



EUROMESCO ANNUAL CONFERENCE – BRUSSELS 2016

Inside this issue:

- ◇ Euromesco Annual Conference
- ◇ Academic Year 2015/2016
- ◇ Placements
- ◇ Erasmus + Traineeship with the University of Salerno, Italy
- ◇ Gozo Seminar
- ◇ Graduation and Best Dissertation Prize 2015
- ◇ A Decade of EU Membership Occasional Papers
- ◇ Fieldwork at the Gaia Foundation
- ◇ Guest Speaker on EU Cohesion Policy
- ◇ Experience at the European Parliament
- ◇ The Climate Challenge Conference
- ◇ Dr Liam Weeks' visit at the Institute
- ◇ The future of EMU
- ◇ Activities by the Academic Members of the Institute
- ◇ The EU Global Strategy
- ◇ Climate News— Winter 20
- ◇ News from our Alumni
- ◇ TEPISA

The 2016 EuroMeSCo General Assembly and Annual Conference took place at the Egmont Palace in Brussels on 13-15 April 2016. The event, co-organised with EGMONT - Belgium's Royal Institute for International Relations, gathered 150 recognised experts and policy-makers to debate the current security situation in the region and reflect on ingredients, formats, stakeholders and actions for a greater and more effective cooperation to address security challenges. The aim of the Conference was to contribute to the debate in the final stretch before the release of the EU Global Strategy. Prof Pace attended the conference on behalf of the Institute for European Studies. He participated in all the plenary meetings and debates, as well as the panels. He also chaired the panel on migration and asylum and presented the findings of the project led by Musa Shteivi, Director of the Center for Strategic Studies University of Jordan.



Academic Year 2015/2016

A new academic year brings new students to the Institute for European Studies, as well as a stimulating programme of studies, and many interesting events.



The 2015/2016 academic year saw 65 new students for the Bachelor of European Studies/ (Hons) degree. They joined the other 85 students who are in their second and third years of study. European Studies is also offered to a number of students as a subsidiary area.

At post-graduate level, there are 3 students pursuing the Master of Arts Preparatory Programme and there are 8 full-time and 9 part-time students pursuing the degree of Master of Arts in European Politics, Economics and Law and 1 student pursuing the degree of Master of Arts in European Integration Studies (by research) which was launched in October

2015. The Institute for European Studies also offers a PhD programme, which was launched in 2011. Currently 6 students are enrolled in the Institute's PhD programme.

A summary of the number of students following a degree at the Institute for European Studies can be found in the table below.



Introductory meetings with first year Bachelor's students, and new MA students

On 2 October 2015, members of the academic staff of the Institute met with the new intake of first year Bachelor of European Studies students. They introduced the students to the Institute and its

lecturing staff, and gave them a background on what the programme of studies would require from them throughout the course.

On 24 September Dr Mark Harwood, MA co-ordinator, met with new MA in European Politics, Economics and Law students. He outlined what was expected of the students, emphasising in particular attendance and the reading of seminar materials. The structure of the course was also explained. Dr Harwood spoke about the Long Essay available to students as part of the course programme.



Student numbers at the Institute for European Studies							
	B.EU (Gen.)	B. EU (Hons.)	M.A. Prep	MA in European Politics, Economics and Law	MA in European Integration Studies	PhD	Total taking European Studies as main area
Year 1	0	65	3	8 (F/T), 4 (P/T)	1	1	179
Year 2	1	47	/	5 (P/T)	/	1	
Year 3	1	38	/	/	/	2	
Year 4	/	/	/	/	/	2	
Total	2	150	3	17	1	6*	

* 2 students are currently on a one year suspension of studies.

Placements during academic year 2015/2016

The Institute for European Studies has been offering for the fifth consecutive year a study unit called 'Placements in European Studies'. There are 22 students who are currently undertaking their practical placements with public and private entities all over Malta and Gozo. The tasks assigned to each student vary according to the different core business of the entities offering the placements. Among these, there are students who have been employed to conduct surveys to gauge trust in European institutions, or to help design a communication strategy for European instruments and funds, or conducting research on EU development policy. The European Parliament Office in Malta, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Finance, the Malta Business Bureau, MEUSAC, GRTU, Ernst and Young, and the NGO KOPIN, are some of the entities that have signed agreements with our Institute and who are partners for the placements. Our students are gaining practical experience on European studies related working activities, paving the way for future employment opportunities.



Erasmus + Traineeship with the University of Salerno, Italy

For more than three months Fabiola Spinello and Martina Di Donna have attended a traineeship programme, funded by the EU programme Erasmus +, following a partnership between the Institute for European studies and the University of Salerno. Fabiola and Martina have worked on a project entitled 'Well-Being in Developing Countries', which also looked at the contribution of EU funded projects on the well-being of receiving communities. This project, and the traineeship supervision, was carried out by Dr. Stefano Moncada (Institute for European Studies) and Dr. Marie Briguglio (Department of Economics) who are working on a joint paper.



