Prof. Calleya and the holder of the German Chair at MEDAC Dr. Wohlfeld also took part.

Minister of State Lührmann addressed the students of MEDAC providing an outline of Germany's pledge towards a stronger Europe in a fragmenting world, highlighting the fallout from the war on Ukraine. Minister Lührmann spoke also of Germany's commitment towards the climate agenda. She participated in a dynamic and interactive question and answer session with MEDAC students.

Germany is a stakeholder at MEDAC since 2009.



Left to right: H.E. Amb. Walter Haßmann, German Ambassador to Malta, Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Hon. Dr. Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate, Germany, Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman and Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Holder of the German Chair, MEDAC.



Hon. Dr. Anna Lührmann, addressing MEDAC students. Dr. Monika Wohlfeld chaired this session.



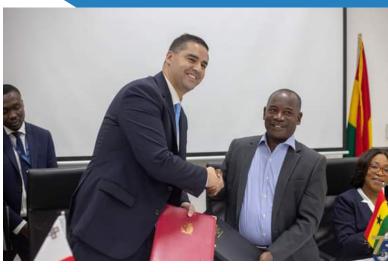


Memorandum of
Understanding between
The Legon Centre for
International Affairs and
Diplomacy (LECIAD),
University of Ghana and the
Mediterranean Academy
of Diplomatic Studies,
University of Malta

The Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), University of Ghana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta to promote research and academic collaborations.

This remarkable partnership will allow students and faculty to advance research into the dynamics of politics, economy, society, and development in the two regions.

The signing took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana during a bilateral meeting between a delegation from Malta led



Minister for Foreign, European Affairs, and Trade Dr. Ian Borg with Prof. Emmanuel Debrah, Director of LECIAD, University of Ghana after the signing

by Foreign, European Affairs, and Trade Minister, Hon. Dr. Ian Borg and Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey.

Prof. Emmanuel Debrah, Director of LECIAD, University of Ghana, signed on behalf of LECIAD, while Hon. Dr. Ian Borg signed on behalf of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta.

Five young diplomats from Ghana have studied at MEDAC in recent years.



Signing of the MoU by Minister for Foreign, European Affairs, and Trade Dr. Ian Borg and LECIAD Director at the University of Ghana Prof. Emmanuel Debrah. Looking on is Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey.

MEDAC Outreach

Ambassador of Greece visits MEDAC

On 15 November 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Tasia Athanasiou, Ambassador of Greece to Malta. The visit to the Academy provided an opportunity to exchange views about enhancing cooperation between MEDAC and Greece.



Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director and H.E. Tasia Athanasiou, Ambassador of Greece to Malta.

High Commissioner of India visits MEDAC

On 7 December 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Gloria Gangte, the High Commissioner of India to Malta. During the visit to the Academy several opportunities of co-operation were explored.



H.E. Gloria Gangte, the High Commissioner of India to Malta signing the MEDAC distinguished visitors' book.

Ambassador of Ireland visits MEDAC

On 5 December 2022, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies was honoured to welcome, H.E. Caroline Whelan, Ambassador of Ireland to Malta.

The visit to the Academy, served as an opportunity to explore numerous possible academic avenues of cooperation and conduct an overview of contemporary regional and global challenges.

Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director and H.E. Caroline Whelan, Ambassador of Ireland to Malta.



Ambassador of Georgia visits MEDAC

MEDAC was privileged to host H.E. Mr. Konstantine Surguladze, Ambassador of Georgia to Malta, on 12 January 2023. During his visit, the Ambassador met with MEDAC Chairman Professor Godfrey Pirotta and Director Professor Stephen Calleya and discussed potential areas of collaboration. MEDAC takes pride in having more than 20 alumni from Georgia.

Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H.E. Konstantine Surguladze, Ambassador of Georgia to Malta, Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman and Ms. Natalia Kordzaia, consul at MEA Georgia.



