Foreword

Suzanne Gili

President, MEDAC Alumni Association

The MEDAC Alumni Association was set up in 2006 and has brought together over 600 graduates from over 50 different countries worldwide. The Association was set up with the aim of maintaining a network of past, present and future students. The immense wealth of knowledge that all these Alumni share is overwhelming.

Furthermore, a lecture is held towards the end of the academic year. A distinguished guest speaker, usually an Ambassador, addresses the participants with the aim of promoting security and stability in the Mediterranean Region which is only possible through dialogue and cooperation amongst countries. This lecture is followed by a Question and Answer session.
which enables the participants to interact directly. This session is then followed by a reception which allows participants to continue their discussions in an informal manner.

In today’s world, thanks to the emergence of social media, the MEDAC Alumni are able to remain in constant contact with one another through the Internet. The MEDAC Alumni Association promotes its work and initiatives through its Facebook page, which also has a photo gallery in order to highlight photos of the different occasions. The Alumni are very active on this page and engage in discussions continuously.

It is indeed a privilege for me to have been appointed president of this Alumni Association and I would like to thank the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies for the constant support given to all the initiatives taken by this Association. I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage all MEDAC Alumni to continue to form part of this ever growing network no matter where their career paths may take them.
The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies was established in 1990 pursuant to an agreement between the governments of Malta and Switzerland. The Academy is currently co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta and the University of Malta.

From 1993 to 2008, the Italian Foreign Ministry recognizing MEDAC’s educational and bridge building role in the Mediterranean region has contributed to the Academy by financing an Italian Chair in International Economics.

MEDAC is a member of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT), of the European Diplomatic Training Initiative (EDTI), a group of EU diplomatic academies training EU personnel, and a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). Our institution is also part of the Advisory Board of the journal Europe’s World.

The European Union entrusted MEDAC to organise a twice-yearly Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars for diplomats from 1996 to 2012. These seminars consisted of official confidence building exercises of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

MEDAC has established close strategic relationships with a large number of prestigious international
diplomatic institutions including the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, the Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Cairo, the Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Tunisia, the Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI) of the University in Bonn, Germany, as well as Wilton Park in the UK, the Spanish Diplomatic School in Madrid, Spain, and the Department of Mediterranean Studies, the University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece.

MEDAC was chosen by the European Union as Holder of the Jean Monnet Chair, by the European Union, which was awarded to the now late President Emeritus of Malta, Professor Guido de Marco, who served as the chairman of MEDAC between 2005 and 2010.

On the 13th of October 2009, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies was honoured by a visit of H.E. Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States. During this visit H. E. Amr Moussa was extended a warm welcome by President Emeritus, Professor Guido de Marco, Chairman of MEDAC, Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, and MEDAC’s academic staff. Mr. Moussa was in Malta to inaugurate, together with EU Commissioner Ferrero Waldner the setting up of the European Commission – League of Arab States Liaison Office, a first for the European Commission.

The Academy’s 20th anniversary International Conference “The End of the Cold War and the Mediterranean 1989 – 2009” was a huge success. Attended by around 200 delegates, it brought back to Malta two of the key players of the Malta Summit of December 1989, the sea-borne summit off the coast of Marsaxlokk that spelled the end of the Cold War. Governor John H. Sununu, then Chief of Staff of President George H.W. Bush and Ambassador Alexander Bessmertnykh, former Russian Foreign Minister shed light on the private conversations aboard the Maxim Gorky and drew lessons for the present. A list of distinguished international and Maltese speakers addressed the Conference. The conference concluded with a video address by former American Secretary of State James Baker.

MEDAC together with the DIPLO Foundation also had the honour to host the 38th International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) in September 2010 in Malta. The choice of Malta by IFDT was in recognition of the leading role both MEDAC and DIPLO perform, MEDAC as the main regional diplomatic training institution in the Mediterranean and DIPLO Foundation as the leader in the field of online diplomatic training. More than 80 participants from all continents participated in that year’s forum. The session was co-chaired by Ambassador Hans Winkler, Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and Dr. Paula Newberg from Georgetown University. One principal theme that was addressed during this International Forum was e-diplomacy and online learning which was moderated by Dr. Jovan Kurbalija,
Director of DIPLO Foundation. Other themes included the challenge of training foreign diplomats, pilot training of the European External Action Service, effectiveness through quality assurance of diplomatic training, and the future of diplomatic training.