From left: Dr. Marie Briguglio; Ms. Martina Di Donna; Ms. Fabiola Spinello; Dr. Stefano Moncada

Gozo Seminar

The dissertation seminar of final year Bachelor of European Studies students was held at Manresa House in Gozo on 24 and 25 February 2016. This seminar has been organised by the Institute for European Studies annually since 2010 and has become an integral part in the calendar of the Institute's final year undergraduate degree programme. It provides an opportunity for students to present their work on the dissertation and to obtain feedback from the Institute's academic staff as well as their fellow students.

The seminar was organised around six parallel sessions, with students being allocated to different groups according to the research topic which was being discussed. The students presented their dissertation areas, namely their research question/s, literature review and theoretical and methodological approaches which they are using. They also discussed preliminary findings and specific problems which they had encountered in their research. The students'

presentations were followed by a discussion among students and the academic staff, who had the opportunity to provide feedback and make suggestions. During the seminar, a presentation of the Institute's post-graduate course was also delivered by Prof. Pace.

Similar to previous years, the students' appraisal of the seminar was generally very positive. They appreciated the academic benefits of this seminar, in terms of feedback on their research. Furthermore, they also enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time together with their colleagues and to get to know each other better. In view of the increasing trend for European Studies students, the organisation of this seminar has become more challenging. However, considering the positive feedback received from students, the Institute will continue to work to ensure that, as in the past years, students benefit from this academic and social experience.



Graduation and Best Dissertation Prize 2015

The Institute is proud to announce that a total of 42 students graduated in November and December 2015.

On 1 December, the graduation ceremony for post-graduate students was held at the Jesuit's Church in Valletta. A total of 13 students graduated in Master of Arts in European Politics, Economics and Law.

On 19 November, the ceremony for under-graduates was held at Sir Temi Zammit Hall at the University. A total of 29 students graduated Bachelor in European Studies (Honours).

Moreover, Andrew Rizzo Naudi and Miglè Džiugytė were awarded the Best Dissertation Prize by the Institute for European Studies for the academic year 2014-2015, in recognition of their outstanding dissertation result. A prize-giving ceremony was held on 19 November ahead of the

Bachelor in European Studies graduation ceremony, in the presence of graduating students and their guests and members of staff of the Institute. The prizes were presented by Dr Susanna Thede on behalf of the Institute. Mr Rizzo Naudi and Ms Džiugytė were each given a commemorative glass token, together with a book voucher as a prize.

The Institute wishes its graduates all the best in their future endeavours and personal development.

We also look forward to keeping in touch with our alumni and learning of their successes.



Mr Rizzo Naudi being presented the prize by Dr Susanna Thede



Ms Džiugytė being presented the prize by Dr Susanna Thede

A Decade of EU Membership Occasional Papers

Following Malta's first ten years as an EU member state, the Institute for European Studies has invited Maltese scholars, specialists and professionals to contribute their analysis of the various sectors in which they work and how these have been affected by EU membership. The aim is to lay out a mosaic of papers which will provide readers and followers of the Institute with a dispassionate assessment of the main

papers in the series have been published to date and more papers are being prepared for publication.

'A Decade of EU Membership: Price Control Law in Malta Revisited'

The fourth paper published in August 2015 is entitled 'A Decade of EU Membership: Price Control Law in Malta Revisited' written by David Fabri. The author examines the significance and place of price control regulation in Maltese law more than a decade into EU membership.

All Occasional Papers in this series are published on the following link:
<http://www.um.edu.mt/europeanstudies/projects/decadeeu-membership/occasionalpapers>

Submission of Papers

The deadline for the submission of contributions has been extended into 2016. Papers are to be submitted to Prof. Roderick Pace (roderick.pace@um.edu.mt). They are not to exceed 6,000 words including footnotes and excluding the bibliography.



impacts of EU membership. Eight

Fieldwork at the Gaia Foundation

Dr. Stefano Moncada organised a fieldwork as part of the study unit EST3201 'Sustainable Development and the EU' at the Gaia Foundation. Students had the chance to understand how sustainable development works in practice by participating in activities organised by the Gaia Foundation in the area of nature protection, plants and seeds propagation, management of coastal areas, restoration of natural heritage, and organic agriculture, as well as policies under the EU education and training programs.



