

NEWS



Mediterranean Diplomacy at the Vienna Academy

By Prof. Stephen C. Calleya

Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and
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<http://home.um.edu.mt/medac/>

On Tuesday March 6th 2007 a packed Festaal of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna was the venue of a keynote lecture delivered by President Emeritus Professor Guido de Marco, entitled “The Mediterranean Dilemma: A Bridge or a Great Divide?”

The evening was co-organized by the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of the University of Malta, the Academic Association for Foreign Affairs in Austria, the Austrian Association for Foreign Policy, the United Nations Association of Austria and the Embassy of the Republic of Malta in Vienna.

The Diplomatic Academy of Vienna was founded as the Oriental Academy by Empress Maria Theresa in 1754 and is the oldest secular institution of its kind worldwide.



President Emeritus Guido de Marco with, from left, Professor Stephen Calleya, Dr. Jiri Grusa (Director, DA & President of the International PEN), and Ambassador Dr. Karl Peterlik.

Ambassador Dr. Jiri Grusa, the Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna kicked off the evening with his Welcome address to the more than one hundred guests attending the lecture. Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, followed with an Introductory address highlighting the unstinting contribution Professor de Marco has made to foster closer cooperative relations between Euro-Mediterranean countries throughout his career. The lecture was moderated by Ambassador Dr. Karl Peterlik, of the United Nations Association of Austria.

Professor de Marco’s keynote lecture commenced with the striking description given to the Mediterranean by the French historian Fernand Braudel:

“A thousand things together. It is not one landscape but numerous landscapes, it is not one sea but a complex

of seas, it is not one civilization but a number of civilizations piled one above the other”.

Professor de Marco then provided an historical overview of several events that have shaped international relations of the Mediterranean as it shifted from being at the centre of history during the days of Greece and Rome to a backdrop with the discovery of the New World at the end of the 15th Century; only to recover a central role with the construction of the Suez Canal rendering the passage way to India for Britain’s empire a shortcut through the Mediterranean Sea and today the most efficient corridor for oil tankers to ply. This brief historical background was provided to facilitate understanding of the context of the theme of the keynote lecture, ‘*The Mediterranean Dilemma: a Bridge or a great Divide?*’

Professor de Marco stipulated that it was clear that not enough has been done. In November 1995, following the Oslo Agreement, Europe tried to bring about an experiment through the so called Barcelona Process. Eleven years after, the Barcelona Process has not lived up to its expectations. With an eleven year hindsight, the Barcelona Process is weak politically, limited economically and poor socially.

Professor de Marco reminded everyone that this conflictual attitude was, however, initially offset by new political initiatives from the Arab world. Yasser Arafat in 2001, at the UN General Assembly, condemned the September 11 terrorist attacks carried out on the United States and addressed the importance of the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative, the Tenet Plan and the Mitchell Report. In 2002, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, launched the so-called Arab Peace Initiative, offering the ending of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a peace treaty with Israel, and the recognition

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of the State of Israel in exchange for the withdrawal of Israel from almost entirely all the occupied territories. But these peace initiatives have been hampered throughout. Professor de Marco reiterated that Europe cannot be equidistant between Israel and Palestine; it has to be equi-close to them. It has to gain the trust of both parties as an honest broker and be in a position to provide that sense of cooperative direction to solving issues. Italy and France, through their peacekeeping presence in Lebanon, to uphold peace, have shown a possible cooperative sense of direction.

Professor de Marco's lecture also included a series of recommendations aimed at reactivating the Euro-med Partnership. These included calling upon the EU to appoint a Commissioner to deal with Euro-Med exclusively; recommending that the Euro-Med Partnership have its own Secretariat, thereby creating a stronger Mediterranean awareness for all parties concerned. Professor de Marco also suggested that the EU invest new political will behind an EU political representative to the Palestinian Authority and strongly shared his belief that all this has to lead to a Madrid Conference II, taking up from where the first Middle East Conference had stopped and linking up with the future.

Professor de Marco concluded his lecture by stating that the Mediterranean dilemma is in itself a vision of hope or a vision of conflict — but in reality, this is not a choice. There is no choice between peace and conflict and this lack of choice, unless correctly addressed, can make of us all irresponsible politicians, failed diplomats, visionless leaders. How can we face coming generations if not withstanding the writing on the wall we decline from taking the necessary measures to ensure that peace and not chaos prevails in the Mediterranean?