In 2009, MEDAC concluded an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany and established a German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention.

In 2010, through the University of Malta, MEDAC has launched a new Masters programme in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security in collaboration with a prestigious institution in the USA. This Masters forms part of the University of Malta’s International Masters Programmes. This dual degree program combines the faculties of two renowned educational institutions: George Mason University’s School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (SCAR), the oldest and largest programme of graduate conflict studies in the United States, and MEDAC. Apart from offering students the advantages of a dual degree, this collaboration also provides academics from both institutions the opportunity to engage in collaborative research, conferencing and peace-making activities.

In 2014/2015, MEDAC celebrates its 25th anniversary. Since its inception, MEDAC has acquired a solid reputation both as an academic institution and as a practical training platform. We are fortunate to count over 670 alumni from 59 different countries who have completed successfully the post-graduate courses offered by the Academy. The EU’s enlargement towards the Mediterranean, that included Malta in 2004, and the recent transformation of the political landscape throughout the Arab World have resulted in an ever increasing demand for MEDAC’s programme of studies.

Academy Courses include:

- Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies (M.A.)
- Master of Diplomacy (M. Dip.)
- Joint M.A. with George Mason University (Virginia, USA) on Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security
- Diploma in Diplomacy (DDS)

Dr. Joe Borg, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta who led Malta’s EU-accession negotiations, and former EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, is the current chairman of MEDAC.
Introduction

INTRODUCTION
MEDAC ALUMNI 1990 ~ 2015

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) is a post-graduate Foundation within the set up of the University of Malta and offers Masters degrees in Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution with a focus on Mediterranean issues.

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies was established in 1990 as a joint undertaking between the University of Malta and the Graduate Institute of International Studies of Geneva, Switzerland. MEDAC was one of similar institutions providing diplomatic training with the support of Switzerland in different regions of the world including those in Cameroon, Kenya and Trinidad and Tobago.

Since the end of the Cold War MEDAC has contributed to a more seeking a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Mediterranean through a number of initiatives: its diplomatic training programmes, the promotion of intercultural dialogue on issues ranging from human rights to conflict resolution and through the dissemination of information in numerous publications and conferences that have brought together academics, practitioners and thinkers from the Mediterranean region. Over the last 24 years MEDAC has seen more than 700 graduates from the Mediterranean and beyond follow its academic courses.

In December 2009 on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary MEDAC organised an international conference on the theme of “The End of the Cold War and the Mediterranean 1989 – 2009” to commemorate the historical meeting between former American President George H. W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev which took place in Malta in December 1989.

Throughout MEDAC has been able to raise awareness of the Mediterranean by benefiting from Malta's Euro-Mediterranean foreign policy vocation. Just as Malta participated in the historical “Bush - Gorbachev” occasion that resulted in the end of Cold War, Malta continues to be a promoter of regional stability in the Mediterranean area through numerous foreign policy initiatives: as an advocate for a concerted effort to address the security challenge of illegal migration; as a champion of good-neighbourly diplomacy towards countries in transition across the Arab world, in particular Libya; and through its continuous efforts to raise the profile of Mediterranean security issues internationally, as witnessed at the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Malta's Euro-Mediterranean vocation has always rested upon the premise that there can be no peace and stability in Europe if there is no peace and stability in the Mediterranean and vice-versa. As
members of the EU Malta continues to do everything possible to persuade and convince fellow EU members that Europe’s security is indivisible from that of the Mediterranean.

Today the Mediterranean continues to be a source of instability in international relations with numerous security challenges requiring attention including irregular migration, terrorism, energy security, and the proliferation of weapons to cite a few. The Mediterranean is also the location of the more than six decade old conflict between Israel and Palestine. In addition to the continuous hostilities between these two peoples, this conflict also attracts the attention of Euro-Mediterranean regional actors and international great powers. The upheaval across the Arab World that commenced four years ago at the start of 2011 has also unleashed a period of transformation that has further attracted international attention to the Mediterranean.

In this context, MEDAC has been playing a vital role over the past 25 years by providing a platform where confidence building measures can be discussed in an informal setting. Gradually, MEDAC has developed into a centre of educational excellence focusing on Mediterranean affairs. The importance of education to a more peaceful and stable Mediterranean cannot be overstated.

