

MEDAC Awarded Jean Monnet Chair in the EU and Dialogue between People and Cultures

www.MED-ACademy.org

Professor Guido de Marco, President Emeritus of Malta and Chairman of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC), University of Malta, has just been awarded a Jean Monnet Chair in the EU and Dialogue between People and Cultures at MEDAC.

Over the past three decades Professor de Marco has lectured at the University of Malta and other international universities and regularly been a keynote speaker at conferences examining Euro-Mediterranean relations. Professor de Marco has also published several books dealing with the international relations of the Mediterranean.

The new Jean Monnet Chair will continue to build on the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies' track record of articulating the role of the European Union when it comes to promoting a dialogue between the peoples and cultures of the Mediterranean. It will also focus on stimulating teaching, research and reflection on EU visibility in the world and the EU modality of regional integration as an example of peaceful integration and the rule of international law.

The main rationale of this very important Jean Monnet Chair will be to contribute towards the goal of communicating more clearly the role of the EU in the Mediterranean to young academics, policy makers, and professionals. This will include examining closely the important contribution the EU has been making when it comes to fostering cooperation between different peoples and cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean area through such initiatives as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The Jean Monnet Chair in the EU and Dialogue between People and Cultures at MEDAC will therefore assist in developing a better understanding of the European Union as an advocate of peace and stability at a regional level of analysis. Particular attention will be dedicated to highlighting the political and security dimension, the economic and financial dimension and the socio-cultural and human dimension of the European Union's Partnership initiative in Euro-Mediterranean relations.

The Jean Monnet Chair will thus strengthen further the post-graduate academic training that the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies is already offering to its body of international students. It will also seek to generate wider interest among academics and policy makers to carry out advanced research on the EU's role as a promoter of dialogue between peoples and cultures in general, and in the Mediterranean in particular.



Prof. Guido de Marco, President Emeritus and Chairman of MEDAC speaking with Ms. Rezan Salih, postgraduate student from Iraq.

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MEDAC in Partnership with Institute for Diplomatic Studies of Egypt

In June 2007 the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will enable both institutions to strengthen their relationship with one another.

Acknowledging the importance of promoting and strengthening scientific, cultural academic and professional interaction, MEDAC and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies located in Cairo agreed upon a number of objectives to upgrade the already strong relationship that exists. These include the annual exchange of academic staff, the exchange of students on a regular basis, the exchange of research and printed materials published by both institutions, and the promotion of joint seminars in both Malta and Egypt.

The new partnership agreement between MEDAC and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies will also further raise the profile of the Arab academic dimension at MEDAC. In fact the agreement identifies increasing the current number of Egyptian lecturers in the training programmes at MEDAC as a primary objective. This will include exchanging invitations to deliver modules and participate in seminars organised by both institutions.

MEDAC and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies also agreed to promote further the annual exchange of visits between cadet diplomats in Cairo and students from MEDAC. This will include increasing efforts to strengthen further the already active MEDAC Alumni Association in Egypt.



MEDAC Alumni Reception held at the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of Egypt

The new partnership agreement between MEDAC and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies was signed by Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, and Dr. Walid Abdelnasser, Director of the Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Cairo. Mr. Abdelkarim Soliman, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Malta and Malta's Ambassador to Egypt, Richard Vella Laurenti were both instrumental in strengthening ties between MEDAC and Egypt.



Prof. Stephen C. Calleya and Dr. Walid Abdelnasser signing the Partnership Agreement, together with H.E. Mr. Abdel K. Mohamed Soliman, Ambassador of Egypt to Malta and Counsellor El Desouky Youssef, Deputy Director International Law and Treaties Department and MEDAC Alumnus.

The signing ceremony was followed by a reception at the Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Cairo where MEDAC graduates from Egypt had the opportunity to interact and also meet prospective Egyptian students that will be following the 2007/08 academic programme. Professor Magdy Hefny, a regular visiting scholar at MEDAC from Egypt also attended the event.



Human Rights Summer School

By Dr. Omar Grech
Lecturer in International Law

MEDAC's annual Human Rights Summer School took place between the 4th and the 12th July 2007 at the Victoria Hotel Sliema. Once again the summer school was delivered in cooperation with 80:20, Educating and Acting for a Better world, Ireland. Participants this year came from a wide spread of countries including Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Ireland, Egypt, Turkey, Bosnia Herzegovina and Switzerland. This mix of nationalities and of professional backgrounds (diplomats, NGO personnel and students) produced a very exciting and fruitful 10 days. This year the themes focused on were economic and social rights as well as freedom of expression. The methodologies used during the summer school included formal lectures, simulation exercises, group work, drama and cartoons. The lecture and seminar sessions this year included:



Group photo of the 2007 Summer School participants and lecturers .

