



Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies University of Malta



MEDAC's 25th Anniversary	Calendar
Address by H.E. Amb. Giovanni Umberto de Vito	Graduation
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International Conference in Commemoration of

MEDAC's 25th Anniversary

EDAC's 25th Anniversary International Conference "The Mediterranean in Transition" was held on 3rd December 2014. Attended by more than 100 delegates, including the majority of resident Ambassadors in Malta and distinguished academic and policy makers who have contributed to MEDAC's academic programme during the past 25 years, the gathering was a huge success in that it also succeeded in bringing together current students of the Academy with a substantial number of alumni.

The Hon. Dr. George Vella, Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered the 25th Anniversary keynote opening address, with an emphasis on Malta's commitment towards the Mediterranean declaring that "Malta will continue to support Mediterranean initiatives, it will continue to be an advocate for the region and it will continue to stress that there can be no stability in Europe without stability in the Mediterranean".

With regional relations across the Mediterranean as fluid as ever with the conflict in Libya and Syria escalating and with a resurgence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the past year, the Conference was considered by all participants as timely and relevant.

Dr. Joe Borg, former EU Commissioner and current MEDAC Chairman and Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director welcomed the delegates. Three panels discussed the following themes: 'The Mediterranean in Transition', 'Euro-Mediterranean Relations' and 'Regional Dynamics in the Emerging Mediterranean' respectively. The speakers on the first panel included Professor Bichara Khader, Director of the Centre for Arab Studies at the University of Louvain in Belgium, Professor Lüdger Kühnhardt, Director of the Centre for European Integration

Studies (ZEI) at the University of Bonn, Germany and Ms. Natasha Shawarib, Executive Board member of SIGI in Amman, Jordan.

An assessment of Euro-Mediterranean relations was provided by Professor Robert Bowker, from the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Australian

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Below: Foreign Minister The Hon. Dr. George Vella (left) and Prof. Stephen Calleya (right).











International Conference in Commemoration of MEDAC's 25th Anniversary

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National University, Australia, Mr. Maen Khreasat, Diplomatic Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jordan and a former MEDAC alumnus as well as Dr. Michael Koehler, Director, EU Neighbourhood Policy, DG DEVCO-F, EU Commission, Brussels.

The third panel which provided a comprehensive review of contemporary security challenges in the Mediterranean included Professor Zafiris Tzannatos, Consultant for Development Strategy and Social Policy in Lebanon and former advisor to the World Bank, Dr. Noha Bakr, Professor of Political Science at the American University of Cairo, Egypt, and Dr. Alberto Bin, Director, Integration, Partnership and Cooperation at the Political and Security Policy Division of NATO.

The Conference was also addressed by Ambassador Giancarlo Kessler, Ambassador of Switzerland to Malta and Ambassador Klaus-Peter Brandes, Ambassador of Germany to Malta who reiterated their support towards MEDAC.

The anniversary meeting was also attended by the Rector of the Univeristy of Malta, Professor Juanito Camilleri and MEDAC Board members Professor Jürg Martin Gabriel, Ambassador Karl Von Stenglin, Ambassador Alfred Zarb and Dr Chris Soler.

The Conference received widespread coverage in broadcast and print media in Malta including the national television station as well as a number of Maltese newspapers. In addition to highlighting MEDAC's contribution to promoting confidence building measures in the Mediterranean, the 25th Anniversary Conference also served as an opportunity to map out MEDAC's future agenda of activities including that of providing a platform where a dialogue on Mediterranean issues can regularly take place.

Following the conference, the participants paid a courtesy call to the House of Representatives. Dr. Angelo Farrugia, the Honourable Speaker, congratulated MEDAC on its anniversary and on its 25 years of service to diplomacy in the Mediterranean region.

Ambassadorial Lecture Series:

Amb. Giovanni Umberto De Vito

11th November 2014

n 11th November 2014, H.E. Amb. Giovanni Umberto De Vito, Italian Ambassador to Malta delivered an address to MEDAC students on *Italy's Presidency of the European Union*.

In his address, H.E. Amb. De Vito, praised MEDAC as a centre for dialogue and highlighted Italy's past support to the Academy through its support for a professorship for more than 15 years.