The people of the Mediterranean have shown through the ages that they are more than capable, competent and courageous people.
This is highlighted by the diverse cultures that have been nurtured and developed. Given the right structures of governance and conducive socio-economic conditions, these same people can transform the Mediterranean into a prosperous and stable region. A key to achieve this positive transformation is to invest in the human resources of the Mediterranean. Investing in people is a crucial component of any revival in the Mediterranean’s long-term prospects. Education is the vehicle through which such an investment may be effected. MEDAC’s Alumni is a clear example of such an endeavour. Thus, providing a sound educational experience to its students will always be MEDAC’s priority.

Figure 1: Number of alumni since 1990
Since the launch of MEDAC in the year 1990, hundreds of students have read for one of the degrees offered by the Academy. Whether reading for a Master in Diplomacy, supported by one of MEDAC’s scholarships or furthering one’s education through a Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies, or embarking on the more recently launched Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security; to date, MEDAC has hosted a total of 6751 students from 58 different countries.

Whilst the majority of students come from the Mediterranean region, it is interesting to note in more detail the various regions that MEDAC alumni represent. The regional division which shall be used to categorize the countries of origin of MEDAC alumni might not represent the geographical divisions normally used, but is compiled for practical reasons, as represented in the below pie chart.

The majority of students that have attended MEDAC academic programmes come from the country hosting MEDAC, namely, Malta, with a total of 248 students. Next in line are alumni coming from Europe, totaling 135 students. More specifically, this region covers Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

A significant number of students have originated from North Africa, namely from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, totalling 117 students from the Southern Mediterranean region. Additionally, 73 alumni are from the Middle East region, namely from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey.

A further 56 MEDAC alumni come from the Americas, namely from the USA, Canada and Western Samoa. MEDAC has hosted a total of 26 students from the Asian continent, coming from China, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and India. Lastly, a total of 20 students have came from Sub-Saharan Africa, more specifically from: Tanzania, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda and The Gambia.

The diversity and cultural milieu which every students proudly presents and shares with other students creates an environment in which informal academic interaction can take place, which complements the academic teaching in a manner that no textbook setting on its own can provide.

Figure 2. Alumni per regions
MEDAC Alumni
by Gender 1990-2015

MEDAC is an Academy which strives to provide equal gender access to education. Its numerous scholarships have been open to both genders without distinction, and MEDAC is proud to note that in contrast to its early years of service, gender equality has become more of a reality in the classroom.

Out of a total of 675 alumni, 284 have been female and 391 have been male. Simply put, 42% of all MEDAC alumni are female with the remaining 58% being male. Whilst this does not represent a total gender balance, it is an improvement compared to the 29% female representation and 71% male representation during MEDAC’s opening year in 1990/1991.

MEDAC welcomes this increase and will further promote the active participation of both genders in the years to come.

Figure 3. Gender balance 1990/1991:

Figure 4. Gender balance 1990/2014:

(This represents a 13% increase in female participants from 1990 to 2014)
MEDAC has been offering a number of scholarships, enabling junior diplomats from all over the world to experience a break year from their careers and share their knowledge and practical experience in an academic setting. Thanks to the scholarships, which from October 1990 until June 2012, have reached a total of 287 scholarships awarded; the cultural diversity which makes MEDAC such a distinct institution, is ensured and sustained year after year.

Taking a look at some statistics, as portrayed in the below pie chart; thirty-one countries benefitted from the scholarships, namely: Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, China, Croatia, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Western Samoa and former Yugoslavia.

It is important to point out that these statistics refer to students reading for a Master of Diplomacy course, which represent only 50% of the total number of MEDAC alumni, with the other category of students reading for a Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies who are however not recipient of specific MEDAC scholarships.

Figure 5. Scholarships given according to regions, from the year 1990 to 2012:
Flag Symbols representing the countries of MEDAC Alumni

The collage below highlighting MEDAC's name includes flags of countries arranged alphabetically according to continents and regions (see also page 10 for more details about the number of students from particular continents, regions, and counties):

Sub-Saharan Africa: Burundi, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda. The Americas: USA, Canada and Western Samoa.

North African and Middle East countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.

Europe: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, MALTA, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Asia and Far East: Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan.