Prof. David Attard
Director IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Head, Department of Public International Law, University of Malta
Introduction to International Law

A concise introduction to international law focusing on how international law works in practice. Prof. Attard dwelt on the nature of international law and how it developed over time to include non-state actors such as international organizations and individuals

Dr. Omar Grech
Lecturer, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
Human Rights: Key Ideas and Legal Developments

What are human rights? What are the key values and ideas, which underpin human rights? How have human rights acquired a certain modicum of protection and promotion in international law? These are the questions that this session explored and attempted to provide some answers to.

Ambassador Dr. Magdy Hefny
Director, Regional Center for Research & Studies of Water Ethics, Cairo

Simulation Exercise: The Right to Water

Following an introduction to the main themes concerning the right to water the participants were divided into groups to take part in the simulation exercise entitled "A Trip to Mars". The exercise involved survivors of a nuclear disaster from Earth settling on Mars and having to negotiate their respective right to water with the Martians.

Dr. Peadar Cremin
President, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick
Human Rights Education

Dr. Cremin dealt with the question of how people learn about human rights. Addressing issues such as hidden curricula, experiential learning and multiple intelligences he dwelt on how different people learn in different ways and through different media.

Ms. Christina Karakosta
Lawyer, European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg
Freedom Of Expression in the European Convention on Human Rights
The session observed how the European Court has over the years interpreted and developed the notion of freedom of expression. After exploring the context of the European Convention a number of cases where the Court dealt with this issue were examined.

Ms. Eva Abu Halaweh
Director, Mizan Human Rights Law Group, Jordan
The Veil: Expression or Oppression?
The debate around the Veil in Europe and in certain secular states with a predominant Muslim population was at the centre of this seminar. The extent to which social and legal pressures force women to wear or not to wear the veil were investigated and discussed.



Ms. Eva Abu Halaweh lecturing at the Summer School.

Daniel Mercieca and Martyn Turner led the interactive sessions on the use of drama and cartoons in human rights education respectively. With Daniel the participants delved into Augusto Boal's theatre of the oppressed. Martyn Turner, the leading cartoonist in Ireland, explored the use of cartoons in expressing concerns and ideas about crucial issues of development, justice and human rights.

Apart from the formal programme the summer school had a more informal aspect including an opening reception in the lovely setting of the gardens of Villa Bighi overlooking the Grand Harbour as well as a reception hosted by the Irish Embassy at the residence of H.E. Mr. Gerald O' Connor. On Sunday the participants were also taken on a tour of Valletta and the Three Cities. The summer school was once again funded by the Swiss Development Agency of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

Module on Global Proliferation of Regional Integration

By Prof. Ludger Kühnhardt

Last March, Professor Ludger Kühnhardt, Director at the Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI) in Bonn, Germany, conducted a module on 'Global Proliferation of Regional Integration'. The course studied the question as to how far regional integration in Europe is emulated in other parts of the world. Professor Kühnhardt remarked while regional cooperation has become a catchword to accentuate the desire for economic development and stability in every corner of the world, the general trend seems to focus on the evolution of free-trade agreements. Although such a trend can be welcomed as a means to reinforce the overall goals of the World Trade Organization, free-trade agreements are not identical with substantial regional integration as far as its European understanding is concerned. Only political driven and law-based integration can be compared with the European experience. Regional integration of such nature might necessarily begin with the pooling of national sovereignty, but it must be developing into such a direction if it can truly be compared with the European integration experience.

Prof. Kühnhardt stated that in conducting comparative work on the global proliferation of regional integration, one has to apply a historical perspective: As much as European integration remains to this day, a process filled with success and failure, other regional integration concepts must be studied in the same spirit by recognising their procedural and generic nature. The class studied structure, evolution, limits and prospects of eleven regional integration efforts.

Furthermore, the visiting professor said that whether or not comparative regional integration will contribute to new insights into the evolution of world order in the 21st century depends also on the theoretical frame that might be developed and applied in order to assess the emerging regional integration schemes around the world. The course will analyze the most relevant theoretical questions in this regard.

Prof. Kühnhardt said that the EU has expressed its declared policy goal to support regional integration worldwide. The course also studied the instruments that the EU has developed so far in pursuing this goal, their past effects and future prospects. The course ended by reflecting on policies the EU could adopt on the matter of pro-active promotion of regional integration across the world.



Prof. Guido de Marco, Chairman of MEDAC and Prof. Ludger Kühnhardt with the students.