Professor de Marco reminded all those present that as far back as 1975, Malta in Helsinki I proposed a theorem which prevails throughout that there can be no security in Europe unless there is security in the Mediterranean and that there can be no security in the Mediterranean unless there is security in Europe. This crying need for security and stability in the Mediterranean dictates the reasoning behind the lecture and demands a new stability architecture for our region linking the future of Europe with that of the Mediterranean, ensuring as a result, a *Pax Mediterranea*, he concluded.



Debating Human Rights: A Multi-stakeholder Approach

By Dr. Omar Grech
Lecturer in International Law

The Human Dimension Programme organised a one day seminar on the theme, 'Debating Human Rights: A Multi-stakeholder Approach' on the 16th February 2007. The seminar brought together a variety of actors from diverse human rights related areas to debate and discuss key concepts and ideas. Human rights are often appropriated by groups of individuals ranging from lawyers to politicians to activists. Each group tends to have a narrow not to say a parochial understanding of human rights. The aim of the seminar was to create a platform where the various stakeholders could discuss relevant issues in an informal and conducive atmosphere.

The presentations included the following:

- Ms. Eva Issa Abu Halaweh, Mizan Human Rights Law Group of Amman: *Debating Human Rights: Governments and Civil Society in the Arab World*
- Dr. Colm Regan, 80:20 Ireland, *Human Rights in a Divided World?*
- Mr. Wolfgang Bruehlhart, Swiss Foreign Ministry, *The UN Human Rights Council: What Role for Civil Society?*
- Dr. Omar Grech, MEDAC, *Human Rights and Foreign Policy*
- Ms. Snjezana Ivandic from the Balkan Human Rights Network, *Human Rights Networks: A Balkan Case Study*
- Mr. Joseph Gravina, Junior College, University of Malta: *Human Rights: What Educationalists Have to Say*

Following welcoming remarks by MEDAC's Director Professor Stephen Calleya the seminar was opened with a keynote address by President Emeritus Professor Guido de Marco who dwelt on his long association with human rights issues as a lawyer and in politics. Professor de Marco emphasised the importance of understanding the universality of human rights while at the same time avoiding imposing alien institutions on other countries.



At the centre, Prof. Guido de Marco, Chariman of MEDAC, Prof. Stephen C. Calleya, Director of MEDAC (right) and (left) Dr. Colm Regan, Director of 80:20 Ireland.

The seminar was attended by MEDAC's postgraduate students together with representatives of civil society and academia. As with all Human Dimension Programme activities the seminar was funded by the Swiss government.



From left to right: Dr. Omar Grech and Ms. Eva Abu Halaweh, Director of Mizan Human Rights Law Group in Jordan.



European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP): Launching Pad or Panacea

*By Prof. Bichara Khader
Director, Arab Study and Research Centre
Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium*

In a notable lecture to my students, in November 2002, Romano Prodi defined the contours of a *New European policy* being hammered out to take into account the European enlargement to the East. He coined the term of “*Ring of Friends*” surrounding the Union from Morocco to Moscow. A few weeks later, the Copenhagen European Council of 12-13 December 2002, explicitly called for a new European policy with “*neighbouring countries, based on shared political and economic values*” thus avoiding “*new dividing lines in Europe*” and promoting “*stability and prosperity within and beyond the new borders of Europe*”.

The neighbours to which the Council was referring, in the first instance, were *Russia*, and three newly independent states : *Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia* and 10 Mediterranean states (Israel and 9 Arab states :Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco). As a matter of fact, in the first Communication to the Council on the Neighbourhood Policy (Wider Europe: a new framework with our Eastern and Southern neighbours, 11th March 2003) the States of the Caucasus -Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia- were not mentioned. Whereas Turkey and other European non-member states (EFTA –members and micro-states) are not included .This selectivity in the geographic coverage of the Neighbourhood policy is also apparent with regard to the Western Balkan States involved in the Stabilization and Association Process.

This differentiation stems from the fact that the Neighbourhood Policy distinguishes between countries with no prospect of becoming fully fledged members of the EU (*to these countries the EU offers to share everything but institutions*) and countries which have been offered a status of candidate or possible applicant.



Map of the Mediterranean Basin..