To date Australia and South America are not represented in MEDAC's Alumni network.
The MEDAC Alumni Association

The MEDAC Alumni Association was officially launched on 30th March 2006 at the German-Maltese Circle in Valletta. The Association is managed by a Committee formed of MEDAC alumni, supported by MEDAC. So far the Committee has been chaired by the following alumni: Alessandro Giuliano, David Cassar, Karen Pace and Suzanne Gili.

The purpose of this Association is to foster a network of former and current MEDAC students and to maintain links between MEDAC and its alumni. Since 2006 the Association has expanded its network considerably through the use of Facebook social media: www.facebook.com/groups/19374582384/ and specific events held in Malta as well as occasional events in various capital cities where MEDAC alumni are present. The Association organizes two fixed annual events which have become part of the MEDAC annual schedule of activities: the MEDAC International Cultural Night in autumn and an Ambassadorial Lecture in spring. Other ad hoc events are organised at various times.

These events, as well as graduation ceremonies, are shown on the following photo-galleries pages.
Walid Chakroun, MEDAC Alumnus from Tunisia 2011-2012

“My experience in Malta has been unique. I will never forget the numerous moments I have shared with friends from several countries and with different cultures. It was an excellent stepping stone for my diplomatic career. I arrived in Malta brimming with curiosity and a desire to learn. I left with a lifetime of experiences and strong human bonds.”

Rama W. Halaseh, MEDAC Alumnus from Jordan 2008-2009

“Apart from the spectacular Maltese sights, and the fun times spent with dear friends from all over the Mediterranean - the reality of living the MEDAC experience was far superior to its renowned reputation.”
Since 2006, the MEDAC Alumni Association (MAA) has brought together over 700 graduates from almost 60 different countries worldwide.

The Ambassadorial Lecture, which the Alumni Association organises annually in Malta, is always well attended by past and current students of MEDAC. It is a unique opportunity to meet up and exchange views and update one another about recent diplomatic postings and career developments.

Thanks to the world-wide popularity of Facebook social media, the MEDAC Facebook Alumni cite serves as another excellent vehicle through which to keep in touch with one another and inform other MEDAC students about current events in one’s respective setting.

The MAA Ambassadorial Lecture of 2012 was delivered by H.E. Dr. Felipe de la Morena, Ambassador of Spain to Malta (photo below).

The Annual MEDAC Alumni Association Ambassadorial Lecture of 2013 was delivered by H.E. Dr. Petra Schneebauer, Ambassador of Austria to Malta, on the theme of “Developments in Austria since joining the European Union”. (See photos opposite)

The Annual MEDAC Alumni Association Ambassadorial Lecture of 2014 was delivered by H.E. Michel Vandepoorter, The Ambassador of France to Malta. (See next pages).

https://www.facebook.com/groups/19374582384/
Annual Ambassadorial Lecture 2013: Group photo with H.E. Dr. Petra Schneebauer, MEDAC alumni and lecturers (sitting L to R, Prof. Stephen Calleya, Dr. Omar Grech, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Ms. Lourdes Pullicino).

Annual Ambassadorial Lecture 2013: H.E. Dr. Petra Schneebauer, Amb. of Austria to Malta (Right - at lectern), delivers a presentation. Sue Gili – MEDAC Alumni President and MEDAC lecturer Dr. Omar Grech moderated the session.
On 20th March 2014, HE Mr. Michel Vandepoorter, Ambassador of France to Malta, delivered the MEDAC Alumni Association’s Annual Ambassadorial Lecture on the theme of “Why Stability in Africa is Important for Europe”.

HE Ambassador Vandepoorter provided a clear and comprehensive analysis of the various factors which contribute to Africa’s importance to European stability and security. He then outlined the various mechanisms which the EU could use to assist the African continent in securing its own stability. Among the mechanisms outlined by Ambassador Vandepoorter were economic partnership, technical cooperation and development aid. Following his address His Excellency answered questions from MEDAC alumni and students.
More Alumni Academic Events

Traditional Graduation ceremony of MEDAC Class of 2011/2012 in the Jesuits’ vocational church of the University of Malta in Valletta.

Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director (right with a mic) welcoming graduate students at the traditional Annual dinner (2014).
International Cultural Night

As a university institution receiving students every year from different countries, MEDAC does not only provide an opportunity for students to ameliorate their academic knowledge and diplomatic skills, but also aims to create a multi-cultural environment.