Module on New Challenges for Diplomats: Development Cooperation and Environment

By Dr. Andri Bisaz

A module on 'New Challenges for Diplomats: Development Cooperation and Environment' was delivered by Dr. Andri Bisaz, former head of Middle East and North Africa Division at the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation. The objectives of the unit were to raise awareness on the subject by providing basic information to the students and also for the latter to understand the challenges for developing cooperation and environment. The students became familiar with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights to Development (1956) and its definition of development,



Dr. Andri Bisaz lecturing at MEDAC.

together with the Brundtland Report of 1987. Dr. Bisaz also explained the difference between ecology and environment. The class analysed environment problems in the Middle East and North Africa region. Water scarcity, desertification, urbanisation of coastal areas among others, all contribute to environmental degradation of the area. Dr. Bisaz stated that scarce natural resources should be managed better while pollution should be controlled. Furthermore, environmental institutions and public participation should be strengthened.

In another session, the students went through the eight Millenium Development Goals and assessed what has been achieved so far. The class agreed that more money is needed to implement these goals. It was concluded that there has to be a bottom-up approach, where developing countries are more involved in decisions that impact their future. Also important is to teach the people in developing countries 'how to fish' in order to be able to start sustainable projects with the aid received.

Dr. Bisaz explained that training and experts must be provided to the civil society of the aid receiving countries in order to limit corruption. Such assistance can be provided with the help of NGOs.

Module on Economic Policy in the Age of Climate Change & Globalisation

By Dr. Eberhard Rhein

A module on 'Economic Policy in the Age of Climate Change and Globalization' was delivered by Dr. Eberhard Rhein, Advisor at the European Policy Centre. Dr. Rhein emphasised that global warming constitutes the single most redoubtable challenge for humanity in the 21st century, mainly because of a civilization based on fossil energy. The students were made aware of the different types of CO₂ free energy such as hydropower, wind power, biomass, solar thermal power, photovoltaic power and wave energy. He said that a 20% share of total EU energy consumption for 2020 makes only sense if it is followed up by an effective strategy of enforcement. Such a way for changing the consumers' behaviour is by means of price mechanism. The class also discussed the Kyoto approach to climate change and also the possibility of States binding themselves with a programme with few effective and widely visible actions.

Dr. Rhein explained that economic policy will undergo a drastic change in this century. This since economic policy has been so far a primary function of the nation state and national governments were free to fix the objectives and means. However, globalisation has severely curtailed the power of national governments to define their own policies within the traditional national context. After the discovery of the ozone hole in the 1980s, climate change was introduced in government agendas.

The UN later convened an international panel on climate change that concluded that the earth undergoes to climate change primarily due to human emissions of CO₂ and methane gas.

The purpose of the lectures was to raise awareness for the complexity of defining 'good' economic politics at the national level in the era of globalisation and dramatic climate change. It is indispensable for any enlightened citizen to understand what is going on around us and what position countries should take. Climate change is not a passing thunderstorm but an irreversible process.



Dr. Eberhard Rhein with MEDAC students .

Module on Investment Promotion

By Prof. Filippo Monge

At the end of April 2007, Prof. Filippo Monge from the University of Turin, came to MEDAC as visiting lecturer to conduct a seminar on 'Investment Promotion'. Prof. Monge is an active Italian lecturer and expert of destination marketing, that branch of Public Sector Economics that deals with international investment promotion and attraction. He specialized at LSE in London and is the author of various books on economics and management.

Prof. Monge's seminar was part of the MEDAC International Economic lecture series. With the use of slides in power point and DVD's, Prof. Monge's seminar focused on IP Agencies' (Investment Promotion Agencies) strategic role. Then he discussed with students some case-histories extracted from his rich multimedia archive.



Prof. Filippo Monge and Dr. Marco Colazingari with the students after the module.

Prof. Monge told MEDAC student; "IPA's are an important tool in order to achieve local development. Their main functions are: building an image, providing investor facilitation and investor services, generating investments, improving the quality of the investment climate and identifying the views of the private sector on policy advocacy.

In particular their origin depends on the capability of funds rising in the view of serving the local community. Do not forget that IPAgencys are not a substitute for public action. On the contrary, they are important from the point of view of investments for local development.

As regard networking functions, it is undoubtedly the most hidden and latent function to observe. They are namely the setting up of networks of local development oriented actors. These networks just mentioned consist of linking and of convincing potential actors to make investments in a precise place.

According to M.Barzelay (from LSE), IPAgencys must have visibility and credibility but it is not enough. In fact, in order to be successful, they must be also dynamic and adaptable to variable economic challenges and opportunities. Last but not least, IPAgencys cannot be too small because if they were, budget availability would be necessarily minor".

