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On December 16th 2015, the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), H.E. Fathallah Sijilmassi visited MEDAC on the occasion of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UfM and MEDAC. Ambassador Sijilmassi was greeted by Dr. Joe Borg, MEDAC Chairperson as well as by members of the MEDAC academic staff. While welcoming the Secretary General, Dr. Borg expressed his satisfaction at the flourishing relationship between the UfM and MEDAC and also argued that the relationship would further be strengthened as a result of the MOU. Ambassador Sijilmassi, who was accompanied by the Secretary General’s Special Envoy, Ambassador George Saliba, thanked Dr. Borg for the sterling work MEDAC has been doing within the Mediterranean region and stated that he considered MEDAC to be a key player in the region with which the UfM was delighted to collaborate.

The MOU signed between MEDAC and the UfM aims to enhance co-operation between the two institutions and particularly creates the opportunity for MEDAC graduates to pursue internships at the UfM Headquarters in Barcelona.
On January 4th 2016, MEDAC and the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as the basis for a long-term programme of activity for Euro-Mediterranean co-operation. The MOU builds on the existing partnership between the two Mediterranean institutions, focusing on reinforcing the central role of intercultural dialogue and cultural diplomacy through various initiatives. One of the initiatives envisaged in the MOU is the co-hosting of an annual joint activity in Malta on cultural diplomacy which builds on the ALF’s existing regional youth civil society network and MEDAC’s alumni network of young diplomats. MEDAC and ALF will also cooperate in research activities as well as in the organisation of the 3rd edition of the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Forum which will be held in Malta in October 2016.

The signing was preceded by a meeting between MEDAC Chairperson Dr. Joe Borg, MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleja and other MEDAC academics with the Executive Director of the ALF Ambassador Hatem Atallah and Mr. Paul Walton (ALF’s Head of the Executive Office). During this meeting both sides expressed their satisfaction at the longstanding co-operation between them and committed themselves to enhance and strengthen this co-operation in an effort to contribute to a more peaceful and stable Euro-Mediterranean region.

Following the signing of the MOU, Ambassador Atallah delivered a keynote lecture to MEDAC students highlighting the importance of cultural diplomacy and intercultural dialogue within the Euro-Mediterranean region. In his address Ambassador Atallah outlined the role of the ALF in enhancing intercultural dialogue and co-operation and emphasized the crucial role of youth in this process. The lecture was followed by a Question and Answer session with MEDAC students and academics.

Above: Standing: Dr. Derek Lutterbeck, Dr. Omar Grech, Dr. Joe Borg, Mr. Paul Walton and Ms. Lourdes Pullicino. Front row: Prof. Stephen Calleja and H.E. Amb. Hatem Atallah. Below: H.E. Amb. Hatem Atallah with MEDAC academic staff and students.
MOU signed with Kosovo

On November 30th 2015, MEDAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo with a view to establishing a cooperative framework between the two institutions. Prior to the signing of the MOU the Director of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, Ambassador Skender Durshimi held talks with MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleya. Ambassador Durshimi thanked the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for facilitating the establishing of relations with MEDAC and also expressed his satisfaction at the opportunity to cooperate with MEDAC. Professor Calleya welcomed the opportunity to cooperate with the Diplomatic Academy of Kosovo given MEDAC’s long-standing contribution to training young diplomats from the Balkan region.

MOU signed with Georgia

MEDAC and the Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Training Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on December 15th 2015. The MOU was signed by MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleya and the Director of the Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Training Centre Ambassador Maia Kipshidze. Prior to signing the MOU, both sides acknowledged their appreciation towards the many years of co-operation between MEDAC and the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which numerous Georgian diplomats graduated from MEDAC. The parties augured that the MOU would serve to further enhance co-operation between MEDAC and Georgia in the coming years and looked forward to explore new avenues through which such co-operation may flourish.
Visit to H.E. the President of Malta

On Friday October 23rd 2015, MEDAC students and academic staff were honoured with the unique opportunity to meet with H.E. the President of the Republic of Malta, Dr. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. H.E. the President of Malta highlighted the important role that MEDAC is playing when it comes to raising the profile of diplomacy in the Mediterranean and Malta’s awareness of the dynamism of MEDAC’s alumni. MEDAC Chairman, Dr. Joe Borg, and MEDAC Director, Prof. Stephen Calleya, thanked H.E. the President of Malta, Dr. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca for her continuous support towards MEDAC.