Since its creation, the MEDAC Alumni Association has sought to highlight this concept through various activities. The annual International Night event is very popular among MEDAC Alumni and students alike. During this event, participants share part of their culture by preparing traditional dishes, playing their traditional music, and at times wearing their national costumes.

This event is usually very well attended by MEDAC Alumni who take the opportunity to meet their former class-mates. The event is always a great success because of the active participation of the MEDAC students who prepare the dishes for the activity as well as the members of the committee who work energetically for a successful outcome of these events. Of course, the Alumni Cultural Night is supported actively by all the academic staff at the Academy who provide their input to ensure as wide a participation as possible is achieved.

The Alumni cultural events are not just social gatherings, but also introduce students to the larger Medac family. In spite living in different countries, all the present and past students of MEDAC share a common experience, which hopefully they will all cherish and remember with nostalgia.
International Cultural Night: MEDAC’s annual cuisine night - celebration of culinary diplomacy at its best.

International Cuisine Night: Babovka and Ryzivy Nakyp (Pound cake, Rice souffle) from Slovakia, Pastini tar-Rahal and Kannoli ta’ Malta, ΣΚΟΠΕΛΙΤΙΚΑ (Skopelitsiko) from Greece and Belgian chocolate – typical assortment at Cuisine Night of MEDAC Alumni.
“The network of the MEDAC community of former alumni should be kept alive because the experience gained by them through their various work assignments can feed back into the work of MEDAC at particular points in time.” Ms. Sharon Zarb, Malta

Official Launch of the MEDAC Alumni Association
By Mr. Alessandro Giuliano
M.A. Class 2004-2005, 1st President, MEDAC Alumni Association

“The official launch of the MEDAC Alumni Association was without doubt a great success. Ambassadors from Greece, Germany, Austria, France, Libya, Tunisia and Russia together with a number of personalities joined alumni and students at the German-Maltese circle in Valletta for a pleasant evening that is hopefully a good sign of things to come.

For those present at the launch it was a nice opportunity to meet former classmates, lecturers and other alumni that graduated in different years. From the hustle and bustle in the ancient palazzo it was pretty evident that there was much catching up being done. The objectives of the launching the MAA association were being achieved.”

H.E. Dorothea Tsimboukeli-Douvos, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic of Greece and our guest speaker, was very well received by everyone at the launch.”

Mr. Mutasem Hayatla
M.A. Student from Palestine Class 2002-2003, Former MEDAC Librarian 2001-2004
UNHCR in Damascus

“A sense of gratitude to the academy overwhelms me every morning as I enter my office at UNHCR where I work as a legal counselor and where I am referring back to most of the topics I learned at MEDAC. Although it is a general assumption that academic theories are not applicable when it comes to our daily work, yet, nothing paved my way through the first challenges at work when dealing with international legal issues and made my assessments valued by my supervisors, than application of the knowledge I acquired during my time at the academy.”

Mr. Hossam El Din El Shenawy
M.Dip Student from Egypt Class 2003-2004
MFA Egypt, Posted to the Egyptian Embassy in Singapore in 2005

“When I go back with my memory to June 2003, when I first submitted my application to study at MEDAC, I remember how worried I was that my application would be rejected on the basis that I come from a science & engineering background. It was somewhat of a surprise that my application had been accepted! Since then, I figured out that the management of the academy does value the out-of-specialization skills of its students. Later on, I got to know that this is by no means done in compromise to the standards of teaching at the academy. It is rather the responsibility of the student to exert the extra effort needed to keep up with his/her colleagues coming from a humanities background. On the other hand, professors and staff were always there readily offering their help and advice with virtually no limits.”

Mr. Muhammed Alwan
M.Dip. Alumni from Iraq Class 2005-2006
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iraq

“It has been a great honor for me to be the first Iraqi young diplomat at MEDAC and to represent my country in this highly esteemed academic institute. I packed my luggage with books and all kinds of dictionaries when I was traveling to Malta. At first I was a little scared of this step forward, but I soon started to feel at home when experiencing the kindness that characterize the Maltese people. I became more self-confident as I was inconstant contact with people who were encouraging me to do my best and always willing to help me with a smile. My experience in Malta will remain imprinted in my mind throughout my life. The time spent learning at MEDAC helped me not only to improve my knowledge, insight about my job and language skills, but also in enlarging my network of friends and contacts from different foreign ministries.”