The seminar provided an opportunity to MEDAC students to debate about practical problems that countries have to face today in order to promote themselves around the world.

The XXII Euro-Med Information and Training Seminar

By Prof. Stephen C. Calleya

*Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and
Lecturer in International Relations*

The Twenty-second Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar took place in Malta between April 27th – 30th 2007. The four days of proceedings focused on regional relations in the Euro-Mediterranean area and recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Particular attention was dedicated to the progress registered in implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Five Year work programme and regional developments that have taken place during the German Presidency of the European Union during the first half of 2007.

This Euro-Mediterranean Seminar brought together junior and mid-ranking diplomats from the majority of the twenty-seven European Union member states and the ten Mediterranean Partner countries that are currently members of this multilateral initiative. The Seminar is organized by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of the University of Malta under the auspices of the European Commission who assist in coordinating this Euro-Mediterranean official confidence building initiative.

Throughout the four-day seminar academic specialists and other professionals from Europe and the Mediterranean presented a series of lectures on developments within each of the three chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, namely the political and security, economic and financial, and the cultural and human resources chapters. In addition to participating in a lively debate during the sessions the participants were also able to examine and evaluate the extent to which the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was evolving along the lines stipulated in the five year work programme.



*Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Prof. Stephen C. Calleya .*

Particular attention was dedicated to topics that include: The Euro-Med Partnership and the German EU Presidency, Perspectives of the Euro-Med Partnership and the Neighbourhood Policy, the Current Dialogue on Intercultural

Understanding, and Prospects for Negotiations in the Middle East. An analysis of the topics of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Media and the Euro-Mediterranean Development Bank also took place with participants sharing their views about what steps can next be taken to strengthen the influence of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in these specific sectors.



Euro-Med Seminar Participants .

The twenty-second Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training meeting, or Malta Seminar as the meetings have become more commonly known, were opened on Friday, April 27th 2007 by the Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta who delivered the keynote opening address.

Further information on the Euro-Mediterranean Seminars can be found at www.euromed-seminars.org.mt



Euro-Med Seminar group photo.

University of Malta Honours Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaube for Lifetime Comitment to Promoting Peace in the Mediterranean

The University of Malta recently conferred the degree of Doctor of Literature (*honoris causa*) on Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaube. Dr. Moratinos was honoured for his contribution to peace and stability in the Mediterranean area.

Throughout his distinguished career Miguel Moratinos has sought to promote better understanding between Europe and the Mediterranean. This has included a concerted effort to facilitate closer cooperation between the different sub regions of the Mediterranean, especially the Euro-Maghreb and Euro-Mashreq regions.

Between 1996 and 2003 Dr. Moratinos demonstrated his unique dynamism as an international diplomat in his role as the European Union's Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process. Throughout this episode of shuttle diplomacy Dr. Moratinos demonstrated unstinting enthusiasm and a relentless commitment to fostering cooperative relations between Israel and the Arab world in general, and Israel and the Palestinians in particular.

It was his proactive perseverance that inspired regional protagonists to start implementing confidence building measures as part of a process that was to lead to final status negotiations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In his words and through his policy actions, Dr. Moratinos demonstrated a continuous commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. As Dr. Moratinos emphasized during his address at the *honoris causa* degree ceremony:

We cannot wait until tomorrow. Never in the last 50 years have we seen such a meeting of strategic interests between Arabs and Israelis, Americans and Europeans. It is urgent we mobilize ourselves. I know that Maltese diplomacy, wisely led by Minister Michael Frendo, has risen to the challenge and has taken its share of our collective responsibility. Our 'olive belt' of Mediterranean European countries have indeed become main actors in this quest for peace.

Dr. Moratinos must be identified as a leader who took advantage of the window of opportunity that emerged towards the end of the twentieth century to advance peace in the Middle East. During his shuttle diplomacy in the region he took the appropriate political decisions to make peace initiatives feasible and durable. This included introducing confidence building measures that focused on the promotion of ceasefire, verification, and the liberation of soldiers and prisoners.

A firm believer in a strong Europe, one of his priorities has been to improve Spanish relations with all member states of the European Union. Dr. Moratinos is truly a harbinger of European leadership in global and regional affairs. In the aftermath of the Cold War, he realised that the Mediterranean epitomizes many of the security challenges associated with the North-South debate. These include

migration, terrorism, religious intolerance and the lack of human rights. Nurturing cooperative cross-cultural patterns of interaction which addressed these issues thus became a guiding light of his career.

Since the end of the Cold War, Dr. Moratinos has ensured that the Mediterranean does not become marginalized by Europe. He has consistently emphasised that security dynamics in Europe and the Mediterranean are interdependent and thus must be dealt with simultaneously.