Later on, Russia decided not to take part in this European Policy thus sticking to its Strategic partnership with the

European Union. While the European Parliament in a Draft Report on “Wider Europe” recommends the inclusion of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and a further extension to the wider Middle East. Although this proposal from Bangladesh to Marrakech has been shelved, the states of the Caucasus were included. As of today the Neighbourhood policy encompasses 27 European states and 16 other European, Caucasian and Mediterranean States.

The Mediterranean Countries view this policy with suspicion for various reasons :

- 1) The risk of dilution of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership within a broader ENP;
- 2) The risk of marginalization of some poorer countries;
- 3) The possible concentration of European attention and money on the most performing countries, at the expense of others, thus adding to the economic and social divide between the 16 neighbours;
- 4) The fear of transforming the Mediterranean into a “buffer zone” between enlarged Europe and Africa and Asia;
- 5) The lack, among the 16 neighbours, of shared identities and history;
- 6) The addition of a new initiative while the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership did not deliver yet all its potential;
- 7) The Euro-centric dimension of the ENP in the sense that the multiplication of European initiatives stem mainly from European concerns of secure borders and do not seem to take into account all the concerns of the Neighbours themselves.

It is too early to make a critical assessment of an incipient policy. Action Plans have just been negotiated and are being implemented. But if the ENP is to prosper in the future and become the launching pad for a large zone of shared prosperity and peace, Europe should act as a driving force not only through enlarged markets, but also in the search of cooperative arrangements among the 16 neighbours, trans-border freedom of circulation, democratic transformation through positive incentives and conditionalities, and peaceful solution of protracted conflicts. Otherwise, the ENP will be an exercise in fantasy.

Module on Euro-Med Relations delivered by Prof. Bichara Khader

By Prof. Stephen C. Calleya

Prof. Bichara Khader, Director of the Contemporary Arab World Study Center at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, recently delivered a module at MEDAC in which he focused on the theme of regional relations in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Prof. Khader's series of seminars commenced with a detailed historical review of European Union relations in the Mediterranean with a particular focus on the EU's Global Mediterranean Policy that started in the 1970s and subsequent policy initiatives that sought to strengthen



Prof. Bichara Khader lecturing the students at MEDAC..

Euro-Mediterranean relations, including the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership that was launched in November 1995.

A second seminar provided insight into the evolution of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with a focus on the regular foreign ministerial meetings that have taken place since the first summit in Barcelona. This included assessing the numerous policy documents that have been agreed upon by the Euro-Mediterranean states over the past decade.

This session was followed by an analysis of results that have been achieved in each of the three baskets of the Barcelona Process. Students were given the opportunity to debate about the extent to which tangible and visible outcomes have been registered since 1995 as a result of regular European and Mediterranean interaction that has taken place through the Euro-Med Partnership.

The final seminar in this module focused on assessing the impact that the European Neighbourhood Policy is likely to have on the Barcelona Process. This included examining European Neighbourhood Action Plans that have already been negotiated and identifying the value added benefit that these would contribute to partnership building in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Dr. Colm Regan lecturing on Genocide

By Dr. Omar Grech

On 17th November 2006, Dr. Colm Regan from 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World gave a lecture to the MEDAC students with the title of 'Genocide: Exploring the Legal, Educational and Action Dimensions'. Colm Regan is coordinator of the Irish NGO 80:20 which focuses on human rights and development education. He has taught at numerous universities in Canada, Australia and Ireland and has written extensively on human rights education and development education issues.



Dr. Colm Regan from 80:20 Ireland lecturing MEDAC students.

During the session, Dr. Regan explored the legal and historical background of the subject. In particular the personality of Raphael Lemkin was

analysed in the context of Lemkin's unrelenting efforts to bring the concern for genocide—a term he himself coined to the attention of the international community. The lecture also dealt with the process of the definition of genocide and explored different and alternative definitions.



The students also examined the eight stages of genocide as related by Gregory Stanton. All of these aspects were later applied to the case study of Rwanda in 1994 together with other specific examples. Dr. Regan used a variety of visual and other material to highlight the Rwanda situation. Finally the lecture also dealt with educational approaches towards genocide and also spoke about the Campaign to end genocide.