Below: MEDAC staff and students together with H.E. Dr. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta.

Ambassadorial Lecture Series:
H.E. Mr Robert Haydon Vernon Luke

On Tuesday October 6th 2015, H.E. Mr. Robert Haydon Vernon Luke the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Malta, addressed the students of MEDAC’s Masters programme as part of the Ambassadorial lecture series that MEDAC organizes annually.

High Commissioner Luke delivered a keynote lecture on The Commonwealth and the CHOGM: A UK Perspective.

This address provided the students with an opportunity to gain insight into the functioning of the Commonwealth as an international organization in global affairs, the important role of the Commonwealth Heads of State Summits held every two years, and to focus on the Commonwealth Summit, held in Malta in November 2015. The 2015/2016 Master degree students of MEDAC also had the chance to engage in a dynamic manner with the High Commissioner in the question and answer component of this seminar and were thus able to learn more directly about issues pertaining to the Commonwealth.

On November 2nd 2015, the Honourable Dr. George Vella, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, delivered a keynote address to the 2015/2016 MEDAC Masters degree students.

The keynote address focused on numerous foreign policy challenges Malta is facing in the Euro-Mediterranean region and beyond. This included a thorough analysis of regional and sub-regional security issues pertaining to the Mediterranean such as managing the increase of human trafficking, the proliferation of instability across the southern region of the Mediterranean and efforts to raise the profile of the Mediterranean in the EU decision making process.

Dr. George Vella also provided insight on the very high profile Summits Malta hosted in November 2015, namely the EU-Africa Summit and the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting.

The students of MEDAC were provided with the exclusive opportunity to address questions to the Hon. Minister and benefit from Dr. Vella’s insight on contemporary Euro-Mediterranean relations.
International Conference ‘Helsinki +40: The Mediterranean Chapter and the Future of Mediterranean Co-operation’

The Hon. Dr. George Vella, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, and OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier delivered the keynote addresses at the start of the academic international conference to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and its Mediterranean Chapter. Co-organizing this conference with MEDAC were the New Med Network, a network of academic experts on the OSCE and the Mediterranean. The conference was also co-sponsored by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with Germany holding the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2016. It was also supported by the Government of Switzerland, Italy’s Istituto Affari Internazionali and the Compagnia di San Paolo International Affairs Program and the OSCE. The conference focused on the theme Helsinki plus 40: The Mediterranean Chapter and the Future of Mediterranean Co-operation.

The conference was attended by more than a 100 participants, including policy-makers and diplomats, academic experts from OSCE countries and OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries, as well as the local diplomatic corps and representatives of other international organizations.

Secretary General of the OSCE, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier noted that “I cannot think of a more suitable place than Malta to hold a discussion about the long-standing engagement between the OSCE and the Mediterranean”. He emphasised that “from deploying counter-radicalization strategies to addressing the refugee crisis, Mediterranean-based issues cannot be relegated to a separate chapter of our work”.

Malta’s Foreign Minister Dr. George Vella shared an historic account of Malta’s role in the inclusion of the Mediterranean Chapter in the Helsinki Final Act and insisted that the threats and challenges we are faced with today point not only to the relevance but also the need, of having a deeper Mediterranean focus within the work of the OSCE. He advocated for the necessary tools to be adopted which would assist in addressing the current threats. “A Special Representative with a focus on the Mediterranean would bring much added value to our common work” he said.