Amb. De Vito made reference to Italy's Mediterranean priorities and stated that the Mediterranean region has always been at the centre of Italy's foreign policy agenda.

He reiterated that Italy wants to encourage and enhance the E.U.'s role in its Southern neighbourhood, especially in light of the Arab Spring revolutions and the political upheavals which have followed since 2011. The Italian EU Presidency in 2014 has continued to emphasize the priority attached to security in the Mediterranean with a particular focus on the necessity to support countries in transition across the southern Mediterranean, including Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Amb. Vito also provided an overview of the challenge of managing migration in the central Mediterranean and the ever growing importance of energy security.

Right: H.E. Ambassador de Vito addressing the MEDAC class. Below: From left: H.E. Amb. Giovanni Umberto de Vito and Prof. Stephen Calleya.





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Partnership for Peace

Consortium Workshop

29th - 31st October

2014

rom 29th to 31st October 2014, MEDAC co-hosted a workshop of the Emerging Security Challenges Working Group of the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies. This workshop focused on Preparing Institutions for Hybrid Conflicts and Challenges. Dr. Omar Grech and Dr. Monika Wohlfeld presented MEDAC and its work to the participants of this event. The concept of hybrid conflict is sometimes used to characterize the

violent crisis in Ukraine, the civil war in Syria, and the recent Arab Spring uprisings. It is also used to describe the techniques applied by non-state actors such as the ISIS. While there are disagreements over the novelty of hybrid conflict, most analysts would agree that it represents a formidable challenge. The blurring of conventional and non-conventional means that are used in a synchronised manner represents a key aspect of this emerging security challenge. The workshop focused on recommendations for policymakers who need to rethink how they can attain sufficient early warning in advance of hybrid conflicts and what tools they may need to address them.

Top left: Dr. Detlef Puhl (right) presenting a memento to Dr. Monika Wohlfeld (left) in appreciation of MEDAC's support. Bottom left: Workshop in session



MEDAC Students and Staff visit the European Asylum Support Office

9th January 2015

in Valletta

n 9th January 2015, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) hosted MEDAC students and academic staff for a half-day seminar focused on the work of the Office. EASO is an agency of the European Union. The agency acts as a centre of expertise and support on asylum issues to EU Member States and the European Commission, and contributes to the development of the Common European Asylum System.

The Executive Director of EASO, Dr. Robert K. Visser, welcomed the group and presented an introduction on the work and activities of the Office. Specific sessions focused on EASO's

operational support, its Early Warning and Preparedness System and latest asylum trends in the area of asylum in the EU, as well as the European Asylum Support Office training curriculum. The presentations were met with

great interest by MEDAC students who participated in the discussions that took place during the visit.

Below: MEDAC students and academic staff at the Furopean Asylum Support Office.



U.S. Ambassador hosts **MEDAC Students**

28th October 2014

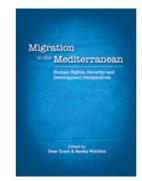
n 28th October 2014, the Ambassador of the United States of America to Malta, H.E. Mrs. Gina K. Abercrombie-Winstanley hosted MEDAC students and staff at the U.S. Ambassador's residence for a reception in honour of MEDAC.

During the reception, the U. S. Ambassador expressed her appreciation towards MEDAC and the important role that the Academy plays when it comes to training young diplomats and promoting confidence-building measures in the Mediterranean.

The informal get-together was an appreciated opportunity for MEDAC students to interact with H.E. Ambassador Abercrombie-Winstanley.

Right: Group photo with H.E. Amb. Abercrombie-Winstanley.





Book: Migration in the Mediterranean Editors: Dr. Omar Grech and Dr. Monika Wohlfeld

In December 2014 MEDAC published 'Migration in the Mediterranean', a volume of essays that explores and examines human rights, security and development perspectives on migration within a Mediterranean context. This volume edited by Dr Omar Grech and Dr Monika Wohlfeld brings together a series of papers initially presented by academics and practitioners at a MEDAC seminar. The publication commences with three contributions which present the thinking of experts from Malta, Egypt and the European Asylum Support Office. These three essays a offer a synergetic approach to migration as a complex phenomenon that requires a multi-faceted approach.