Dr. Neila Akrimi
M.Dip. Alumni from Tunisia Class 2000-2001
Ph.D Graduate

“Whilst thinking about my experience as a MEDAC student, so many beautiful memories cross my mind. During this year, I have not only enhanced my academic skills but I have also increased my awareness of the rich complexity of a Mediterranean region with its cultural, political and economic encounters.

Since my days at MEDAC, which I recall with gratitude and nostalgia, my focus on Euro-Mediterranean issues has become a priority. I decided to analyze and study the Mediterranean region with a prior importance to lighten the necessity of believing in the positive prospective of this cooperation process.”

(continue on p.31)
Professor Stephen Calleya, Excellencies, esteemed colleagues, good morning.

It gives a great pleasure to address you at this distinguished meeting today, and I feel humbled to have been invited to speak among this congregation of successful and promising group.

Coming from a disturbed region and as a Jordanian, I feel obliged to present you with an overview of the challenges we face, accomplishments we made and what lies ahead. I will also give a quick summary of the current cooperation between Jordan and the E.U.

I shall start this speech by congratulating MEDAC for its 25th Anniversary and for its excellent organization of this conference and for its hospitality and thank the E.U. for its positive partnership and constructive role in the neighbourhood region. It addition, it had given me a great pleasure and honour to have met His Excellency the Maltese Foreign Minister recently in Amman alongside his delegation.

Standing before you here today, and the moment I stepped out of the airplane, beautiful memories of my time in Malta have come in front of me. Over 15 years ago, I joined the Master in Diplomacy programme at MEDAC. At that time, Malta was...
not yet a member of the E.U. For me, the Master in Diplomacy was a unique and enriching experience in a European country that brought together students from different and diverse cultures and nationalities. This made it an impressive personal and cultural experience and enhanced by professors and professional staff. My time at MEDAC broadened my understanding of diplomacy, international relations and international law especially the focus on European integration and Euro-Mediterranean Process – focus which was decisive in my career choices. I owe MEDAC so much for what I have achieved till today. Thank you.

Let me share with you an incident that has never escaped my mind. One evening, I was overwhelmed with work with with a deadline coming close, when Prof. Stephen Callelya walked up to me and found me in an almost state of confusion. He patted on my shoulder and advised me by saying, “There are 24 hours in a day, and with good time management, there is nothing which is impossible”. On a personal level, I found Malta to be an open and free country, a charming place surrounded by the blue colour of the sea. It is here where I founded and strengthened true friendships and lifetime relationships. It was a life-changing experience. After I returned home, I found myself voluntarily marketing Malta among family and friends. I encourage anyone who could to visit and study in Malta. Today, I surely believe that my efforts were not wasted and definitely, joining the E.U. gave Malta more visibility in the region and a stronger voice in foreign policy, especially in the Euro-Mediterranean regional issues. Thank you Malta for being a country that brings people of the Euro-Med region together, closer to each other. I sincerely wish this country and its people all the best for a bright future.

This conference convened as the region continues to witness a fundamental transformation while facing new challenges and threats. Under such hardships and challenges, with a more sustainable outlook, Jordan continues to address its reforms at various levels and sectors. I am proud to say that Jordan highly appreciates the E.U. recognition of its commitment to the implementation of the reforms and the measures as articulated in the Advanced Status Action Plan 2011-2015 towards further harmonization with the European and international standards. This is evident in the various reports that were drafted by the European Commission, which prove a successful implementation of the neighbourhood dialogue and cooperation. In light of the rapid regional developments, and their
implications, the rise of extremism and the spill-over of the Syrian crisis to the neighbouring countries, Jordan will remain committed to promote values of moderation, openness, respect of human rights and freedoms. Jordan as always played an active at international fora as an uncontested partner in building peace and promoting dialogue and will continue to be an oasis of stability. Despite the challenges emerging from the Syrian crisis among others in the region, Jordan remains committed to provide shelter, refuge, education, healthcare and other services to all those who seek refuge and for those who found in Jordan a safe haven from the deteriorating situation back in their home country. The consequences of the neighbouring crisis pose a serious threat to Jordanian national security. This is why Jordan will continue its regional and international efforts in coalition with partners to fight oppression and terrorism not only by military means but in all appropriate ways.
(funded by the European Commission)

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Total Non-EU: 557

Total Participants: 1040
MEDAC Human Rights
Summer School Alumni, 2000 – 2014

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</table>

Human-Rights-seminar: “Human Rights, Faith and Belief”, participants and lecturers, with Summer school coordinators Dr Omar Grech and Dr Colm Regan (3rd from L, 1st from R).