Students attending the field visit before entering the Ghajn Tuffieha Tower



Guest speaker on EU Cohesion Policy

On Wednesday 27 April, Dr Elena Grech, Head of the European Commission Representation in Valletta, and former Head of Unit at DG Regio, addressed the Institute's second year students on practical aspects of the implementation of EU cohesion policy from the perspective of the Commission.

Dr Grech gave practical examples of the obstacles encountered during implementation with both Member States and pre-accession candidate countries alike. She equally highlighted the recent emphasis that the Commission is making on ex-ante conditionalities and how these may be used to suspend payments towards Mem-

ber States that did not fulfill them, giving some recent examples.

Students had the opportunity to discuss specific regional issues, such as the case of Gozo's particular challenges and on whether EU funds could be "re-used" for modernisation of a previously-funded project.

On this last Dr Grech explained that while EU funds cannot be applied to the maintenance of a funded project, certain projects that had been earlier co-funded by the EU have managed to receive additional funding years later if an environmental upgrade, for instance, was required.

Dr Grech concluded by inviting the

students to visit the Representation and explore its resources during the course of their studies.



Dr Elena Grech, Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta

Experience at the European Parliament

In November 2015, Alexander Hili, first year student following a BA in European Studies with Communications degree was lucky enough to be chosen to attend a two day internship at the European Parliament which has allowed him to witness a fraction of what happens inside this important EU institution. His brief exposure showed him an exceptionally hectic life which from the outside might look like sheer panic.

This may not be the normal course of action as the timing of the intership was a few days after the Paris terrorist attacks. However, Alexander noted that eventhough such as a catastrophe had just happened, the parliament was functioning and working at full capacity.

Alexander was allowed to attend a number of committee meetings, group meetings and he also had a chance to work with MEP Dr Comodini Cachia.

An unforgettable experience was the one minute silence in Parliament due to the terror attack on Paris, subsequently he wit-

nessed one of the most powerful speeches he was ever present to. The feeling, inside the room, with all the countries of the European Union being represented, the people sitting in the gallery, were incredible, a moment which will stay with him for a long time and remind him what Europe does actually stand for: Unity in diversity. Three words which can sum up all of the brief experience at this internship.



The Climate Challenge Conference

The climate change conference held on 26 November 2015 was hosted by the Commonwealth Environmental Investment Platform. The discussion involved local and foreign entrepreneurs of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and of larger scale international companies, together with numerous academics and scientists from different Universities. Steve Vella, a third year European Studies student participated in this conference.

The debate was held in reflection of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP), organised in December 2015 in Paris, within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose objective is to find a general binding agreement among countries to reduce GreenHouseGas (GHG) emissions. A sense of anticipation for COP21 could be felt by the participants at the conference, especially with the positive initiative represented by the request to present intended Nationally Determined Contributions (iNDC). These plans include countries' proposed emission reduction targets that must be implemented to curtail global warming. The EU is aiming to reduce its domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, from the base year 1990.

The panel outlined several ambitious initiatives to tackle climate change. These initiatives address the need to build smart cities in pursuit of low-carbon world economies. Cooperation is the vital element for the realisation of such economies, based on solidarity, multi-party engagement and through low-carbon investment. National institutions can lead the way to a cleaner environment by directing their policies towards low-carbon innovation, with technology as their driving force.

The climate change challenge covers various obstacles including its financing, politics, and culture. It is evident that the sooner communities act, the more attainable the objectives will be, resulting in a financially cheaper production and consumption process.

An unofficial video of the conference may be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/a/um.edu.mt/file/d/0B99sotFuWzoWQUxDR2hySDNQTmc/view>



Steve Vella

Dr Liam Weeks and the Irish STV

Dr. Weeks visited the Institute as part of the Erasmus Plus programme and gave a series of public lectures on the Irish political system. The first two public lectures "Is the party over? The role of the independent in Irish politics" and "STV: Understanding STV Irish-style" were held on the 5th April, 2016, whilst the last one "Ireland's call 2016. The Irish general election and its aftermath" was held on the 6th April, 2016. All three lectures provided the students with an opportunity to compare the Irish and the Maltese political systems. Dr Weeks also participated in other discussions held at the Institute on the nature of the STV. The comparison between both countries is very apt since both share similar characteristics including their peripheral geographical location, the predominance of the influence of the Roman Catholic faith, and the use of the Single Transferable Vote in national elections.

In the main public lecture, "STV: Understanding STV Irish-style" , Dr Weeks explained why the STV is not a popular electoral system given that Malta and the Republic of Ireland are the only two states using this electoral system for their parliamentary elections. Nonetheless, both countries have adapted these systems to suit national needs. In the Irish system, candidates are sorted in the ballot sheet by their surname and not grouped according to the parties they are representing, as in Malta's case at present. In addition, in the Irish system, photos accompany the name of the candidates. Dr Weeks concluded that the Irish system favours the candidates but does not necessary help the parties. Most voters are loyal to the candidates rather than to the actual parties; this leads to a higher rate of success for independent candidates.