Hon. Dr. Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaube, Spanish Foreign Minister (left) and Prof. Stephen C. Calleya, Director of MEDAC (right).

As a leading proponent of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Dr. Moratinos recognised that a stable political and security environment can only be achieved by reducing existing cross-cultural tensions and establishing a cooperative zone of security that focuses on fostering closer social, cultural and human relations across the Euro-Mediterranean area. At the *honoris causa* degree ceremony Dr. Moratinos reiterated:

I have always conceived the Euro-Mediterranean framework as a tool crafted to meet the goals that we all share and have established together. The principles of ownership, interdependence and shared responsibilities are the best guarantee of our joint endeavour and success.

Over the past thirty years Dr. Moratinos has recognised the challenge that insecurity in the Mediterranean presents and has assumed the responsibility to turn this challenge into an opportunity! Through his diplomatic initiatives he has sown the seeds of peace that one day will be harvested in the Middle East.

In honouring Dr. Miguel Moratinos the University expressed Malta's gratitude for Dr. Moratinos' constructive contribution to post Cold War regional peace and stability in the Euro-Mediterranean area. Millions of people are benefiting thanks to the promotion of peace across the Mediterranean. Dr. Moratinos' unique sense of wisdom, leadership and perseverance should inspire all those committed to promoting closer Euro-Mediterranean relations in the years to come!

Alumni News

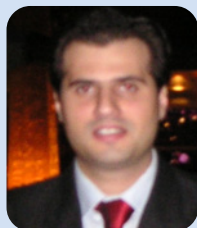
Lecture by the Ambassador of the United States of America

By Dr. Omar Grech

The fourth in the series of the M.A.A. Lectures was held on the 6th June at the Music Room of St. James Cavalier in Valletta. Yet again the M.A.A. managed to attract a very distinguished speaker for this event namely American Ambassador H.E. Ms. Molly H. Bordonaro. Ambassador Bordonaro addressed members of the diplomatic corps, MEDAC staff and alumni and other distinguished guests on the issue of Multilateral Cooperation and Mediterranean Security. In a wide ranging speech Ambassador Bordonaro emphasized that it was vital for states to focus on a number of variables—diplomacy, economic and democratic growth, multinational cooperation and security as the only way to support a safe, secure and prosperous Mediterranean. She encouraged MEDAC Alumni as “graduates of one of the most prestigious diplomatic training programs in Europe” to take on the challenges and grasp the opportunities to achieve this goal. After the lecture a very lively Question and Answer session ensued which was followed by drinks hosted by the Embassy.



H.E. Ms. Molly H. Bordonaro addressing the audience at St. James Cavalier.



Mr. Kristian Bonnici

*M.A. Alumnus from Malta
Class 2002-2003*

Diplomat working at the Maltese Embassy in Egypt, MFA

Upon completion of my undergraduate degree in International Relations B.A. (Hons), my aim was firmly set, more than ever, to either join the diplomatic corps of my country (Malta), or embark on an academic career. The Masters in Diplomatic Studies offered by the Swiss-Maltese Mediterranean Academy (MEDAC) seemed to be a challenging, interesting and appropriate choice.

The Masters was based on five pillars: International Relations, International Economics, International History, International Law and Diplomacy, plus there was the option take English or French as an extra module. All the necessary ingredients for forging a diplomat were offered.

The retinue of lecturers (by retinue here I mean “retained” in the service of knowledge), which came from different countries, were erudite in their respective fields and brought with them an envious baggage of international experience. The non academic staff was helpful, diligent and nice.

Attending lectures was something I always looked forward to, as the lecturers were prepared and dedicated. Moreover, there was an enthusiastic interaction between the students and the lecturers, and occasionally also between students.

The academic staff was cosmopolitan and so were my colleagues who came from various countries; (Malta, Canada, the United States, Slovenia, Georgia, Algeria, Syria, and Jordan) to mention a few. The fact that half of them were already fully fledged diplomats gave the course more spice and enriched it.



MEDAC Class 2002-03 at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Universitaire, Geneva.

The atmosphere at MEDAC facilitated my transition from being the stereotypical student; (immersed in learning, involved in extra curricular activities, sometimes participating in Bacchian parties in the search of Venus), to a diplomat; being a servant of the state, patient, tactful, and working relentlessly to communicate, promote and protect the interests of Malta.



Mr. Ali Massalha

*M.Dip. Alumnus from the Palestinian Authority
Class 2001-2002*

Deputy Ambassador, Palestinian Embassy in Malta

From an early age I showed an interest in politics and the international relations that reigned between regions. This, and coming from a country which is wrought with torment and conflict is what led me to seek a career in diplomacy. I believe that continuously improving my skills in this field would help me to focus all my efforts towards bridging the divide that hinders peace from its final resolution. It was with this in mind that as an already established career diplomat, I pursued the M.A. degree course in Diplomacy.