Executive Secretary of The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law visits MEDAC

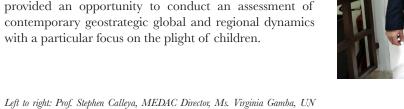
On 18 January 2023, MEDAC was honoured to welcome the Executive Secretary of The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, Dr. Steven Hill. During the visit to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, Dr. Hill and Prof. Stephen Calleya together with Dr. Derek Lutterbeck exchanged views on contemporary international relations and explored numerous possible areas of cooperation between the two institutions.



Dr. Steven Hill signing the MEDAC distinguished visitors' book.

United Nation's Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict visits MEDAC

On 19 January 2023, MEDAC was honoured to welcome the United Nation's Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba and President Emeritus of Malta, Dr. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. The distinguished visit provided an opportunity to conduct an assessment of contemporary geostrategic global and regional dynamics with a particular focus on the plight of children.





Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Ms. Virginia Gamba, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and President Emeritus of Malta, Dr. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca.

Joint Secretary (United Nations Political) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, India visits MEDAC

On 19 January 2023, MEDAC was privileged to welcome Amb. Prakash Gupta, Joint Secretary (United Nations - Political), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, India, together with H.E. Gloria Gangte, High Commissioner of India to Malta. Amb. Gupta provided an overview of the main topics currently being addressed by India in its foreign policy.

The visit to MEDAC provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the international relations of the Indo-Pacific region.

Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H.E. Gloria Gangte, High Commissioner of India and Amb. Prakash Gupta, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, India



High Commissioner of Ghana visits MEDAC

On 19 January 2023, MEDAC was proud to welcome H.E. Barbara Akoukor Benisa, High Commissioner of Ghana to Malta. During discussions at the Academy, H.E. Barbara A. Benisa reiterated Ghana's appreciation for the support provided to young diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana who have been participating in MEDAC's Master of Diplomacy programme.

Prof. Stephen Calleya and H.E. Barbara Akoukor Benisa, High Commissioner of Ghana discussing the MEDAC alumni network map.



Congratulations to MEDAC graduates from 2021–2022

Graduating Class 2021-2022

The students of the Master of Diplomacy class of 2021-2022 have accomplished a significant milestone by successfully graduating from the post graduate programme. We are proud of their dedication and hard work that has led to this momentous occasion. The skills and knowledge acquired during their studies will serve them well as they embark on their careers in the field of diplomacy and seek to influence positively international relations. The graduation ceremony took place on 17 March 2023.

Master of Diplomacy

Egypt Mr Omar Hamdy
Egypt Mr Ahmed Nabil
Ghana Ms Naa Lamiokor Mills
Linya Mr Abdurahman Albakoush

Palestine Ms Diana Rumhi
Palestine Ms Sofia Duaibes
Turkey Mr Atacan Doruk Liliç

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Algeria Ms Radia Khelif
France Ms Fanny Durand
Malta Ms Joanna Camilleri
Malta Ms Juanita Galea
Spain Mr Ivan Romero



Ambassadorial Lecture Series

Keynote lecture on the theme 'Global Challenges to the United Nations', by H. E. Béatrice Le Fraper du Hellen.

MEDAC was honoured to welcome the Director for the United Nations, International Organisations, Human Rights and Francophonie at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of France and former Ambassador of France to Malta H. E. Béatrice Le Fraper du Hellen on 25 November 2022.

Amb. Fraper du Hellen delivered a keynote lecture on the theme 'Global Challenges to the United Nations'.

MEDAC students and academic staff participated in a dynamic exchange in the follow up Q&A session which focused on potential reform of the United Nations Security Council, the repercussions of the war in Ukraine and conflicts in the Mediterranean, energy security and the climate crisis.

The Seminar was also attended by H. E. Agnes Von Der Muhll, Ambassador of France to Malta. MEDAC is grateful of the continuous support provided by the Embassy of France. In April 2023, students of the Academy are scheduled to participate in a study visit to France.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H. E. Béatrice Le Fraper du Hellen, Director for the UN, International Organisations, Human Rights and Francophonie at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of France and H. E. Agnes Von Der Muhll, Ambassador of France.