The role of Independents within the Republic of Ireland's Political System was discussed in further detail in the second public lecture; "Is the party over? The role of the independent in Irish politics". Dr Weeks stated that, unlike Malta and due to the decline of party loyalty, Independent candidates have carved a large role for themselves within the Irish political system. This role was strengthened after the 2008 Irish financial crisis and in the 2011 General Election. In fact, the support for Fianna Fáil, the largest party in Ireland, declined, whilst the support for independent candidates increased.



This support for independent candidates was further strengthened in the Republic of Ireland's 2016 General Elections, a topic which was discussed in the third and final public lecture, "Ireland's call 2016. The Irish general election and its aftermath". Dr Weeks outlined why the last election in the Republic of Ireland can be considered as a landmark for female candidates since a change in the electoral system introduced a 30% quota for female candidates. Parties now risk having their state funding reduced by half if they do not abide by the quota system. This issue produced an interesting argument on whether quotas are beneficial or detrimental towards establishing equality between men and women. Nonetheless, the election was dominated by the financial crisis and the austerity measures introduced by the previous government. This is one of the reasons why parties' support continued to decline with no party winning the absolute majority of votes or seats in this election.

In conclusion to these lectures, Dr Weeks discussed the coalition talks which are currently taking place between various parties in their attempt to form a government.

The Institute for European Studies would like to thank Dr Weeks for his valuable contribution to the ongoing academic discussions at the Institute and looks forward to hosting him again in the near future.



The future of Europe's Economic and monetary Union (EMU)

On 3rd May, 2016, third year BA European Studies students as well as MA students participated in a debate on the future of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) organised by the European Commission Representation for Malta, together with the Department of Economics from the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy and the Institute for European Studies. This event was part of a series of debates being held in all Member States, whose outcome will provide input to further the work on deepening EMU. The debate was held at the Faculty of ICT at the University of Malta and involved Mr Ivan Ebejer and Ms Alexandra Zammit, the European Semester Officers from the European Commission Representation in Malta, Mr Marcin Zogala, Head of the EMU Deepening sector, DG Ecfm, students as well as academics from the Department of Economics and the Institute for European Studies. A good number of students from the Institute attended the event and were joined by some of the academic staff. This debate provided an opportunity to the Institute's students and academics to contribute to the debate on the future of EMU and complemented the studies of EST3192 Europe's Economic and Monetary Union and EST5580 Core Issues in the Eurozone for BA and MA students, respectively.



Activities by the Academic Members of the Institute

Prof. Roderick Pace

NETWORKING AND RESEARCH

Networking with European and other organizations and associations helps the Institute increase its research activity which in turn spills into the teaching in the lecture and seminar room. These are the activities in which the Institute Director, Prof Roderick Pace, was engaged in during the last few months since the publication of the previous newsletter.

JEAN MONNET CHAIR CONFERENCE

8-9 November 2015 – Brussels

Each year the European Commission organizes a conference for the holders of Jean Monnet Chairs. The conference theme was “A Union of Shared Values – The Role of education and civil society”. Professor Roderick Pace, Jean Monnet Professor at the Institute attended the conference. Nearly 300 people attended. The keynote speech at the opening of the conference was provided by Professor Paul Verhaeghe, author and professor at the University of Ghent, renowned expert on changes in society and work organisation. His thoughtful, lively and entertaining keynote lecture Higher education in times of neoliberalism analysed the impact of a compelling neoliberal ideology in higher education institutions, arguing that it can engender negative effects, not in the least on individual value systems. He provoked considerable reactions and set the stage for a very successful and interesting conference, full of lively exchanges and debate. EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics conveyed a clear message in his contribution Safeguarding open, tolerant societies in Europe – the special contribution of education: “Europe is facing very tough challenges. We need to join forces to promote tolerance, non-discrimination, fundamental freedoms and solidarity throughout the EU. We need education to lead the way, and we need higher education to act as a catalyst.”

A discussion panel, moderated by Brussels-based journalist Tanja Milevska and featuring - on top of keynote speaker Paul Verhaeghe - Martine Reicherts (Director General for Education and Culture at EC), Safi Sabuni (President of the Erasmus Student Network) and Jan Wouters (Professor at the University of Leuven) further debated on the role of education in sharing fundamental values, recognising that education is part of a bigger response, and therefore has a vital contribution to make: by promoting social inclusion, reaching out in particular to the most disadvantaged young people; by combatting prejudice and encouraging critical thinking, also in the use of the internet and social media; by fostering civic, social and relational competences, helping young people to become responsible, open-minded members of our diverse society.