In the Helsinki Final Act, signed in 1975, the then CSCE states declared that “security in Europe is to be considered in the broader context of world security and is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean area as a whole, and that accordingly the process of improving security should not be confined to Europe but should extend to other parts of the world, and in particular to the Mediterranean area”. This analysis, strongly supported by Malta at the time, was revolutionary. In view of the developments and fluid situation in the Mediterranean region today, these words appear more relevant than ever.

The conference was also addressed by the representatives of Switzerland, Serbia and Germany (the past, current and future OSCE Chairmanship) and Italy on behalf of the New Med Network. The panels focused on the historic dimension of the Mediterranean Chapter of the Helsinki Final Act, the Mediterranean Region in Transition, the Current State of the OSCE’s Mediterranean Dialogue and Prospects for Future Co-operation.

1. The Hon. Dr. George Vella, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, delivering the keynote opening address at the conference.
2. H.E. Amb. Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General, delivering his keynote address at the conference.
3. Family Photo of the Conference Participants.
4. The panel on “The Historical Dimension - The Mediterranean Chapter of the Helsinki Final Act”. From left to right: H.E. Amb. Assia Bensalah Aalaou, Dr. Omar Grech, Prof. Dominic Fenech and Dr. Emiliano Alessandri.
5. The panel on “The Mediterranean Region in Transition”. From left to right: Dr. Alex Sceberras Trigona, Ms. Natasha Shawarib, Dr. Hamid Boukhrif, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Dr. Ahmed Icliyyu and H.E. Amb. Fred Tanner.
7. The panel on “Current State of the OSCE’s Mediterranean Dialogue and Prospects for Future Co-operation”. From left to right: Dr. Loic Simonet, Dr. Anat Kurz, Dr. Derek Lutterbeck and Dr. Ian O. Lesser.
8. Concluding Panel of the Conference. From left to right: H.E. Amb. Mohamed Lessir, Mr. Moritz Ehrmann, Dr. Joe Borg, Prof. Stephen Calleja, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Dr. Massimo Carnelos and Mr. Nicolo Russo-Perez.
The Mediterranean Chapter and Co-operation’ hosted by MEDAC

International Conference ‘Helsinki +40: The Mediterranean Chapter and the Future of Mediterranean Co-operation’

November 10th 2015
### CALENDAR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>25th September 2015</td>
<td>MEDAC Opening Address for the Conflict Resolution &amp; Mediterranean Security Students.</td>
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<td>25th September 2015</td>
<td>Honorary Consular Award awarded to Ms. Francesca Cassar, a graduate of the Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies for achieving the highest grade in her dissertation, “The Implications of EU Membership on Malta’s European and Mediterranean Policy: 2004-2014”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th September 2015</td>
<td>MEDAC Opening Address for the Master of Diplomacy and Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies students.</td>
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<td>30th September 2015</td>
<td>Visit by the French Deputy Head of Mission, Mrs Vanessa Claude Salas Pouget.</td>
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<td>15th October 2015</td>
<td>Visit by the German Ambassador to Malta, H.E. Ms. Gudrun Maria Sräga.</td>
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<td>16th October, 4th &amp; 11th December 2015</td>
<td>Lecture on “EU Presidency” by Mr. John Inguanez.</td>
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<td>19th - 21st October 2015</td>
<td>Lectures about “Euro-Arab Relations” with Prof. Bichara Khader, Director of the Arab Study and Research Centre (C.E.R.M.A.C.), DVLP and Professor of Politics, Economics &amp; Social Sciences, at Louvain University(UCL), Belgium.</td>
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<td>23rd October 2015</td>
<td>MEDAC students and academic staff hosted by the President of Malta, H.E. Dr. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, at San Anton Palace.</td>
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<td>27th October &amp; 3rd November 2015</td>
<td>Lectures held on “Promoting Investment, Trade &amp; Tourism” by Amb. Leslie Agius.</td>
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<td>2nd November 2015</td>
<td>Keynote address by the Hon. Dr. George Vella, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malta.</td>
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<td>9th November 2015</td>
<td>MEDAC student discussion with H.E. Amb. Lamberto Zannier, the Secretary General of the OSCE.</td>
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<td>10th November 2015</td>
<td>The conference “Helsinki +40: The Mediterranean Chapter and the Future of Mediterranean Co-operation” was held at the Westin Dragonara.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th November 2015</td>
<td>H.E. Amb. Fred Tanner, former MEDAC Director, visits the Academy.</td>
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16th, 17th & 19th November 2015
Diplomacy Module with Mr Thomas McGrath, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels.

