MEDAC’s 25th Anniversary

International Conference in Commemoration of MEDAC’s 25th Anniversary

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

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

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

Dr. Joe Borg, former EU Commissioner and current MEDAC Chairman and Professor Stephen Calleja, MEDAC Director welcomed the delegates. Three panels discussed the following themes: ‘The Mediterranean in Transition’, ‘Euro-Mediterranean Relations’ and ‘Regional Dynamics in the Emerging Mediterranean’ respectively. The speakers on the first panel included Professor Bichara Khader, Director of the Centre for Arab Studies at the University of Louvain in Belgium, Professor Lüdger Kühnhardt, Director of the Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI) at the University of Bonn, Germany and Ms. Natasha Shawarib, Executive Board member of SIGI in Amman, Jordan.

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

(continues on page 2)

Below: Foreign Minister The Hon. Dr. George Vella (left) and Prof. Stephen Calleja (right).
On 11th November 2014, H.E. Amb. Giovanni Umberto De Vito, Italian Ambassador to Malta delivered an address to MEDAC students on Italy’s Presidency of the European Union.

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

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

He reiterated that Italy wants to encourage and enhance the E.U.’s role in its Southern neighbourhood, especially in light of the Arab Spring revolutions and the political upheavals which have followed since 2011. The Italian EU Presidency in 2014 has continued to emphasize the priority attached to security in the Mediterranean with a particular focus on the necessity to support countries in transition across the southern Mediterranean, including Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Amb. Vito also provided an overview of the challenge of managing migration in the central Mediterranean and the ever growing importance of energy security.
From 29th to 31st October 2014, MEDAC co-hosted a workshop of the Emerging Security Challenges Working Group of the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies. This workshop focused on Preparing Institutions for Hybrid Conflicts and Challenges. Dr. Omar Grech and Dr. Monika Wohlfeld presented MEDAC and its work to the participants of this event.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recent MEDAC Publications

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

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

The Mediterranean in Transition

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

Prof. Bichara Khader

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

Prof. Ludger Kühnhardt

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

Ms. Natasha Shawarib

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

Euro-Mediterranean Relations: Which Way Forward?

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

Prof. Robert Bowker

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

Mr. Maen Khreasat

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

Dr. Michael Koehler

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

Regional Dynamics in the Emerging Mediterranean

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

Dr. Noha Bakr

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

Dr. Alberto Bin

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

10th October 2014
Cultural visit to the Three Cities.

14th October 2014
MEDAC Debate with students held on the theme Intervention in Syria?

28th October 2014
Lecture by Prof. Dr. Mustafa O. Attir, Professor of Sociology at the University of Tripoli, held on the theme The Intervention in Libya.

11th November 2014
Ambassadorial Lecture by the Ambassador of Italy to Malta, H.E. Giovanni Umberto De Vito.

14th November 2014
Visit by delegation from Estonia.

28th November 2014
Lectures with Prof. Bichara Khader, General Director External Relations at the European Commission.

17th November 2014
Commencement of Diplomacy module with the Hon. Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici.

24th November 2014
Diplomacy lecture given by Mr. Costas Apostolides on Cyprus negotiations.

26th November 2014
Visit to Lufthansa Technik Malta, as part of the International Economics module.

3rd December 2014
International Conference commemorating MEDAC’s 25th Anniversary, held on the theme, The Mediterranean in Transition.

10th December 2014

5th to 7th January 2015
Module on regionalism entitled Region-Building: The Global Proliferation of Regional Integration, taught by Prof. Dr. Ludger Kuhnhardt, Director of the Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI), University of Bonn.

9th January 2015
Visit to the European Asylum Support Office.

11th February 2015
MEDAC Post-graduate Seminar: Charlie Hebdo: Are there limits to freedom of speech?

17th February 2015
Address by Brig. Carmel Vassallo.

3rd February 2015
Commencement of Diplomacy module with former Speaker of the House of Representatives and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Michael Frendo.

23rd - 27th February 2015
Module on Water Diplomacy with Amb. Magdy Hefny.

11th February 2015
MEDAC students participate in a simulation of a Protocol Lunch under the direction of Mr. Olaph Terribile.

10 - 12th November
Lectures with Prof. Dr. Annette Juenemann, Professor for Political Science and International Relations, Helmut-Schmidt-University, University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg, on the theme: The EU as an External Democracy Promoter in the MENA Region: Problems of Legitimacy and Efficiency.