Recent MEDAC Publications

The volume then proceeds to examine migration from human rights, security and development perspectives. These essays highlight the intricate nature of migration as a phenomenon that impacts upon national security, human security and human welfare. The key messages of the publication are that migration is complex, that it requires an integrated and comprehensive approach, and that it is an extremely urgent matter to address.

MED Agenda: The Arab Middle East: where to from here? By Prof. Robert Bowker - Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, The Australian National University

In this paper, Prof. Robert Bowker addresses themes regarding developments in major Arab countries in the post-Arab Spring scenario. These themes include economic, social and political issues, civil society, political and economic reform in the Arab countries. Western foreign policy strategies and limitations vis-a-vis the Arab world and future opportunities for Western engagement. Prof. Robert Bowker has been a career diplomat for 37 years during which he was Ambassador to Egypt and Jordan and has also held several diplomatic posts in the Middle East.



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25th ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Panel 1: Prof. Bichara Khader, Prof. Ludger Kühnhardt, Ms. Natasha Shawarib

The Mediterranean in Transition

"Geopolitically, the Mediterranean has remained the crossroads for Europe, Africa and Asia. One third of world trade passes through the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean region attracts 300 million tourists annually."

Prof. Bichara Khader

"Raising knowledge and contributing to better perceptions of each other is the first step to cope with the diversity of the Mediterranean. At this critical juncture of our common history, MEDAC is needed more than ever to raise understanding and empathy around the Mediterranean."

Prof. Ludger Kühnhardt

"Europe is facing a Mediterranean basin in a state of fragility and which presents multiple security threats. The most threatening is the resurgence of Al Qaeda-affiliated groups accompanied with the proliferation of terrorist camps, terrorist bombings and political assassinations"

Ms. Natasha Shawarib

MEDAC



Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies University of Malta

Panel 2: Prof. Robert Bowker, Mr. Maen Khreasat, Dr. Michael

Euro-Mediterranean Relations: Which Way Forward?

"At the end of the day, however, the Arab state remains the only means by which visions of progressive reform may be transformed into policy and applied to the benefit of citizens in general...Western countries should continue to identify specific areas and institutions through which a positive and constructive Western contribution to strengthening the resilience of Arab states and societies may prove to be an enduring benefit to all parties. ... At a practical level, one may consider for example the improvement of food security and humanitarian relief."

Prof. Robert Bowker

"The way forward, achieving sustainable development is the key, and it is definitely a long road to go."

Mr. Maen Khreasat

"MEDAC is one of the very few and efficient incubators of Mediterraneanness... MEDAC has excellent publications, but what it really produces are networks, people who come together, people who were here some years ago and who are now in responsible positions... How can we revamp Euro-Mediterranean relations? We need to offer a certain degree of strategic patience... we have to recognize that if there is a transition, and we need to give it time, we must be patient but our patience has to be an active patience."

Dr. Michael Koehler

Top left: The International Conference in session. Centre: The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon. Dr. Angelo Farrugia (second from right) addressing guests during the visit to the House of Representatives. Left:Group photo of participants at the International Conference.

Panel 3: Prof. Zarifis Tzannatos, Dr. Noha Bakr, Dr. Alberto Bin

Regional Dynamics in the **Emerging Mediterranean**

"When are we going to return to the normal? We will go back to normal, but it will be a new normal. And what will be new about it? With respect to the first question, it is numbers again. For countries that had crises, it takes 11 years to return to pre-crisis levels. Few countries succeed in this. So we are going into unchartered territory and we don't know when we will get back. It might take till 2035 for Europe to fully recover. So it is full catastrophe... The new normal will be that the unemployed that we had who became uninsured will become insecure. The unemployed are mostly the adults, the uninsured will be the pensioners who lost their pensions and the insecure will be the youth. So, what we have here are all symptoms that do not give hope for much optimism."

Prof. Zafiris Tzannatos

"What's happening in Libya, what's happening in Syria is affecting negatively the North of the Mediterranean. The North of the Mediterranean cannot have the luxury to say that it will not care about the issues of the South. It does not have the luxury to continue with the same policies or patterns of dealing with the South of the Mediterranean. This is a call for a new approach in dealing with the South of the Mediterranean."

Dr. Noha Bakr

"The challenges that NATO is facing in Europe and the Mediterranean region are very different but there is a common thread. In both cases, we are confronted by forces that reject fundamental values, and most importantly, stick to overturning the international rule-based order"

Dr. Alberto Bin



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CALENDAR

10th October 2014

Cultural visit to the Three Cities.