16th, 23rd & 30th November 2015
Diplomacy module with Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici.

17th November 2015
Delegation from South Sudan visits MEDAC.

18th November 2015
Economic Diplomacy student visit to Playmobil, Malta.

25th November, 3rd December 2015
Lectures with Prof. Susan Hirsch, Professor in the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (S-CAR) at George Mason University, on the theme of Theories of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

30th November 2015
Kosovo delegation visits MEDAC, to sign MOU with a view to establishing a cooperative framework between MEDAC and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo.

30th November 2015
International Cultural Night.

1st December 2015
Graduation Ceremony for Class 2014/2015.

7th December 2015
MEDAC students participated in an international student debate, together with participants from the Universities of Catania and Tripoli. The topic of the debate was on the issue of migration.

9th December 2015
Prof. Mahmoud Mohamedou, Deputy Director and Academic Dean at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Adjunct Professor in the International History and Development departments at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, delivers a lecture on “Changing Political & Security landscape in the Middle East and North Africa”.

9th-11th December 2015
Lectures with Dr. Andreas Marchetti, Senior Fellow at the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI) at the University of Bonn; on the theme “European Neighbourhood Policy”.

10th December 2015
Lecture by Dr. Colin Scicluna, member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Hahn, held on the theme "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy at a time of intensifying challenges across the Southern neighbourhood”.

11th December 2015
Mr. Pedro Sosa Torres, Spanish Deputy Head of Mission visits the Academy.

15th December 2015
Visit by Georgia Delegation and signing of MOU to further enhance co-operation between MEDAC and the Levan Nikoladze Diplomatic Training Centre.

16th December 2015
Visit by Secretary General Mr. Fathallah Sijilmassi, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in Barcelona.

4th-6th January 2016
Module on regionalism entitled “Region-Building: The Global Proliferation of Regional Integration”, delivered by Prof. Dr. Ludger Kühnhardt, Director of the Center for European Integration Studies(ZEI), University of Bonn.

4th January 2016
Module on regionalism entitled “Region-Building: The Global Proliferation of Regional Integration”, delivered by Prof. Dr. Ludger Kühnhardt, Director of the Center for European Integration Studies(ZEI), University of Bonn.

5th February 2016
Visit to the European Asylum Support Office, Malta.
Honorary Consular Award 2015

On September 25th 2015, the Honorary Consular Corps awarded a prize to MEDAC’s Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies student, Ms Francesca Cassar for achieving the highest grade in the dissertation component of the MEDAC M.A. programme. This year’s prize was awarded by the Dean of the Honorary Consular Corps, Mr. Godwin Bencini, in the presence of Acting President of Malta, Dr. Dolores Cristina and the Hon. Dr. George Vella, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta.

Below Left: Ms Francesca Cassar, being awarded the prize by Dr. Dolores Cristina, Acting President of Malta.

Below Right: Ms Francesca Cassar, Prof. Stephen Calleya, Mr. Godwin Bencini, Dr. Dolores Cristina and the Hon. Dr. George Vella.

International Cuisine Night

The MEDAC Alumni Association together with the class of 2015/16 organised the MEDAC Annual International Cultural night on November 30th 2015. The event, which has become one of the highlights of the MEDAC alumni calendar, was very well attended. Alumni from various years from all of the MEDAC graduate and diploma programmes together with MEDAC staff and Board members including MEDAC Chairperson Dr Joe Borg attended the event. At the beginning of the event, Ms Sue Garcia, President of the MEDAC Alumni Association welcomed all the attendees and highlighted the role of the MEDAC Alumni Association in maintaining the MEDAC family’s links. The MEDAC class of 2015/16 provided a wide array of dishes from their respective countries which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

Right: Ms. Sue Garcia, President of the Alumni Association giving the welcoming speech.