This write up and more material from the conference can be accessed at http://ec.europa.eu/education/events/2015/1109-jean-monnet-conference_en.htm

EUROMESCO PROJECT ON MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 17 December 2015

Prof Pace jointly with Dr Berta Fernandez has contributed a joint paper as part of the Euromesco* work package on migration and refugee challenges in the Mediterranean. The project is entitled “Migrants and Refugees: Impact and Future Policies. Case studies of Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Malta, Italy, Spain and Greece”. Dr Fernandez participated in a conference organized at the Center for Strategic Studies – University of Jordan, Amman on 17 December 2015. The initial findings were discussed at this meeting. The project is led by Musa Shteivi, Director of the Center for Strategic Studies University of Jordan, Amman.

(*Euromesco is the Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission of which the Institute for European Studies has been a member from its beginnings).

BUILDING BRIDGES

On the 22 March 2016, Prof Roderick Pace participated in the last workshop of the Building Bridges project supported by the EU and led by Vivien Pertusot who heads the Office of the French Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI) in Brussels. The project’s full title is “Building Bridges Between National Perspectives on the European Union”. It started in December 2014 and was completed in March 2016. The project’s objective was to involve national experts in a public debate on the relationship between their member state and the EU and on the future of the Union. This project sought to confront the different national perspectives and visions of Europe from different angles.

Details on the project can be accessed at <https://www.ifri.org/en/publications/publications-ifri/ouvrages-ifri/european-union-in-the-fog> and a link has been provided on the Institute’s webpage.

The final report with the papers from the EU member states is also accessible via the IFRI web-page. The 233 page report which also includes a paper by Vivien Pertusot synthesizing and linking the main issues is entitled “The European Union in the Fog: Building Bridges between National Perspectives on the European Union”. The paper on Malta is to be found on page 151, “No Bridge is a ‘bridge too far’”.

PUBLICATIONS BY PROF RODERICK PACE SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE LAST NEWSLETTER

“Europeanization of Malta’s Foreign Policy: Defying the Trends or Conforming to them” in *ETUDES HELLENIQUES*, Volume 23, No 1, Spring 2015, on the theme “Crisis and Europeanization”, see pages 169-192.

With Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, C. Aluttis, K. Sorensen and H. Briand, “The Impact of the EU Directive on Patients’ Rights and Cross Border Health Care in Malta”, *Health Policy*, Elsevier, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.healthpol.2015.08.015>

With Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, C. Aluttis, K. Sorensen and H. Briand, “Europeanization of Health Systems: A Qualitative Study of domestic actors in a small state”, *BMC Public Health*, 2016, 16:334 DOI 10.1186/s12899-016-2909-0

With Marcello Carammia chapter in third edition by De Waele et al. (eds.) *Les Démocraties Européennes*, “Malte” with a translation by Clément Jadot, pp.299-317. Armand Colin Publishers, ISBN 978-2-200-60162-1

“The Maltese Parliament and EU Affairs: A Slow Awakening to its Responsibilities” in Claudia Heffler, Christine Neuhold, Olivier Rozemberg and Julie Smith (eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of National Parliaments and the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN 9781137289124, pp. 578-593.

Activities by the Academic Members of the Institute (cont.)

Ms Moira Catania, A member of the resident academic staff of the Institute

Ms Catania participated in an event on the 2016 Country Report for Malta organised by the European Commission Representation in Malta on 8 April 2016 at the Westin Dragona Resort in St. Julian's. The 2016 country reports were published by the European Commission in February and they provide an assessment of the economic situation and policies in the respective country. They are an integral part of the European Semester and are followed by the presentation of country-specific recommendations by the European Commission in Spring. The aim of this event was to stimulate debate on the report and to discuss its findings with Maltese stakeholders, including representatives from various Ministries, public entities, business and employers' representatives as well as members of the academia. The event included plenary sessions as well as break-out sessions comprising focused discussion on specific themes which were analysed in the Report, namely taxation, quality of public finances and long-term sustainability; labour market, education, skills and social aspects, business environment and competitiveness and the judicial system. Ms. Catania formed part of the panel of speakers in the plenary session and delivered a presentation entitled: "An appraisal of the 2016 Country Report for Malta".

Roundtable on **The Future of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)**"

Moira Catania participated in a roundtable discussion on the future of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) held on 4th May 2016, at the Faculty of ICT at the University of Malta. This debate was open to a select number of University academics and financial stakeholders, including high ranking officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Malta. This event followed another debate held on 3rd May with academics and students from the Institute and the Department of Economics. The roundtable discussion involved an introduction by Mr Ivan Ebejer, European Semester Officer from the European Commission Representation in Malta and a presentation of the five Presidents' Report and the European Commission's Communication on steps towards completing EMU by Marcin Zogala, Head of the EMU Deepening sector, from DG Ecfm. This was followed by a frank and intensive discussion on the future of EMU, where various concerns on the current state of EMU as well as different options for reforms were highlighted.