14th October 2014

MEDAC Debate with students held on the theme *Intervention in Syria?*

28th October 2014

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Mustafa O. Attir, Professor of Sociology at the University of Tripoli, held on the theme *The* Intervention in Libya.

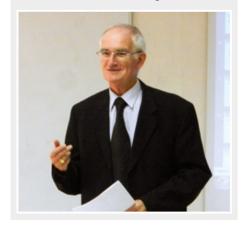


28th October 2014

MEDAC students and academic staff hosted by the Ambassador of the United States of America to Malta, H.E. Ms. Gina K. Abercrombie-Winstanley, at the Ambassador's residence.

31st October 2014

Commencement of Diplomacy module on International Organisations with H.E. Amb. Mr. Saviour Borg.



3rd - 5th November 2014

Lectures with Prof. Jürg Martin Gabriel.

10 - 12th November

Lectures with Prof. Dr. Annette Juenemann, Professor for Political Science and International Relations, Helmut-Schmidt-University, University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg, on the theme *The EU as an External Democracy Promoter in the MENA Region: Problems of Legitimacy and Efficiency*.

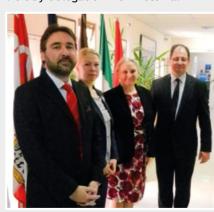


11th November 2014

Ambassadorial Lecture by the Ambassador of Italy to Malta, H.E. Amb. Giovanni Umberto De Vito.

14th November 2014

Visit by delegation from Estonia.



17th November 2014

MEDAC students addressed by French diplomats and specialists on the Mediterranean region, M. Bertrand Buchwalter and Ms. Brigitte Curmi. The presentations and ensuing discussions with students focused on a broad range of current issues in the Mediterranean basin, ranging from French policy towards the region to the current crisis in Syria.

17th November 2014

Commencement of Diplomacy module with the Hon. Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici.

18th - 21st November 2014

Lectures with Mr. Thomas McGrath, General Director External Relations at the European Commission.

19th November 2014

International Cultural Night.

24th November 2014

Diplomacy lecture given by Mr. Costas Apostolides on *Cyprus Negotiations*.

26th November 2014

Visit to Lufthansa Technik Malta, as part of the International Economics module.

28th November 2014

Lecture by Dr. Awni Benham, President of the International Ocean Institute (I.O.I).



28th November 2014

Commencement of lectures in Diplomacy with H.E. Amb. Alfred Zarb.

2nd - 4th December 2014

Lectures with Prof. Bichara Khader, Director of the Arab Study and Research Centre (C.E.R.M.A.C), DVLP and Professor at the Faculty of Politics, Economics & Social Sciences, Louvain University (UCL), Belgium, as part of the module on Euro-Arab Relations.

3rd December 2014

International Conference commemorating MEDAC's 25th Anniversary, held on the theme, *The Mediterranean in Transition*.

10th December 2014

Prof. Jeffrey Laurenti, scholar on the United Nations and U. S. foreign policy, delivers lecture on political transition in the Mediterranean region and the role of Europe in promoting stability in the region.

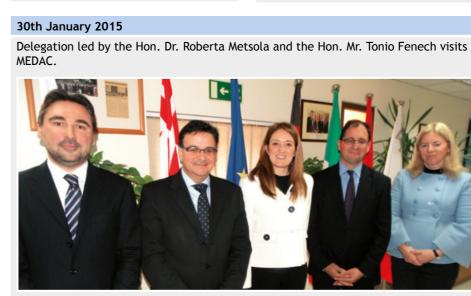


5th to 7th January 2015

Module on regionalism entitled Region-Building: The Global Proliferation of Regional Integration, taught by Prof. Dr. Ludger Kuhnhardt, Director of the Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI), University of Bonn.

9th January 2015

Visit to the European Asylum Support Office.



3rd February 2015

Commencement of Diplomacy module with former Speaker of the House of Representatives and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Michael Frendo.



23rd - 27th February 2015

11th February 2015

13th February 2015

17th February 2015

MEDAC Post-graduate Seminar: Charlie

Hebdo: Are there limits to freedom of

MEDAC students participate in a

Address by Brig. Carmel Vassallo.

simulation of a Protocol Lunch under

the direction of Mr. Olaph Terribile.