The course not only allows diplomats from the Euro Mediterranean region to meet together and exchange knowledge and experience but importantly provides formal teaching on topics such as international relations, law, history and economics; and diplomacy as well as training to improve skills in protocol, public speaking and negotiation. It also encourages team building among individuals coming from diverse backgrounds with different agendas and priorities. In my opinion this is all instrumental in directing and unifying the outlook of future policy makers.

I currently hold the position of Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the Embassy of the Palestinian Authority in Malta. Having also read a Masters degree in Human Rights and Democratization I am very interested in human rights issues. As a founding member and President of The Association of Palestinians' Human Rights in Diaspora I am presently working on two projects (2007-2008) which involve bringing a Palestinian folklore group to participate in a locally held international festival; and in organizing a visit by a group of youths, who have been the innocent victims of the ongoing aggression, to learn and enjoy social events together.

I would like to thank the Director of MEDAC, Prof. Stephen Calleya, the Deputy Director, Dr. Derek Lutterbeck, Prof. David Attard, Dr. Omar Grech, and all the lecturers who contributed towards the expert delivery of the course as well as Ms. Jo Ann Camilleri and Mr. David Cassar for their support.



Ms. Ferdaous Bejaoui

*M.Dip Alumnus from Tunisia
Class 2006-2007*

Diplomat working at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry

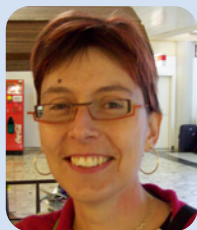
People throw coins in the Fontana di Trevi in Italy, or drink from the water of the Nile River in Egypt to come back. In Malta, you don't need such kind of things. There is something magic in the air, in the water of the Mediterranean, in the way people live there. You feel that it has always been part of you and that this kind of silent music in Mdina, the cafés of Sliema, the waterfront of Valletta, the way people take their time in everything they do, the way they smile to you in the morning and say, "Hi Ferdaous Bongu! Kif inti? Tajba?". Philosophers used to say that language tell us so many things about culture. In these few words, I feel the cultural richness of this beautiful small island I fell in love with...Malta.

MEDAC was a truly marvellous experience. I particularly enjoyed our study visits to Rome and Geneva. It's curious but I can't speak about MEDAC objectively. I think about its extremely brilliant teachers and its prestigious visiting lecturers, its remarkable library and the kindness and aptitude of its academic and administrative staff. I start dreaming but I know that I am

not alone. I am sure it is the case of the great friends I made in Malta: Marija, Ana, Rezan and all the others. I will remember them for the rest of my life. MEDAC was really a life changing experience. I am deeply thankful to all members of this fantastic family for the opportunity they gave me.



MEDAC students in front of the Alabama Hall in Geneva, Switzerland..



Ms. Beatrice Maalouf

*M.A. Alumnus from the Czech Republic
Class 1999-2000*


Head, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Prague

I graduated with an MA in Diplomatic Studies at MEDAC at the turn of the new millennium. The three reasons to take up MA studies in 1999 are the same ones which reflected the advantages of the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies. The first motivation to join MEDAC was personal. I was interested to add-on my BA in Economics from the American University of Beirut with an equally formidable educational institute. The second reason was that I was seeking a degree which offered courses in the practical aspects of international relations. Linked with the above, was my desire to have an intensive focused oriented degree.

I got to know about MEDAC through the Internet. In 1999, when Internet was not as widely accessible and a reliable search-engine as it is today, in itself, at the time of my search hinted to me that, this academy must be innovative if I can find complete information about it so quickly! This was unlike the search result of institutions and university departments dealing with diplomatic studies. I deepened my search into MEDAC courses, the degree provided information about the academic staff and found them comparable to the caliber of my previous institute AUB. That was enough to send in the application form.

MEDAC offered an opportunity to study a precise area of international relations, diplomacy, with impacts far beyond the circles of government spheres. Unlike the classical schools of diplomacy, MEDAC provided two advantages. It was not limited to career diplomats, but was opened to students from various educational and career backgrounds. This not only opened accessibility to others but more importantly enhances the perspectives in class debates. Moreover, the MA program emphasized the practical aspects of international relations. This enriched my theoretical background I had from political science elective courses I took in my BA.