Ms Berta Fernandez, Visiting Senior Lecturer

Ms Berta Fernandez made a presentation on Malta's Blue Borders at the Conference 'Schengen at Risk: Can We Keep the Freedom of Movement?', organized by the Institute of European Democrats' in Slovakia. For additional information, go to <http://www.iedonline.eu/events/2016/bratislava.php>

1st ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE FROM THE ODYSSEUS ACADEMIC NETWORK

Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI)

"Searching for Solidarity in EU Asylum and Border Policies"

(26-27 February 2016, Brussels)

<http://odysseus-network.eu/conference-2016/>

In the framework of the 2015-2016 crisis, this first Policy Conference, attended by Berta Fernandez, focused on analyzing the principle and types of solidarity (normative, financial, and operational), as it is interpreted or implemented by Academia, Member States, and EU Agencies. It addressed the most important policy developments from 2015 related to solidarity, key upcoming proposals from the Commission regarding FRONTEX and Dublin III, and the experience of different Member States at the frontlines of the EU external borders and Turkey.

The first session (*EU Law: the search for solidarity*) addressed the specificities of solidarity in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice in comparison with other EU policies as well as with the situation in Turkey. The second session (*EU Asylum Policy: the search for fair sharing of responsibility*) was devoted to the relocation of asylum seekers between Member States, and establishing the right balance between solidarity and responsibility in relation to the upcoming revision of the Dublin Regulation. The final session (*EU Agencies: the search for an institutional framework of solidarity*) explored to which extent the current EU institutional and legal framework of FRONTEX and EASO foster solidarity. The Commission proposals to strengthen FRONTEX and revise the mandate and structure of EASO, as well as the functioning of the 'hotspots' approach were analyzed.

Maltese MEP Miriam Dalli (Shadow Rapporteur on the Proposal for a Crisis Relocation Mechanism in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs) participated as a speaker in a panel entitled 'solidarity versus responsibility'. More than 200 academics and policy-makers from EU Institutions and Agencies (Commission, Council, Parliament, FRONTEX, and EASO), Member States and third countries, NGOs and UNHCR attended the Conference.



The EU Global Strategy (EUGS)

The University of Malta through the Department of International Relations and EUISS jointly organised a seminar on "The EU Global Strategy: Maltese views", as part of the official outreach of the EUGS process. The consultation kicked off with a keynote speech by the Maltese Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, Carmelo Abela, and was followed by a roundtable with national experts in international affairs from government and academia. The other main speakers were Antonio Missiroli, Director of the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) who highlighted the importance of the EUGS outreach process with more than 40 events held in the EU and Mr Darren Camilleri from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who described the challenging international environment which the EU was currently facing. Two Maltese MEPs Dr Miriam Dalli and Dr Roberta Metsola presented their views via a video recording. Dr Carmen Sammut, Head of Department of International Relations, Faculty of Arts, chaired the proceedings.

The Round Table speakers were Dr Alex Sceberas Trigona (former Minister of Foreign Affairs Malta), Dr Michael Frendo (former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Speaker of the Parliament), Dr Isabelle Calleja Ragonesi and Dr Anna Khakee both from the Department of International Relations, Professor Roderick Pace, Director of the Institute for European Studies and Jean Monnet Chair, Dr Monika Wohlfeld from the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies. In his intervention, Professor Pace expressed the hope that the EUGS could stimulate coherence in the EU and be the starting point for stronger solidarity. The Global Strategy should be based on the EU's key strengths, namely its strong market and its economic resources. While eurocentrism should be avoided, the EU had successfully shown global leadership e.g. in the climate dossier, and should take the lead on other important issues such as disarmament and global governance.

The Department of International Relations, University of Malta, plans to publish the papers presented during the round table.



European Studies Organisation—Annual General Meeting

The Executive board of the European Studies Organisation held their Annual General Meeting on the 11th of May at the University KSU Common Room, which commenced at midday.

The Executive board for the year 2015 up to 2016 presented the work done throughout the year. At the start, Wayne Sammut was appointed chairperson followed by the appointment of the electoral commission consisting of Ian Zahra and Michael R. Piccinino. Subsequently, the Annual General Meeting started off with the speech by the President Emanuel Zammit, which was based on the work done by the executive throughout the year. After the speech, Secretary General, Stuart Bugeja read a summary of the minutes of the previous year, and then the Administrative Report both of which were approved by the Assembly. Finally the financial report was presented by the Financial Officer, Ryan Farrugia.

