

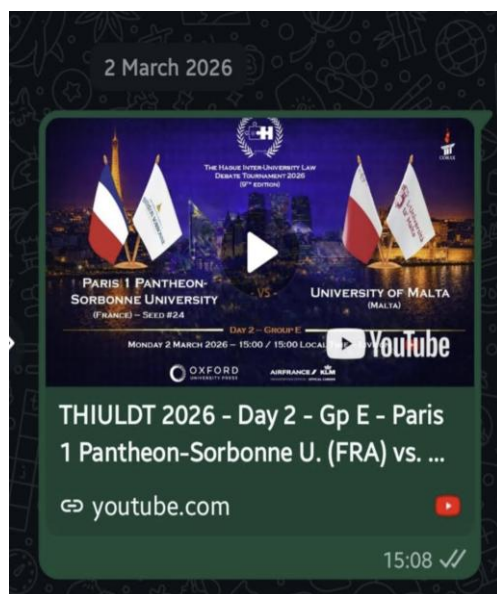
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Faculty of Laws Newsletter

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Taking pride in our students' achievements

This year, for the first time, the Faculty of Laws is taking part in The Hague Inter University Debate Tournament. Ms Cara Borg Aquilina (LLB3) and Mr Michael Gatt (LLB4) are being coached by Prof. Omar Grech and Dr Antoine Grima, with extra help from other academics depending on the topic which they have to research. The first debate titled *Competition Law must be applied in manner that reflects transnational market structures* was held on 20th February, against the University of Vienna. Dr Joseph Bugeja's knowledge on international trade proved instrumental, and our students won the debate receiving 30 points more than the other team. The second debate titled *The Right to Life obliges States to prevent foreseeable long term environmental harm that threatens the survival of future generations* took place on the 2nd of March, against the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne.



Dr Therese Comodini Cachia helped coach Michael and Cara for the second debate, and at time of writing, as we wait for all of the three judges' reports, from the first report it seems that the UM Team scored a second victory. Next debate (set for end of March) will be against the United Arab Emirates. The topic is announced seven days' prior to the debate, and students have to prepare both the 'for' and the 'against' position; they are informed which position they will actually take during the debate, a mere five minutes before the start. These debates may be watched on Youtube.

Dean's participation at Medea University inauguration of academic year

The Dean of the Faculty of Laws was invited to attend the inauguration of academic year 2025-2026 of Medea University, and to even participate in a round table organised as part of this occasion, together with a number of other very distinguished guests who included President Emeritus Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Minister Dr Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, and IMLI Director Prof. Norman Martinez. Medea is a licenced online university which offers training to students in Africa, and has established a branch here in Malta.

As was to be expected a lot of the discussion surrounded Artificial Intelligence and the threats and opportunities it offers, and the importance of embracing it. Emphasis was also made on the fact that Africa is the only continent which is not ageing, and on the importance of training African people without poaching them to richer nations thus helping the Continent to stand on its two feet and to develop as it so rightly deserves.

Internal discussions on the revamped LLB Hons, M.Adv and M.Not study programmes

Having circulated a document on the proposed reforms and reasoning behind it, the Dean and Deputy Dean Prof Ivan Sammut organised a session with academics to discuss said document. This was held in the morning, and a repeat session was held some days later in the afternoon (for those people who could not attend on the first occasion or who found the afternoon more convenient). Most of the discussion regarded the first year of this new study programme which is envisaged, and unanimous opinion was that, given that the proposal concerns a study programme divided into three parts, it would be better to discuss and establish the details of the first part, before moving to the second and third. This was taken up and further documentation concerning Year One of this envisaged new study programme followed within a few weeks. This is to be discussed, with two meetings set, the first on the 16th of March at 0900 (Rm 317), the second repeat session on 20th March at 1400 (Moot Court).

SEA-EU International Week

The University of Malta's Valletta Campus recently served as a hub for international academic exchange during the SEA-EU International Week 2026,

held from 17-19 February. Among the week's presentations was that led by Dr. Therese Comodini Cachia, who addressed fellow lecturers on the critical themes of equity and inclusion in higher education.

In her presentation, titled *"Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Education,"* Dr. Comodini Cachia explored the legal obligations universities hold in securing the right to education. She emphasized that access must be granted in an "effective and practical manner," moving beyond theoretical commitments to tangible student support.



Dr. Comodini Cachia presented several real-world scenarios requiring lecturers to rethink and adapt their teaching methodologies and programme design. By highlighting the specific criteria and procedural steps necessary for these adaptations, she provided insight into fostering an inclusive academic environment that meets international standards.

New publication by Dr Kurt Xerri

Dr Kurt Xerri has just published a very important and topical book titled *The Constitution of Malta and Rent Control*. This book traces how Malta moved gradually and under sustained international pressure from reluctance and delay towards closer compliance with the European Court of Human Rights' standards.



It examines why the Constitutional Court proceeded cautiously, how this approach nonetheless prolonged injustice and what this experience reveals about the inherent challenges of constitutional interpretation in Malta. Far more than a narrow study of rent control, this work offers a window into the limits of constitutional justice when courts seek to balance legal principle with political and social realities. Finally, it asks whether Malta's constitutional framework as it stands is fit for purpose and whether a stronger culture of rights protection is required. Copies of this book may be purchased online from [here](#).

Law Students' Initiative

Our students are organizing a football match, in aid of charity. Whoever wishes to attend, or to make a small donation to the cause, is welcome. Details below:

 **LAW FOR GOOD**
charity by law students

MATCH DAY

LAW STUDENTS IN AID OF ID-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA

Event Details

 28 MARCH 2026

 5PM

 MQABBA FOOTBALL GROUND

Donation Details

Revolut: 79030640

Every donation is appreciated,
thank you for your support!



Have you got any news to share? If you have any item of relevance to this newsletter, feel free to inform us about it. You may contact any member of the editorial board, these being Prof. Tonio Borg, Prof. Ivan Sammut, Ms Rowena Leontijevic and Prof. Ivan Mifsud. The Board reserves the right to refuse to publish an item submitted to it for its consideration.