H. E. Béatrice Le Fraper du Hellen delivering a keynote lecture to MEDAC students on the theme 'Global Challenges to the UN'.

Keynote lecture on the theme 'Perspectives of Peace in the Middle East', by H. E. Mr. Fadi Hanania, Ambassador of Palestine to Malta

MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Mr. Fadi G. H. Hanania, Ambassador of Palestine to Malta who delivered a keynote lecture on the theme 'Perspectives of Peace in the Middle East' on 2 March 2023. Ambassador Hanania provided and overview of the external and internal challenges that continue to delay the establishment of a Palestinian state, the roles that the international community can take to assist in delivering peace and the proposed solutions and prospects for a just settlement in the region. Ambassador Hanania participated in a dynamic Q & A session with MEDAC students.



H.E. Mr. Fadi G. H. Hanania, Ambassador of Palestine to Malta delivering a lecture on 'Perspectives of Peace in the Middle East'

Keynote lecture on the theme 'The Mashreq: Challenges and Prospects' by H. E. Mr. Khaled M. Anis, Ambassador of Egypt to Malta

On 16 March 2023, H.E. Mr. Khaled M. Anis, Ambassador of Egypt to Malta addressed MEDAC staff and students on the theme of 'The Mashreq: Challenges and Prospects'. Ambassador Anis identified a host of challenges in the region including sectarianism, foreign intervention, water scarcity and terrorism and engaged in a lively discussion with MEDAC staff and students. Ambassador Anis shared his insights on the many problems impacting the countries of the region and spoke at length of Egypt's strategic objectives and leading role in a number of areas with a view of securing a stable, secure Mashreq area.



H.E. Mr. Khaled M. Anis, Ambassador of Egypt to Malta with MEDAC Chairman Prof. G. Pirotta, MEDAC Director Prof. S. Calleya, Egyptian diplomats Abram Wagdy and Hanya El Kady and current MEDAC students from Egypt.

Keynote address by Dr. Sven Koopmans, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process

On 5 December 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome Dr. Sven Koopmans, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP).

Dr. Koopmans delivered a keynote address on "What is peace, is it possible in the Middle East and what can we do about it?" following which students participated in a dynamic Q&A session.

MEDAC is grateful to the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade and to Mr. Claude Bonello, Director General Political, External Relations and EU Affairs for this unique opportunity.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Dr. Sven Koopmans, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) and Mr. Claude Bonello, Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade.



Dr. Sven Koopmans, author of the book entitled 'Negotiating Peace', signing the book which is part of the Diplomacy collection in the MEDAC Library.



Dr. Koopmans delivering a keynote lecture to MEDAC's students.

'Young People and Information' Conference hosted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade

MEDAC faculty and students took part in a conference hosted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Malta, focusing on the topic of "Young People and Information" on 10 and 11 November 2022. The Conference discussed media freedoms, combating disinformation and tackling online discrimination. Madam Teresa Ribeiro, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Representative of Freedom of the Media addressed the conference. The Conference's opening speech was by Mr. Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade. The conference included the contribution of media practitioners, academics, technologists, policy-makers and civil society.

During the conference, Ms. Lourdes Pullicino delivered a presentation on "Distrust in News Media - Causes & Consequences" and contributed to the panel discussion that followed. MEDAC students were active throughout the conference, fielding questions and contributing to the discussions aimed at creating a manifesto to combat disinformation in the Mediterranean region.





Ms. Lourdes Pullicino during a panel discussion presenting the theme Distrust in News Media - Causes and Consequences'.

Q&A session.

Countering Hybrid Threats discussed at MEDAC

Keynote speech by Mr. Rasmus Hindren, Head of International Relations in the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats, Finland

On 14 December 2022, Mr. Rasmus Hindren, Head of IR of the Centre of Excellence on Countering Hybrid Threats, Finland, delivered a keynote address to MEDAC students.