Module on Water Diplomacy with Amb. Magdy Hefny.



MEDAC Graduands

Master Of Arts in Diplomatic Studies Academic Year 2013 - 2014

Ms. Caroline Steiner

Mr. Marco Loemker

Ms. Hazel Mhairi Rafferty

Mr. Mark Vincent Abdilla

Mr. Antoine Agius Bonnici

Ms. Antonella Bajada

Ms. Maria Carmen Farrugia

Ms. Caroline Muscat

.. .. .

Mr. Mauro Sammut

Mr. Ronald Anthony Sultana

Mr. Christian Tanti

Mr. Simon Dalli

Mr. Edgar Robert Szewcyk

Ms. Barbora Golanova

Master Of Diplomacy Academic Year 2013 - 2014

Mr. Ayyub Hajiyev

Mr. Weiwei Jiang

Mr. Ahmad Hamdy Alshourbagy

Mr. Mohamed Mohsen Amin

Ms. Yasmine Akef

Mr. Ousman Sowe

Ms. Tamar Chokoraia

Mr. Mohammed Abujaber

Ms. Nuha Kotob

Ms. Lamis Suliman

Mr. Mgaka Hangi

Mr. Mohamed Mehrez Othman

Mr. Ahmed Chamsseddine Boughedin

Mr. Numan Dalkiran

Ms. Georgina Nakawombe

MA Conflict Resolution & Mediterranean Security 2013 - 2014

Mr. Michael Calleja

Mr. Andrew Camilleri

Ms. Lynette Camilleri

Ms. Alexandra Cole

Ms. India Fitzgerald

Ms. Lynee Aimee Hvizdos

Ms. Andrea Mancuso

Mr. Cliffard Patton

ii. Ciiiiaid Fattoii

Ms. Meagan Sherman

Ms. Krystal Thomas

Ms. Manahat Thomas

Mr. Christian Vestermark

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ALUMNI NEWS ALUMNI NEWS



International Cultural Night 2014

19th November

2014

EDAC's International Cultural Night was held on 19th November 2014 in collaboration with the MEDAC Alumni Association. This celebration provides MEDAC students with the opportunity to learn more about the traditions of their fellow students including their culinary skills. A record number of MEDAC alumni joined the students in this much anticipated annual event.

Far left: Ms. Suzanne Garcia Imbernon, President of the MEDAC Alumni Association, addressing attendees of the International Cultural Night.



Graduation Ceremony of 2013 - 2014 Class

The official graduation ceremony of the 2013-2014 MEDAC class was held at the Old University, Valletta on December 1st, 2014. This is the culmination of the academic year and the graduates have the opportunity to meet once again to celebrate their success as well as to reflect upon their memorable experiences at the Academy.





MEDAC PAGE CAN BE ACCESSED ON: www.facebook.com/uom.medac?fref=ts

MEDAC FACEBOOK GROUP CAN BE ACCESSED ON: www.facebook.com/groups/19374582384



Ahmad Hamdy Alshourbagy

MEDAC Alumnus from Egypt 2013 - 2014

My MEDAC experience was an amazing one. I obtained my Masters' degree last year from MEDAC. I would like to state from the outset that my time at MEDAC was not only about obtaining a degree but it was about a total life experience.

MEDAC is a renowned academy which offers an academic and practical experience in the field of diplomacy. Its unique feature of having excellent professors (both permanent and visiting ones) from all over the world enriches that experience. The Masters' programme included overseas trips, practical workshops and seminars.

In addition, meeting such a diverse number of students is a learning experience in itself. Having around 30 students from more than 15 countries gives the experience a multi-cultural and diverse dimension, where you get to meet, study and live with people different parts of the world and diverse backgrounds.

Also, having two different groups of colleagues in the same class is an extraordinary experience that MEDAC offers. Nearly half of the students are career diplomats, while the other half are university graduates. That mix is unique as being a colleague with career diplomats gives you a realistic idea about what to expect of becoming a diplomat in the future. Moreover, being a diplomat among young students is a refreshing experience and opens your eyes to different perspectives. In both cases, it is a rewarding experience for further career development.