Finally, MEDAC offered a specialized and goal-oriented degree. This in the academic world of diplomatic studies remains rare. Many of the courses offering diplomacy, if outside the classical diplomatic academies often attached to foreign ministries, combine it with political science or international relations. Yes the course in Malta is intensive and requires a disciplinary effort to grasp all the material; however, the practical aspect, the simulation exercises, the visiting tours and additional seminars added to the value of the class lectures and enriched the inter-disciplinary teaching approach.



International Cuisine Night

by the MEDAC Alumni Association

Date : Friday, 30th November 2007
Time: 7.30 pm
Venue: Sundown Court, Kappara
All MEDAC alumni are invited!!!

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MEDAC thanks all alumni contributors to this issue of the MEDAC Newsletter and extends to them all the best wishes in their endeavours. We are also very keen to know more about our former students. The MEDAC Alumni Association looks forward to all former students participating in our activities. All those former students interested in joining our Alumni Association, kindly visit the website at www.medacalumni.org

The Official Alumni country contacts at their respective Foreign Ministries are:

Bozidarka Kronic, *Montenegro*

Reem Jabr, *Syria*

Maysoun AlMozayyen, *Palestine*

Lassaad Boutara, *Tunisia*

Gang Luo, *China*

Rowaida Tawfiq Ebrish, *Libya*

Hossam El Din El Shenawy, *Egypt*

Agustela Nini, *Albania*

David Cassar, *Malta*

Sihem Mazouz, *Algeria*

Lela Garsevanishvili, *Georgia*

Stella Ankrava, *Latvia*

Dmytro Senik, *Ukraine*

Jana Grilc, *Slovenia*

Amina Selmane, *Morocco*

Ma'en Al-khreasat, *Jordan*

Johnny Ibrahim, *Lebanon*

Ebru Ekeman, *Turkey*

Farewell!

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Ms. Dana Kotasova, *Czech Republic*
 Ms. Spyridoula-Ioanna Zochiou, *Greece*
 Mr. Gian-Luca Serafino, *Italy*
 Ms. Josette Bajada, *Malta*
 Ms. Roberta Buhagiar, *Malta*
 Ms. Marissa Angela Busuttil, *Malta*
 Mr. Stephen Camilleri, *Malta*
 Mr. Fabian Galea, *Malta*
 Mr. George Galea, *Malta*
 Ms. Mathea Karla Gauci, *Malta*
 Ms. Rachel Mamo, *Malta*
 Ms. Nadia Petroni, *Malta*
 Mr. Emanuel Pulis, *Malta*
 Ms. Marie Claire Testa, *Malta*
 Mr. Kurt Vella Fonde', *Malta*
 Mr. Edward Vernon, *Malta*
 Ms. Victoria Vella, *Russia*

Master in Diplomacy

Ms. Albana Prifti, *Albania*
 Mr. Xufeng Chen, *China*
 Mr. Anas Salah Shadi, *Egypt*
 Ms. Marwa Abdelaal Mahmoud, *Egypt*
 Ms. Ann Slashvili, *Georgia*
 Ms. Rezan Salih, *Iraq*
 Mr. Ian Paul Bajada, *Malta*
 Ms. Marija Pavicevic, *Montenegro*
 Mr. Omar Fanous, *Palestine*
 Ms. Ferdaous Bejaoui, *Tunisia*
 Mr. Mehdi Gharbi, *Tunisia*
 Mr. Huseyin Dogan, *Turkey*



MEDAC Class 2006/07.

Welcome Back!

MEDAC also welcomes back diploma students who are following the 2006-2008 academic programme:

Mr. Victor Aquilina, *Malta*
 Mr. Darren Azzopardi, *Malta*
 Ms. Doreen Borg Zammit, *Malta*
 Mr. Robert Henry Bugeja, *Malta*
 Mr. Karl Engerer, *Malta*
 Ms. Mary Grace Gerada, *Malta*
 Mr. Peter Paul Muscat, *Malta*
 Mr. Luciano Pace Parascandolo, *Malta*
 Ms. Mariella Stivala, *Malta*
 Mr. Joe Tanti, *Malta*
 Mr. Emanuel Zahra, *Malta*



Welcome!

MEDAC welcomes our new students who are following the 2007-2008 academic programme:

Master in Diplomacy

Mr. Li Zhimin, *China*
 Ms. Yousra Ebada, *Egypt*
 Ms. Rania Hemaïd, *Egypt*
 Mr. Ivane Shamugia, *Georgia*
 Mr. Tahir El Shelmani, *Libya*
 Mr. Christian Sgandurra, *Malta*
 Ms. Hidaya Labiioui, *Morocco*
 Mr. Mohammad Zuhair, *Palestine*
 Mr. Yusuph Mndolwa, *Tanzania*
 Ms. Faten Bahri, *Tunisia*
 Ms. Mouna Daldoul Boutara, *Tunisia*
 Mr. Nassim Khammassi, *Tunisia*
 Mr. Efe Ceylan, *Turkey*



Class 2007/08 on their first day of lectures.

