

Renewal of the German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC

On the 28th of September 2023, Ambassador Tanja I. Beyer, on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and Professor Godfrey Pirotta, Chairperson of MEDAC, signed an extension of the agreement on the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies. The signing took place in the presence of the Hon. Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta.

Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, holder of the German Chair and Mr. Ralf Eden, First Secretary, German Embassy in Malta were also present. The German Federal Foreign Office has been a stakeholder in MEDAC since 2009, when the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention was established. The continuation of the agreement on the Chair highlights Germany's commitment to the promotion of peace in the Mediterranean region.



Signing of the agreement between MEDAC and the German Federal Foreign Office – Professor Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman and H.E. Tanja Beyer, Ambassador of Germany to Malta

Keynote Address

The Maltese Ambassador to the UN Security Council



Professor Stephen Calleya participating in the discussion

MEDAC students were honoured to be able to participate in an online session with H.E. Ambassador Vanessa Frazier from New York. Amb. Frazier delivered an engaging lecture on the Law of the Sea and the aims for Malta in its current tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC.

A key theme reinforced by Amb. Frazier was the significant contribution made by Maltese diplomats and academics to the establishment and enforcement of the Law of the Sea.

Amb. Frazier also reiterated the importance of the current role Malta can play within the context of global politics and the United Nations Security Council.



Keynote address

H.E. Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

On the 7th of October 2023, MEDAC had the privilege to welcome H.E. Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Children and Armed Conflict. Amb. Gamba delivered a keynote address and engaged in a lengthy discussion with MEDAC students on issues pertaining to children and armed conflict.

H.E. Virginia Gamba delivering her keynote address in the MEDAC classroom



Lysistrata Award

On Thursday 19th of October MEDAC staff and students attended the Lysistrata Award giving ceremony held at Villa Bigli, Kalkara on the occasion of the commemoration of The International Day of Conflict Resolution. Professor Stephen Calleya delivered an address to the audience which focused on the importance of diplomacy when promoting conflict resolution.



*Professor Stephen Calleya,
Director of MEDAC,
delivering his address*



Left to Right: President Emeritus H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Father Dionisyus Mintoff Recipient of the Lysistrata Award and The Hon. Speaker, Dr. Angelo Farrugia

Ambassadorial lecture series

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta

On the 20th of April 2023, H. E. Dunhai Yu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta addressed MEDAC staff and students on the theme of "China's Foreign Policy" as part of MEDAC's Ambassadorial Lecture Series. Ambassador Yu provided a unique insight on Chinese foreign policy and the rationale behind the pivotal role that China plays in the context of global politics and international relations.



Left to Right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director and H. E. Dunhai Yu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta



H. E. Dunhai Yu delivering a keynote lecture to MEDAC students and staff on China's foreign policy

Ambassadorial lecture series

The Director of the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of Egypt

MEDAC was privileged to welcome H.E. Ambassador Walid Ahmed Haggag, Director of the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of Egypt on the 16th of May 2023. Amb. Haggag delivered a keynote lecture on “Diplomatic Training in a Changing World” and generously engaged with MEDAC students in a dynamic Q & A session. On this occasion Amb. Haggag, on behalf of the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of Egypt, and Prof. Godfrey Pirotta on behalf of MEDAC renewed the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2007 for cooperation in diplomatic training. MEDAC expresses its gratitude to H.E. Ambassador Anis, Ambassador of Egypt to Malta and the Embassy of Egypt for making this memorable occasion possible.



H.E. Ambassador Walid Ahmed Haggag delivering a keynote lecture on 'Diplomatic Training in a Changing World'



Prof. Godfrey Pirotta and H.E. Ambassador Walid Ahmed Haggag signing the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between MEDAC and the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of Egypt



Left to Right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H.E. Ambassador Walid Ahmed Haggag, Director of the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of Egypt, Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman and H.E. Khaled M. Anis, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Malta

MEDAC Outreach

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

In April 2023, MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Tomasz Czystek, Ambassador of Poland to Malta. Prof. Stephen Calleya and Ambassador Czystek discussed several academic opportunities that could take place in the future. This included strengthening scholarly relations between MEDAC and the Diplomatic Academy in Warsaw, Poland.



Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye

The Academy was honoured to welcome H.E. Erdeniz Şen, Ambassador of Türkiye to Malta in May 2023. During this visit, Ambassador Şen met with Professor Stephen Calleya and Professor Derek Lutterbeck and discussed various avenues of potential academic cooperation.