This experience takes place in Malta, a small yet beautiful island. Malta is one of the best places for such a course, being in the centre of the Mediterranean, with an open-minded society and hosting foreigners from all over the world. It provides you with a unique environment to learn about cultural diversity. Thus, in addition to living on a beautiful island with a good climate and welcoming people, you also have the academic rigour that one expects from such an academic program.

The diversity of the subjects offered in this Masters' course is useful to gain more insight in international law, international economics, international history, international relations, security studies, diplomacy, media and languages. Presentation skills and other practical exercises are important for any career diplomat, especially given the fact that they are offered by professors who give you the chance to understand and discuss issues openly. The well equipped facilities and library are ideal to further your knowledge and research capabilities.

The knowledge you obtain and the interactions in and out of the classroom makes this life experience really worth it. That is why I already recommended MEDAC to many of my colleagues once I returned to my country.

For me personally, MEDAC was a very good experience and a step forward for my life and career. After obtaining my Masters' degree with distinction, after meeting and becoming friends with professors and colleagues, and after living for nine months in Malta, I consider the MEDAC experience as one of the best choices I ever made.

So, allow me to thank MEDAC and all its professors, staff, and my colleagues, and I personally recommend MEDAC to anyone who wants to achieve a good academic degree, accompanied by an exciting life experience. Thank you!



Ekaterine Megrelishvili

MEDAC Alumnus from Georgia 2012 - 2013

aving the opportunity to participate in the Master program in Diplomacy at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies was beneficial to me in many ways.

Not only has my master's degree expanded my horizons, but it has

strengthened my critical thinking and analytical skills. I also had the pleasure of studying with intelligent people in a challenging and inspiring academic environment.

The Program combined the right amount of theory and practical case studies whereby each one of us was provided with a much better understanding of the political dynamics in the region.

As a former student of Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies I want to express my gratitude to the Governments of Germany, Switzerland and Malta for giving me this great opportunity. I am truly grateful to the distinguished MEDAC professors for their intellectual guidance

and inspiring us to become critical thinkers.

It's not only a great privilege to be part of MEDAC, but it is also unique platform for creating a network among young diplomats from different countries and regions.

I also would like to emphasize the tremendous role of Malta, being at the heart of the Mediterranean, where not only young diplomats from the diverse Mediterranean region attend, but also from beyond. The MEDAC experience also allows one to establish new friendships, explore other world views and take advantage of all that Malta offers.



UPDATES ON MEDAC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY:

www.um.edu.mt/medac/medacalumniassociation





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Visit by H.E. Amb. Giancarlo Kessler to MEDAC



n 13th November 2014, H.E. Ambassador Giancarlo Kessler paid his first visit to MEDAC as part of his accreditation visit to Malta. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to Italy, Malta and San Marino, Ambassador Kessler had served as Head of the Sectoral Foreign Policies Division at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

During Ambassador Kessler's visit to MEDAC, he met with MEDAC Chairman Dr. Joe Borg, MEDAC Director Prof. Stephen Calleya and other members of the MEDAC academic faculty. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss a number of issues pertaining to Switzerland's longstanding relationship with MEDAC. This included exchanging views on the current transformation process taking place across the Southern shores of the Mediterranean and identifying opportunities where MEDAC could further enhance its confidencebuilding credentials in the Mediterranean.





Above: H.E. Ambassador Giancarlo Kessler. Top right: From left: Dr. Omar Grech, Dr. Joe Borg, H.E. Ambassador Giancarlo Kessler, Prof. Stephen Calleya, Dr. Derek Lutterbeck, Marcus Jürg Rothen, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld. Right: H.E. Ambassador Giancarlo Kessler (second from right) with MEDAC academic staff.

MEDAC RECRUITMENT 2015-2016





MASTER OF ARTS IN DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

Full-time - 3 Semesters www.um.edu.mt/medac/overview/PMADST8-2011-2-0

MASTER OF DIPLOMACY

Full-time - 2 Semesters Open to Junior Diplomats (by invitation)



*Dual Programme with George Mason University

MASTER OF ARTS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY

Full-time - 3 Semesters

www.um.edu.mt/medac/overview/PMACRMFTO-2011-2-0

For further information contact: simon.bajada@um.edu.mt