All the reports were approved and thus the AGM carried on with the presentation of short speeches from all the 14 nominees starting off with the International Officer Rohana Reed; Academic Affairs Officer, Martina Pace Gouder; Events Officer, Dylan Felice and Rebecca Mackay; Public Relations Officer, Miriana Calleja Testaferrata de Noto and Claudio Sultana; Financial Officer, Edward Cachia and Kristy Schembri; Social Policy Officer, Ryan Farrugia; Secretary General, Stuart Bugeja and Theodora Fenech; Vice President, Cody Galea; and lastly Emanuel Zammit and Julia Aquilina who contested the presidency. Students were also given some time to ask questions to the candidates.

The election of the executive board took place afterwards, starting with the nominees who cast their vote followed by eligible students from the European Studies course.

In all, 9 candidates were elected as follows: President, Emanuel Zammit; Vice President, Cody Galea; Secretary General, Stuart Bugeja; Social Policy Officer, Ryan Farrugia; Financial Officer, Edward Cachia; Public Relation Officer, Miriana Testaferrata de Noto; Events Officer, Dylan Felice; Academic Affairs, Martina Pace Gouder; and International Officer, Rohana Reed. The Annual General Meeting ended with a speech by the newly elected President, Emanuel Zammit.



Left to right: Dylan Felice, Rohana Reed, Martina Pace Gouder, Miriana Testaferrata de Noto, Emanuel Zammit, Cody Galea, Stuart Bugeja, Ryan Farrugia and Edward Cachia.

Climate News — Winter 2016

In December 2015 the 21st Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reached a general agreement to keep the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius, and to aim to further reduce it to below 1.5 degrees. An integral part of this agreement is to shift to carbon neutral economies during this century, with a downward carbon trend required well before 2050. There was a US\$100 billion climate finance target by 2020, which remains an integral part of the deal, and it is expected that financial flows will be regulated more stringently to direct them to low carbon investments (Klingel, F. 2016)

<http://climate-l.iisd.org/guest-articles/mobilising-100-financial-institutions-for-energy-efficiency/>

In December 2015, the European Environment Agency (EEA) published a report, titled 'Evaluating 15 Years of Transport and Environmental Policy Integration,' which analyzes the

evolution of freight and passenger transport and related impacts on the EU environment since 2000. The report concludes that greater efforts, including technological innovation and policies targeting behavioral change, are needed to decarbonize the transport sector and achieve EU emissions reduction targets.

<http://climate-l.iisd.org/news/eea-reviews-environmental-performance-of-eu-transport/>

In February 2016 the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers adopted conclusions on European climate diplomacy, emphasizing three strands of action for 2016 related to: prioritizing climate change advocacy in diplomatic relations; **implementing the Paris COP21 Climate Change Agreement** and intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs); and addressing the nexus between climate change, natural resources, prosperity, stability and migration.

<http://climate-l.iisd.org/news/eu-climate-diplomacy-to-focus-on->

[implementation-of-paris-agreement/](#)



Information edited by Stefano Moncada and adapted from Climate-L.org.

Image credit:

<http://newscenter.lbl.gov/2014/01/15/fuel-from-methane/>

News from our Alumni

Thomas Anthony Muscat,

B. European Studies (Hons), MA Diplomatic Studies

Thomas Muscat is a Bachelor of European Studies (Hons) graduate, a degree he read from 2008 to 2011 at the Institute for European Studies (then the European Documentation and Research Centre). After his first degree, Mr Muscat read for a Master of Arts degree in Diplomatic Studies, at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies.

Following his studies, Mr Muscat was employed as a Projects Assistant Officer with the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) from 2013 to 2014, as a Graduate Trainee with the Institute for European Studies (IFES) from 2014 to 2015 and as Second Secretary with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) from 2015 to date.

His studies with the Institute for European Studies have remained an essential part of his experience going forward. While his subsequent course with the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies was focused on a more general view of international relations, the European perspective remained an important

foundation for several key discussions in his studies.

His knowledge of European Studies likewise remained a key component of his work experience. In the year following his graduation in 2012, Thomas worked as a Projects Assistant Officer with the NCPE, contributing to the administration of a number of local EU-funded projects related to equality and non-discrimination. The subsequent year working as a graduate trainee with the Institute for European Studies also owed much to European Studies.

As he has now embarked on a career in diplomacy with the Ministry



of Foreign Affairs of Malta, his degree in European Studies remains an essential tool. The day-to-day issues tackled at the Ministry are of a global

nature, but the responses often remain guided by the position established by the European Union. Mr Muscat also has the pleasure of being a delegate for a working party of the Council of the European Union, thus participating in the same process of defining EU foreign policy he had studied only a few years ago.