17th November 2014
Commencement of Diplomacy module with H.E. Amb. Alfred Zarb.

2nd - 4th December 2014
Lectures with Prof. Bichara Khader, Director of the Arab Study and Research Centre (C.E.R.M.A.C), DVLP and Professor at the Faculty of Politics, Economics & Social Sciences, Louvain University (UCL), Belgium, as part of the module on Euro-Arab Relations.

17th November 2014
H.E. Amb. Mr. Saviour Borg. on International Organisations with Commencement of Diplomacy module 31st October 2014
Ambassador’s residence.

28th October 2014
Gina K. Abercrombie-Winstanley, at the States of America to Malta, H.E. Ms. hosted by the Ambassador of the United

28th October 2014
28th November 2014
9th January 2015

31st October 2014
Commencement of Diplomacy module on International Organisations with H.E. Amb. Mr. Saviour Borg.

9th January 2015

3rd December 2014

10th December 2014

17th November 2014

28th November 2014

17th November 2014

17th November 2014

28th November 2014

28th November 2014

14th November 2014

11th November 2014

14th November 2014

10th December 2014

24th November 2014

26th November 2014

3rd February 2015

23rd - 27th February 2015

10th December 2014

26th November 2014

9th January 2015

30th January 2015

5th to 7th January 2015

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Master Of Arts in Diplomatic Studies Academic Year 2013 - 2014
Ms. Caroline Mifsud
Mr. Marco Loemker
Ms. Hazel Mhairi Rafferty
Mr. Mark Vincent Abelda
Mr. Antoine Agius Bonnici
Ms. Antonella Bajada
Ms. Maria Carmen Farrugia
Ms. Caroline Muscat
Mr. Mauro Sammut
Mr. Ronald Anthony Sultana
Mr. Christian Tanti
Mr. Simon Dalli
Mr. Edgar Robert Szewczyk
Ms. Barbara Golanova

Master Of Diplomacy Academic Year 2013 - 2014
Mr. Ayyub Hajijev
Mr. Weiwei Jiang
Mr. Ahmad Hamdy Alshourbagy
Mr. Mohamed Mohnsen Amin
Ms. Yasmine Akef
Mr. Usman Sowe
Ms. Tamar Chokoraia
Mr. Mohammed Abujaber
Ms. Hiba Koraz
Ms. Lams Suliman
Mr. Magda Hangi
Mr. Mohamed Mehrez Otman
Mr. Ahmed Chamseddine Bouhedir
Mr. Human Dalikran
Ms. Georgina Nakawonde

MA Conflict Resolution & Mediterranean Security 2013 - 2014
Mr. Michael Calleja
Mr. Andrew Camilleri
Ms. Lynette Camilleri
Ms. Alexandra Cole
Ms. India Fitzgerald
Ms. Lynne Aimee Hvizdos
Ms. Andrea Mancuso
Mr. Clifford Patton
Ms. Meagan Sherman
Mr. Kristal Thomas
Ms. Hanahat Thomas
Mr. Christian Vestergard

MEDAC Graduands
Academy.
as to reflect upon their memorable experiences at the to meet once again to celebrate their success as well
academic year and the graduates have the opportunity
on December 1st, 2014. This is the culmination of the
T
Graduation Ceremony
ALUMNI NEWS
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International
Cultural Night 2014
19th November 2014
MEDAC's International Cultural Night was held on 19th November 2014 in collaboration with the MEDAC Alumni Association. This celebration provides MEDAC students with the opportunity to learn more about the traditions of their fellow students including their culinary skills. A record number of MEDAC alumni joined the students in this much anticipated annual event.

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

Graduation Ceremony of 2013 - 2014 Class

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

Find us on facebook
MEDAC PAGE CAN BE ACCESSED ON: www.facebook.com/uom.medac?fref=ts
MEDAC FACEBOOK GROUP CAN BE ACCESSED ON: www.facebook.com/groups/19374582384

Ahmad Hamdy Alshourbagy
MEDAC Alumnus from Egypt 2013 - 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ekaterine Megrelishvili
MEDAC Alumnus from Georgia 2012 - 2013

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

Not only has my master’s degree expanded my horizons, but it has strengthened my critical thinking and analytical skills. I also had the pleasure of studying with intelligent people in a challenging and inspiring academic environment.

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

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

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

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

Updates on MEDAC’s 25th Anniversary:
www.um.edu.mt/medac/medacalumniassociation

International Cultural Night 2014

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

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