High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

In June 2023, the Academy was honoured to welcome H.E. Tahir Hussain Andrabi, High Commissioner of Pakistan. During the visit to the Academy, His Excellency donated a number of publications to the MEDAC Library and exchanged views on several issues with MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleya and MEDAC Deputy Director Professor Derek Lutterbeck.



Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

In July 2023, MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Tanja I. Beyer, the recently accredited Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Malta. During the visit to the Academy, Ambassador Beyer was briefed about MEDAC's postgraduate programme and plans for the forthcoming academic year.



High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia

MEDAC was honoured to welcome H. E. Matt Skilly, the recently accredited High Commissioner of Australia to Malta. During this visit, the High Commissioner, Professor Calleya and Professor Lutterbeck exchanged views on contemporary international relations and diplomacy and explored numerous avenues of potential cooperation.



Ambassador of Nepal

MEDAC was honoured to receive a visit by the Ambassador of Nepal to Malta, H.E. Gyan Chandra Acharya in March. During the visit to the Academy, the Ambassador was briefed about MEDAC and its main activities. The Ambassador also provided an account of recent developments in and around Nepal.



Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Libya

MEDAC was honoured to welcome the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Libya in Malta, Mr. Suhail M.A. Altreki. During the visit several opportunities of cooperation were explored.



Ambassador of the State of Qatar

MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Rashid Abdulla Al Dehaimi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of Malta. The visit to the Academy served as an occasion for His Excellency to meet with MEDAC students and provided an opportunity to exchange views on enhancing cooperation.



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)- MEDAC Alumni Circle 2023

Euro-Mediterranean relations in changing times – Shifting Alliances and new dynamics

Building on the success of the first KAS-MEDAC alumni circle the second edition of this event was held on the 10th of October 2023. A number of distinguished guests participated amongst which were Dr. Thomas Volk, Director, KAS PoIDiMed, Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert, Former President of the German Parliament (Bundestag) and Chairman of the Konrad- Adenauer-Stiftung, H.E Ambassador. Tanja I. Beyer, German Ambassador to Malta, Hon. Dr. Angelo Farrugia, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta and Ambassador Prof. Godfrey Pirota, Chairman, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC).



Prof. Alfred J. Vella, Rector of the University of Malta



Left to right: Dr. Thomas Volk, Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert, H.E Ambassador. Tanja I. Beyer, Ambassador Prof. Godfrey Pirota and Professor Stephen Calleya



The Hon. Speaker, Dr. Angelo Farrugia and Professor Stephen Calleya with MEDAC alumna Ms Roba Al Jamal

The Hon. Speaker, Dr. Angelo Farrugia, Professor Dr Norbert Lammert, Professor Godfrey Pirota and Professor Stephen Calleya presented certificates of participation to KAS-MEDAC alumni Ms Roba Al Jamal, Sara Akkary and Fares Bouloudani. The central theme of the conference was the constantly shifting dynamic of geo-political variables in the Mediterranean, with a particular focus on the Euro-Mediterranean nexus.



Professor Dr. Norbert Lammert and Professor Stephen Calleya with MEDAC alumnus Fares Bouloudani



Professor Godfrey Pirota and Professor Stephen Calleya with MEDAC alumna Sara Akkary

Peace Mediation Seminar

MEDAC and ZIF collaborate

In March 2023, MEDAC students participated in a three-day peace mediation training led by the Centre for International Peace Operations.

The Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) Berlin collaborated with the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies at the University of Malta to train its postgraduate students - aspiring diplomats and civil society activists from the Mediterranean region and beyond - in the basics of peace mediation through a three-day certificate seminar. The multifaceted, tailor-made program included an introduction to the basics of peace mediation, finalised by a full-scale simulation exercise on the third day. Participants gained insights into the modus operandi of internationally renowned peace mediation practitioners and completed an in-depth module on Youth, Peace and Security.



Group Photo



Left to Right: Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, MEDAC German Chair Holder, Mr. Sebastian Dworack, ZIF Head of International Capacity Development Team and Mr Elmar Udo Kohlhofer, Deputy Head of Mission and Counsellor at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Malta



Mr. Sebastian Dworack in a group discussion with a group of MEDAC students during the Peace Mediation Seminar



Training was conducted by Sebastian Dworack, Head of International Capacity Development Team and Perle Baillard, Head of Project “Strengthening of Mediation Capacities”, together with Natalia Mirimanova, Senior Mediation Expert, Dr. Edita Tahiri, former Chief negotiator for Kosovo at the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue, and Anastasia Fusco, Adviser on Youth and Security, OSCE Secretariat. All engaged with the participants in an interactive, lively and engaging event.