Mr. Hindren spoke on the theme of countering hybrid threats and explained how this has increasingly become a complex and dynamic area driven by the new level of interdependencies, the growth in technologies and the sheer pace of the changes which render states and organisations vulnerable. The challenge is not only to detect but also to attribute such threats and for a successful outcome a whole of government and society approach is required. Mr. Hindren spoke of international law vulnerabilities within existing frameworks and the emergence of norms in the cyber domain.

The Centre's activities is open to all EU and NATO countries and aims to strengthen its participating states and organizations' security by providing expertise and training for preventing and countering hybrid threats. This is achieved by sharing best practices, providing recommendations, as well as testing new ideas and approaches. The Centre leads the conversation on hybrid threats by publishing a wide range of publications.



Mr. Rasmus Hindren, delivering a keynote speech at MEDAC.

MEDAC co-ordinates TRAINING for young diplomats from Kosovo

On 11 November 2022, a one-day training Seminar for young diplomats from Kosovo was conducted by Dr. Derek Lutterbeck on behalf of MEDAC and H.E. Amb. Juliana Scerri-Ferrante, the Ambassador of Malta for Kosovo. The Seminar included lectures by MEDAC Chairman Prof. Godfrey Pirotta on Malta's Foreign Policy and Dr. Derek Lutterbeck on Migration.



The seminar for young diplomats from Kosovo.



Group Photo.

Training Course for Coast Guard Officials from North African Countries

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, MEDAC in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) and with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), has re-launched its annual training courses for Coast Guard officials from North African countries. The course was carried out from 14 – 29 November 2022 at the Maritime Safety and Security Training Centre (MSSTC) of the AFM. The course was opened by Lt Colonel Laurence Boillat, Swiss Defence Attachée based in Rome.

A total of 14 participants from Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia attended the course, marking the largest intake ever. A number of officials from the Armed Forces of Malta also took part in the training course.

The main objective of the course was to strengthen search and rescue activities in the Mediterranean, given the growing challenge of seaborne migration in the region. More specifically, the course sought to enhance participants' understanding of how to plan and coordinate maritime search and rescue operations. The course also familiarised participants with current trends of migration in the Mediterranean region, and with the most important legal (including human rights) frameworks which need to be respected in this context.

The graduation ceremony of the course was presided over by AFM Deputy Commander Colonel Edric Zahra. The course participants expressed their gratitude for the financial support provided by the Swiss State Secretarial for Migration, which made the course possible.



Lt Colonel Laurence Boillat, Swiss Defence Attachée based in Rome delivering the opening presentation.



Dr. Derek Lutterbeck, MEDAC Deputy Director and AFM Deputy Commander Colonel Edric Zahra.



Group Photo.

Diplomatic Practice at MEDAC - Policy Planning

Between 11 and 13 January 2023, MEDAC students participated in a 3-day Seminar on 'Policy Planning: The Role of the Subject Matter Expert in Formulating Policy Options & Forecasting' delivered by H. E. Ambassador Keith Azzopardi, Mr. Joseph Micallef, corporate executive and published author and Dr. Jeff Baker, former CEO of Rexel, North America.

The sessions focused on the methodology of policy planning. Students participated in exercises dealing with governmental and foreign policy aspects of policy planning. Dr. Baker's sessions elaborated on the differences in policy planning in a business context and how governmental planning and business planning are often on different wavelengths. The sessions included the sharing of expertise on how to anticipate and prepare for potential crises and other aspects related to leadership and organization expected of diplomats.







Mr. Joseph Micallef and Dr. Jeff Baker addressing MEDAC students.

Economic Diplomacy – MEDAC visits Methode Electronics Malta Ltd.

On 2 December 2022, MEDAC postgraduate students were privileged to be able to visit Methode Electronics Malta Ltd. as part of their Economic Diplomacy and Business Development studies.

During the interactive visit, a comprehensive briefing was provided about the global dimension of this international company, challenges and the continuous improvement in technology and processes.

This study visit was coordinated by Amb. Dennis Vella.



Group Photo with Amb. Dennis Vella who coordinated the visit.



MEDAC students during one of the presentations at Methode Electronics Malta Ltd.