Below far left and right: MEDAC students together with Dr. Borg, Chairman of MEDAC; and MEDAC students and alumni with Prof. Calleya.
Lauren Corboy
MEDAC Alumnus from USA 2014 - 2015

My experience with the joint MA degree course offered in partnership by MEDAC and George Mason University was both stimulating and challenging. Lecturers from different backgrounds and academic styles offered new perspectives on various course concepts and challenged us to think outside the box, which is so important in the field of conflict resolution. The fact that each class lasts for only two weeks means that we had a new subject, new lecturer and new teaching style to adapt to quickly which kept us on our toes.

Imed Methnani
MEDAC Alumnus from Tunisia 2014 - 2015

My love story with MEDAC goes back to March 2012 when I joined the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I had first heard of this academic programme during our training in the Tunisian Diplomatic Institute. Every year the Tunisian Diplomatic Institute usually nominates the best graduates to enroll at the Maltese prestigious Academy. My dream of joining the MEDAC team came true in 2015. The special care and hospitality of the MEDAC staff changed totally the conception I had before starting the classes; the content of the courses was intensive and helped to stimulate my enthusiasm. All of the MEDAC staff including the lecturers, were helpful and friendly, so much so that we always found support every time we came across a difficulty.

Prof. Stephen Calleya was a different story. He is modest and rather a close friend to each student, not a conventional Director I might say. Personally I owe him a lot as he helped me to get over the hardships I encountered with regards to presentations which were a nightmare for me during the first couple of weeks. He provided me with the necessary support to keep up with everyone else.

Last but not least, I would say MEDAC is just like a family for me that I will never forget. Unfortunately I could not attend the graduation ceremony last December, since I had professional commitments abroad, but I am waiting for the right time to go back to Malta and meet all MEDAC family members whom I owe a lot to and would love to be in touch with forever.

Layachi Aidouni
MEDAC Alumnus from Algeria 2014 - 2015

MEDAC provides the opportunity to meet excellent professors and build a network of contacts while studying in the heart of the Mediterranean. I have great memories of the classes and of the atmosphere amongst the students. “A great mix of people”, “very diverse and interesting”. My experience at MEDAC was very beneficial to me. Indeed, the knowledge I gained there was a successful combination of theory and practice, communicated by professors who are experts in their field and who prepared me perfectly well for the diplomatic world. Some of my best memories are of the International Conferences, held in and away from Malta, where the themes focused on International Diplomacy. The extracurricular activities were amazing such as the International Cuisine Night, as well as other cultural events. Life at MEDAC is not only an education, but also fun.

I am proud to be a MEDAC graduate; I would recommend it to any student looking for a good professional and academic curriculum.
On November 9th 2015, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the world’s largest regional organization, addressed MEDAC’s Masters students during a discussion session focused on the OSCE’s achievements and challenges, as well as the Mediterranean dimension of its work. The Secretary General was welcomed by the Director of the Academy, Prof. Stephen Calleya and the holder of the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld. In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Zannier elaborated on the inclusive nature of the organization and its comprehensive approach to security, while acknowledging the challenges to its work resulting from tensions among its participating States and the Ukraine conflict. MEDAC students engaged in a lively question and answer session on a variety of subjects, ranging from the OSCE’s work on countering extremism to its engagement with Partner countries.


MEDAC RECRUITMENT 2016-2017

MASTER OF ARTS IN DIPLOMATIC STUDIES
Full-time - 3 Semesters
www.um.edu.mt/medac/overview/PMADST8-2016-7-0

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

DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMATIC STUDIES
2 Semesters - 4 Semesters
www.um.edu.mt/medac/overview/UDDSPTE-2016-7-0

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

*Dual Programme with George Mason University

MASTER OF ARTS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY
Full-time - 3 Semesters
www.um.edu.mt/icp/MSc-Conflict-Analysis-Resolution

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