The certificate program was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, a stakeholder in MEDAC since 2009, and supported by the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC.



Ms. Perle Baillard, ZIF Head of Project Mediation Support engaging with the students regarding peace mediation

Academic Study Visits

Paris

In April 2023 MEDAC completed its first-ever study visit to Paris, France. During this study visit, MEDAC students and staff visited the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the French National Assembly, UNESCO, the German Embassy in Paris, the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) as well as several historical sites in Paris. The Academy would like to thank the Embassy of France in Malta for its support in making this visit possible.



Berlin

A study visit to Berlin, Germany took place between the 7th and the 10th of May 2023. MEDAC staff and students together with Malta's Ambassador to Germany, H.E. Vanni Xuereb participated in a series of discussions at the German Federal Office. Furthermore, MEDAC students who are holders of MEDAC-KAS Regional Programme Political Dialogue and Regional Integration in the Southern Mediterranean held a meeting and a discussion with Mr Philipp Burkhardt, Policy Adviser Middle East and North Africa Department, European and International Cooperation at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. This study visit was co-organised with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Malta.





Group photo at the European Union Institute for Security Studies



MEDAC students and staff at the German Federal Foreign Office

MEDAC news bites

Processes of International Negotiation publication

Following a memorable seminar in October 2022 under the guidance of PIN, the proceeds of this event were mentioned in Issue 52 of Pinpoints publication under the auspices of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy. The result of the Malta event included the publishing of an extract of works by some of the illustrious attendees, edited by Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC.

This reference in PINpoints has further highlighted the high-quality conference hosted by MEDAC which featured highly distinguished contributors. These included Professor I. William Zartmann, Professor Rudolf Schussler, Professor Paul Meerts, Professor Mark Antsey, Professor Valerie Rosoux and Professor Guy Olivier Faure who interacted with the MEDAC students.



Honorary Consul Award

On the 23rd October 2023 the Honorary Consul Award for the highest grade obtained by a Maltese student in the MEDAC 2022-2023 cohort was presented to Erica Marie Borg by Prof. Ing. Joseph Buhagiar, Dean of the Honorary Consular Corps. The Honorary Consular Corps was established in 1995 and consists of Honorary Consuls General, Honorary Consuls and Honorary Vice-Consuls accredited to Malta.



Left to Right: Professor Derek Lutterbeck, MEDAC Deputy Director, Mr. Matthew Ellul Sullivan, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea, Ms. Erica Marie Borg, Prof. Ing. Joseph Buhagiar, Dean of the Honorary Consular Corps and Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director

MEDAC Class of 2023–2024

Master of Diplomacy

Algeria Ines Tamourt

Ethiopia Ermiyas Gossaye Brhanu

Ghana Joseph Danso Adjei

Libya Mohamed F.R. Alserkeek

Malta David Pace

Palestine Doha Aldaghma

Palestine Mohammed Ewaida

Rwanda Christella Akoguteta Fatina

Tunisia Ahmed Nejeh

Master in Diplomatic Studies

Bulgaria/Libya Maaly Talal Ali Marai

Malta Adrian Sciberras

Malta Daniel Bugeja

Malta Nicholas Vella

Malta Tristan Azzopardi

Malta Thomas Andrew Oliver Aquilina

Malta Ryan Attard

Serbia Tara Laketic

The 2023-24 Masters cohort for MEDAC



Discussion with the President of the Republic of Malta, H.E. Dr. George Vella

On 2nd of May 2023, MEDAC students were presented with the unique opportunity to participate in an exchange with the President of the Republic of Malta, H.E. Dr. George Vella at San Anton Palace. The discussion with the President focused on Malta's priorities as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council during its tenure through 2023-2024. The exchange with MEDAC students focused on Malta's presence on the UN Security Council, neutrality, climate change, digital diplomacy, multilateralism, and regional relations in the Mediterranean.

Left to Right: Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman, H.E. Dr. George Vella, President of the Republic of Malta, Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director



Dr. Sandro Debono, Culture Advisor at the Office of the President of the Republic of Malta, delivering a brief about San Anton Palace to MEDAC students and staff