Group photo in front of a creative project display.
Selected MEDAC Alumni

Ambassador Ms. Cecilia Attard Pirotta, Malta 1990/91:
Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Barcelona, Spain & Former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta

Ambassador Dr. John Paul Grech, Malta 1991/92:
Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN and International Organisations in Geneva & Former Permanent Secretary, MFA Malta

Ambassador Khaled el-Yazji, Palestine 1992/93:
Assistant Minister on Economic Issues, Ramallah, Palestine

Ambassador Mr. Rami Tahboub, Palestine 1993/94:
Ambassador at the Embassy of Palestine in Kuwait.

Ambassador Mr. Murad Hamaima, Libya, 1999/2000
Ambassador at the Libyan Embassy in Brussels, Belgium

Mr. Marwan Jilani, Palestine 1991/92:
Head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Delegation to the United Nations, New York

Ms. Sabit Subašic, Bosnia Herzegovina 1997/98:
Head of Department for Analysis and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Dr. Beatrice Maalouf, Czech Republic 1999/2000:
Head, Centre for Middle East Studies, Prague

Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, Malta 1992/93
Ambassador of Malta to Italy. Former acting Permanent Secretary, MFA Malta, and Ambassador of Malta to Belgium, Luxembourg and NATO.

Ambassador Abdal Karim Ewaida, Palestine 2000/2001
Head of the Diplomatic Training Program at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Palestine

Ms. Ebru Ekeman, Turkey 2005/2006
Senior Advisor at NATO Defense College, Rome

Mr. El Mostafa Aitamor, Morocco 1996/97:
Senior Specialist at the Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia & Former Deputy Chief of Mission, Permanent Representation of Morocco to the UN in Geneva (2003-2008).

Ms. Helga Mizzi, Malta 1999/2000:
Director of International Relations and Mediterranean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta, Malta

Mr. Drissi Dawsar, Tunisia, 2004/2005:

Ms Faten Bahri, Tunisia, 2007/2008:
Head of the Tunisian Cultural, Education and Scientific Research Cooperation between Tunisia and the US, Embassy of Tunisia, Washington D.C., USA

Dr. Petru Dumitriu, Romania, 1991/92:
Permanent Observer of the Council of Europe to the Office of the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Mr. Ilir Gjoni, Albania, 1991/92: Vice Chairman of the National Security Parliamentary Committee and Socialist MP, Tirana, Albania

Mr. Petar Vico, Serbia, 1991/92: Minister Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Serbia in Washington D.C., USA

Mr. Lassad Boutara, Tunisia, 2001/2002: Deputy Director at the Euromed Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, and former Deputy Ambassador at the Tunisian Embassy in Malta.

Mr. Huseyin Dogan, Turkey 2006/2007: Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Cabinet of the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Jovan Kurbalija, Yugoslavia 1991/92: Director & Internet Governance Specialist, DiploFoundation, Geneva.

Mr. Mourad Youssry, Egypt 2005/2006: Deputy to the Secretary General, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Malta & Former Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Egypt in Malta.

Mr. Guo Taojie, China 2009/2010: Director of Political Section of China’s Embassy in Kampala, Uganda.


Mr. Anton Fric, Slovakia 2000/2001: Former First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovakia to the UN, Geneva

Ms. Lela Garsevanishvili, Georgia, 2004/2005: Head of the Division for EU-Georgia Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Georgia.

Mr. Ljubomir Misurovic, Montenegro 1998/1999 Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro.