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Mr. Alan Paul Spiteri, *England*
 Ms. Dagmar Pallmar, *Germany*
 Ms. Giorgia Apuzzo, *Italy*
 Ms. Consuelo Pacetto, *Italy*
 Mr. Alexander Dimitrovski, *Macedonia*
 Ms. Annalise Aquilina, *Malta*
 Mr. Clint Mario Borg, *Malta*
 Mr. John Buttigieg, *Malta*
 Ms. Lavinia Cassar, *Malta*
 Ms. Marsim Cassar, *Malta*
 Mr. Mark Ciscaldi, *Malta*
 Ms. Francesca Dayal, *Malta*
 Ms. Alexandra Ellul, *Malta*
 Ms. Lara Anne Fenech, *Malta*
 Mr. Kurt Formosa, *Malta*
 Ms. Suzanne Gili, *Malta*
 Mr. David Herrera, *Malta*
 Ms. Christabelle Lewis, *Malta*
 Ms. Stefania Mangion, *Malta*
 Ms. Mariella Scicluna, *Malta*
 Ms. Cynthia Tomasuolo, *Malta*



Switzerland and the Mediterranean Basin

By H.E. Dr. Bruno Spinner

Ambassador of Switzerland to Italy, Malta and San Marino

At least since the America's Cup in Valencia, everybody knows that Switzerland is a landlocked country and that Spain "lent" *Alinghi* a portion of its Mediterranean Sea to enable its outstanding performance. There is not a single state touching the Mediterranean Sea with which Switzerland does not have specific, always friendly and mutually beneficial contacts and exchanges.

Despite its landlocked place in the heart of Western Europe, the Maghreb and Machrek countries are, from a geographical point of view, Switzerland's closest neighbours outside the European Union. The countries of Europe and the south-eastern Mediterranean are interconnected in terms of population, religion and economy. There are cultural similarities, such as the common language, which we share with a number of countries of this area: Switzerland works together within the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* with Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco as well as Tunisia. The strengthening of cultural and linguistic diversity is a main objective of all five countries, in addition to furthering the French language. The Orient and the Islamic cultures have always been and still are an enrichment as well as a challenge for Europe.

As a Non-EU-Member-State, Switzerland cannot participate actively in the so-called "Barcelona-Process", nevertheless it shares fully its goals, such as regional stability, prosperity and peace.

With regard to bilateral relations with countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean area, Switzerland focuses on specific aspects, where it can be useful as for instance in the active promotion of international humanitarian law. The Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, two out of the four Geneva Centres founded by the Swiss government, are particularly interested in security issues in the Mediterranean area and hence work closely with Institutes in this region. The absence of a colonial background, our history of neutrality, the economic weight as well as the coexistence within a

small territory of several ethnic and cultural groups, are among the factors which make Switzerland a credible partner in the area.

As for economic relations, Libya and Algeria are Switzerland's most important suppliers of fossil fuels. Their oil reserves and their labour forces – due to demographic factors – represent an economic potential for this Mediterranean region. Switzerland is particularly interested in boosting economic ties with the Maghreb und Machrek States within the framework of the EFTA, through new or existing free trade associations.

It is well known that the Maghreb States often serve as transit countries for South Saharian migrants, who usually continue their journey on to Europe. This is a challenge not only for the North African but also for the States in the northern Mediterranean basin which are the first entry point of migrants to Europe before they travel on to other countries on the continent, such as Switzerland. In this regard the cooperation with the North African and South European States, such as Italy and Malta, is important to Switzerland. Malta, the portal to the south, the east and the north of the Mediterranean basin, plays a key role in this respect. An overall European effort to assist Malta in this challenge is necessary.

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) offers a valuable contribution to this end which can be further developed. The institution was founded in 1990 through a joint effort by Malta and Switzerland. Switzerland is proud of the achievements of the Academy, which justifies the continuous support it has been granting to the institution ever since its foundation. As a centre of excellence for training and bringing together scholars, civil servants and officials not only from within but also from outside the region, MEDAC holds a special place in the agenda of Swiss-Maltese bilateral relations as well as in Switzerland's political focus on the Mediterranean region.

FOR THOSE SEEKING TO PREPARE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

The Academy offers the following courses:

Two year Part-time Diploma in Diplomatic Studies

One year Full-time Postgraduate Studies: Master in Diplomacy and Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

For more details on these courses and various activities of the Academy write or fax to:

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