Calendar

November 2022

Hon. Carmelo Abela, former Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered a module on Contemporary, Multilateral and Economic Diplomacy.



On the occasion of the Mediterranean Day, 28 November 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome former Foreign Minister of Lebanon and Ambassador of the League of Arab States, Prof. Nassif Hitti.



Prof. Hitti delivered a module that focused on 'Regional Relations in the Mediterranean' with specific analysis on 'Inter and Intra Arab State relations'.

December 2022

Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, former Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered a module that focused on several perspectives pertaining to International Law, including the challenge of irregular migration in the Mediterranean.



January 2023

Prof. Ludger Kühnhardt, Director ZEI, University of Bonn, delivered a module on 'Regional Integration'.



February 2023

Prof. Bichara Khader, Professor of Politics, Economics and Social Sciences at Louvain University, Belgium, delivered a series of lectures on 'Euro-Mediterranean Relations'.



Prof. Dominic Fenech, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Head of the History Department at the University of Malta, delivered a module on 'Decolonization and the Mediterranean'.



Amb. Fredrich Tanner delivered a module on issues pertaining to conflict relations and the role of the OSCE.



International experts on Negotiation deliver Seminar at MEDAC

MEDAC consistently advocates diplomacy and negotiation as a means for overcoming divisions, tensions and conflict in the Mediterranean region. It was thus a great pleasure to engage in a joint effort with the Process of International Negotiation Steering Committee (PIN).

The German Chair or Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC – PIN Seminar on 'International Negotiations and the Mediterranean' was held in Malta on 19 October 2022. It brought together international experts on negotiations Prof. I. William Zartman, Prof. Paul Meerts, Prof. Mark Anstey, Prof. Valerie Rosoux, Prof. Rudolf Schüssler, Prof. Guy Olivier Faure, MEDAC academic staff and MEDAC's postgraduate students for a most interesting day discussing how to bridge divides in our contemporary world with particular reference to the Mediterranean region.



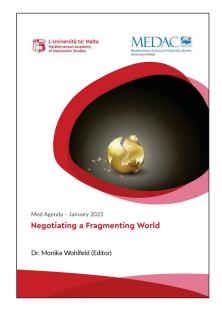
Left to right: German Chair Holder Dr Monika Wohlfeld, Prof. I. William Zartmann, The Johns Hopkins University, USA, Prof. Mark Anstey, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa, and Prof. Valerie Rosoux, University of Louvain.



Group photo of the participating seminar speakers with MEDAC staff and students.

Publications

The new publication from the MED-Agenda series, "Negotiating a Fragmenting World" now available on https://www.um.edu.mt/.../medagenda/MedAgendaJan2023.pdf is primarily consists of themes discussed at the MEDAC – PIN Seminar and was made possible through the auspices of the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC. It also includes articles by MEDAC Director Prof. Stephen Calleya, and Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, German Chair at MEDAC.



Latest Med Agenda entitled 'Negotiating a Fragmented World'.

Visit to MEDAC of H.E. Walter Haßmann, Ambassador of Germany to Malta

On 23 February, MEDAC was honoured to welcome once again H.E. Walter Haßmann, Ambassador of Germany to Malta who delivered a keynote address to MEDAC post-graduate students on German foreign policy.

Amb. Haßmann has been an ardent supporter of the Academy by virtue of Germany's key role as a stakeholder of the Academy. The German Foreign Ministry of Foreign Affairs funds the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention project at MEDAC.

In the address, and the dynamic question and answer session which followed, Amb. Haßmann provided an opportunity for students to better understand Germany's important role in international relations in the post-Cold War world and delved deeper into foreign policy changes driven by Russia's war on Ukraine. Germany's objectives remain unchanged and are rooted in the desire for a peaceful and prosperous world. "We do not know the future but you can be sure of one thing in your careers – you will find Germany a solid partner for peace" Amb. Haßmann assured MEDAC diplomacy students.



H.E. Walter Haßmann, Ambassador of Germany to Malta delivering an address on "German Foreign Policy".