Ms. Sihem el Hamdi, Tunisia 2008/2009 Second Secretary at the Embassy of Tunisia in Jakarta, Indonesia

Mr. Houssem Ghodhbane, Tunisia 2010/2011 Second Secretary at the Embassy of Tunisia in Moscow, Russia

Ms Heba al Tahan, Egypt 2009/2010: Second Secretary at the Embassy of Egypt in Nairobi, Kenya

Mr Bilal Nsour, Jordan 2011/2012: Second Secretary at the Embassy of Jordan in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Ms. Safaa Khaldi, Palestine 1996/1997: Diplomat at the Embassy of Palestine in Vienna, Austria
**Mr. Mourad Youssry**  
M.Dip. Alumni from Egypt  
Class 2005-2006  
Diplomat working at the Egyptian Mission in Argentina.

“When I first heard at the ministry that there is a scholarship for a Master in diplomacy in Malta I didn’t hesitate a second to apply for it. At that point I had just returned from my first overseas post to D.R. of Congo and I was supposed to spend some time at the ministry before taking my second assignment. In my mind, spending this time pursuing a Master degree was the best thing. Since after my first post I felt the need to have a relevant academic degree to go side by side with my increasing experience in my career.”

**Mr. Fabio Pirotta**  
M.A. Alumni from Malta  
Class 1997-1998  
Policy Officer, European Commission

“I walked through MEDAC’s doors not knowing what to expect – the year was 1997. I met all sorts of people – we had an interesting mix of nationalities and characters. Perhaps this was the greatest plus point the Academy had to offer – its multicultural environment. Back then, I felt rather “junior” compared to my peers – both in terms of age as well as experience. ... There is also the academic side of MEDAC, which is the main reason for which one enrolls to the Academy in the first place! I felt sufficiently challenged yet comfortable with the work we had to do. This was admittedly greatly facilitated by our mentors. I was and still am proud to have been part of the Academy’s alumni. It was with the same pride that years later I had crossed to the other side of the classroom in my attempt to share some acquired knowledge with MEDAC’s diploma students.”

**Ms. Sharon Zarb**  
M.A. Alumni from Malta  
Class 2001 - 2002  
First Secretary, Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU

“In terms of methodology, the students were always actively involved in study groups or undertaking presentations. The latter was good training not only to learn how to face an audience but also how to confidently answer questions on a subject that you have intensely researched. Another really important aspect in the course which I appreciate was the organisation of study visits abroad to United Nations institutions, such as the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.”

**Mr. Anton Fric**  
MEDAC Alumni from Slovakia 2000–2001

“When I came to Malta in 2000, Slovakia had just started to negotiate the EU accession chapters and integration into NATO was also underway.

It was simply fascinating to study at MEDAC, to learn from experienced diplomats, distinguished lecturers and international lawyers and economists and at the same time literally watch my country grow up in political, economic and social terms. To be honest, had I not studied at MEDAC, I think I would not have understood many of the processes which were happening inside and around my country.

After I graduated from MEDAC, I have seen my diplomatic career develop in an exciting way. If someone asked me whether MEDAC helped me to become a more experienced diplomat, or whether MEDAC has influenced the course of my destiny in diplomacy, I would say absolutely.”

**Ms. Nadine A. Swai**  
MEDAC Alumni from Palestine 2008–2009

“MEDAC is one Academy where students are guaranteed to receive all the backing and support they need. The course at MEDAC nurtured our ability as students to take more responsibility towards education where commitment was cultivated naturally, a process which led to attaining a prestigious degree. Thanks to my Masters Degree in Diplomatic Studies, I am now working with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, a diplomatic mission based in Malta.”

**Ms. Rama W. Halasch**  
MEDAC Alumni from Jordan 2008 – 2009

“Back in Jordan after more than two years since graduation, my experience at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies proves more valuable each day. Never has an education been as relevant and appreciated as the degree obtained at MEDAC. Apart from the spectacular Maltese sights, and the fun times spent with dear friends from all over the Mediterranean – the reality of living the MEDAC experience was far superior to its renowned reputation.

Today, living in the heart of the Middle East and amidst all the regional developments, I am grateful for having had the opportunity at MEDAC to acquire some of the key skills and the knowledgebase necessary for understanding, analyzing and taking role in historic changes as they unfold.”
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MEDAC Alumni
Almanac of years 1990 - 2015

MEDAC Alumni Association (MAA)
Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
University of Malta

Malta, January 2015
Alumni
Almanac of years 1990 - 2015
MEDAC, Alumni Association - MAA