Joining the European Studies Alumni Network

Past students of the Institute for European Studies can join the Alumni Network by contacting Stephania Vella at stephania.vella@um.edu.mt Members of the Institute's Alumni Network are kept informed about the Institute's events, and also receive the Institute's and the European Documentation Centre's newsletters.



TEPSA PRE-PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE – The Hague

On 19 and 20 November Institute Clingendael hosted the bi-annual Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) pre-presidency conference ‘Challenges and opportunities for the Dutch Presidency’, which took place at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. TEPSA’s general assembly was also held on the fringes of the two-day conference.

Professor Pace participated in a panel discussion on the ‘EU’s Asylum & Migration challenge’ which was chaired by Jaap de Zwaan (TEPSA Secretary General, Lector European Integration at The Hague University for Applied Sciences). The other members of the panel included Peter Bosch (Senior Expert DG Migration and Home Affairs at the European Commission) and Peter Diez (Deputy Director Migration Policy at the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice) The European Commission’s proposal on the relocation and distribution of refugees was discussed in this panel.

On Thursday, the discussion turned on deeper integration and better governance - chaired by Michele Chang (Professor at College of Europe) - with contributions from Thijs van der Plas (Director of the European Integration Department at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Alessio Terzi (Affiliate Fellow Bruegel), Joséphine Rebecca Vanden Broucke (Head of Unit Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services European Council Oversight Unit at the European Parliament) and Adriaan Schout (Coordinator Europe at Clingendael Institute).

Friday’s morning panel focused on the events in Paris and their implications for the EU’s foreign and defence policy, migration and security. The discussion involved Mark Rhinard (Senior research fellow of the Swedish Institute of International Affairs), Bibi van Ginkel (Senior research fellow at Clingendael Institute) and Isabell Hofmann (Project manager at Bertelsmann Stiftung).

Subsequently, in another panel led by Teija Tiilikainen (Director of the Finnish Institute of International Relations) the European Commission’s performance after one year of the Juncker Presidency was evaluated. This panel also included a discussion on the political and inter-institutional dynamics between Member States and EU institutions involving Vivien Pertusot (Head of Brussels office at l’Institut français des relations internationales), Michael Kaeding (Professor at Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Universität Duisburg-Essen), Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska (Research fellow Centre for European Reform) and Janis A. Emmanouilidis (Director of Studies and Head of programme European Politics and Institutions at European Policy Centre).

The afternoon’s second panel apart from the one on Asylum and Migration mentioned above, was chaired by Katrin Böttger (TEPSA Board member and Deputy Director Institut für Europäische Politik). The theme was ‘The crisis at the Eastern borders of the EU’ and the following participated in it: Ambassador Dirk Jan Kop (Special Representative for EU-Russia and the Eastern Partnership from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Steven Blockmans (Senior research fellow and Head of EU Foreign Policy CEPS) and Gunilla Herolf (TEPSA Board member and member of the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences) bringing matters into perspective.

The conference was concluded with a plenary session entitled ‘Our union is in a bad state?’ moderated by Prof Wolfgang Wessels (TEPSA Chairperson and Professor at University of Cologne) in which the chairs of the panels drew lessons from the conference and proposed recommendations for the Dutch EU presidency in a final discussion.

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
TAL-QROQQ
MSIDA MSD 2080
MALTA

Phone: +356 2340 2001 / 2998

Fax: +356 2340 2651

Email: europaestudies@um.edu.mt

Website: www.um.edu.mt/europaestudies



Institute for European Studies



@uomeurostuds

The Institute for European Studies is a multi-disciplinary teaching and research Institute within the University of Malta. It runs full-time courses leading to the Bachelor of European Studies degree and to qualifications at MA and PhD level. Each year Maltese and international students enrol in its degree programmes, and through the ERASMUS Programme it offers a number of student and staff exchanges with universities and institutions of higher learning abroad. All of the Institute's courses are fully in line with Bologna Process guidelines.

Founded in 1991 as the European Documentation and Research Centre (EDRC), the Institute was granted the status of a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in 2004. The Institute is engaged in various research and publication activities in European Integration Studies and is a member of the Trans-European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA), the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), EPERN, EADI, and the two Euro-Mediterranean networks, EuroMeSCo and FEMISE. The Institute is also a member of the Council for European Studies (hosted at Columbia University).

The research interests of its staff include comparative politics and history of the European Union (EU); EU e EU; Malta in the EU; Euro-Mediterranean relations; Stability and Growth Pact; economic governance of the euro area; Europe 2020; EU development policies, climate change, international economics, economic causes and consequences of globalisation and EU trade and cohesion policy.