Module on International Negotiations delivered by Prof. Paul W. Meerts

By Mr. David Cassar

Early in November 2006, Professor Paul W. Meerts from the Netherlands Institute for International Relations, Clingendael, lectured the students for two days on 'International Negotiations'. Since 1989, Prof. Meerts has trained diplomats, military officers, civil servants as well as university students in international negotiation techniques in eighty countries on four continents. He also wrote several simulation games and other training devices.

This module served as an eye opener for students to learn more about different negotiation skills. In the first part, Prof. Meerts introduced the three main negotiation typologies, that are bilateral, multilateral and plurilateral negotiations. The lecturer emphasised that synthesis, synergy and compromise are important elements on which all negotiation methods should be based on.

The class also went through the points to be taken into account when chairing meetings. Hence, points such as the setting of objectives for a meeting, the drawing of agendas, the summary of interventions, the proposing of solutions and the cutting off of interventions were discussed in class.

Prof. Meerts also conducted different simulation exercises and diplomatic games with the students. Some exercises consisted of case studies where the students had to recommend solutions for different conflict scenarios. The module also included a negotiation simulation exercise where the students represented different countries and tried to reach a compromise solution in the given situation.



Professor Paul W. Meerts lecturing the students at MEDAC..

Module on Conflict Resolution Simulation Exercises delivered by Prof. Simon Duke

By Mr. David Cassar

Last October, Associate Professor Dr. Simon Duke from the European Institute of Public Administration in the Netherlands, conducted a module on conflict resolution that featured simulation exercises. Professor Duke's sessions focused on the EU second pillar, that is the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).



Prof. Simon Duke with the students during coffee break in the negotiation simulation exercises.

The first part of the module dealt with 'the Consistency and EU External Relations'. In this unit, the students were made more familiar with the decision-making process in the CFSP. The lecturer went through the history of the European Union's foreign policy, focusing on the creation of the European Security Foreign Policy, the launching of the European Political

Cooperation and its evolution to Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the Single European Act and the development of the European Security and Defence Policy.

The second part of the module was entirely devoted to the CFSP. Professor Duke introduced the general aims and objectives of this policy together with the obligations of the member states and the modifications to the policy after the Amsterdam Treaty. The third part of the unit dealt with the EU and Crisis Management. The students discussed and explored summit meetings held in relation with these types of scenarios. After the theoretical part, the class was involved in a simulation exercise related to crisis management. In fact, the students had to negotiate to reach the best solution to bring peace in Crisania.



MEDAC students during the simulation exercise.

Diplomacy Lecture Series



- 13th November 2006

H.E. Mr. Abdel Karim Mohamed Soliman

Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

“Egypt’s Foreign Policy Priorities”



- 27th November 2006

H.E. Mrs. Dorothea Tsimboukeli-Douvos

Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic of Greece

“Exercising Diplomacy to bring Communities, Institutions and even People together”



- 15th December 2006

Hon. Mr. Bechir Tekari

Tunisian Minister for Justice and Human Rights

“The Tunisian Personal Status Code”



- 15th January 2007

H.E. Mr. Liu Zhengxiu

Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China

“China’s Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War World”



- 22nd January 2007

H.E. Mr. Jean-Marc Rives

Ambassador of France

“The Foreign Policy of France”



- 19th February 2007

H.E. Mr. Paolo Andrea Trabalza

Ambassador of Italy

“Italian Foreign Policy in the Mediterranean: Italo-Maltese Relations”



- 26th February 2007

H.E. Mr. Karl Andreas Von Stenglin

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

“The European Neighbourhood Policy and Euro-Med Partnership - Thoughts and Perspectives under the Patronage of the German EU Presidency 2007”



MEDAC Study Visit to Rome

*By Dr. Marco Colazingari
Holder of the Italian Chair and
Lecturer in International Economics*

Each year the Holder of the Italian Chair at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, together with the rest of the staff, organises a study visit to Rome, Italy. This year's study visit has been held in February from the 4th till the 8th. The students' expectations were high because of two main reasons: (a) the city of Rome itself—which is a very attractive place for its artistic and cultural environment, and (b) the important international organizations we visited and the interesting people we always meet.

We arrived in Rome on Sunday evening and the first visit we paid was on Monday morning to the Sala Operativa Comando Generale Capitanerie di Porto-Guardiacostiera, commanded by Contrammiraglio Vincenzo Melone. Capitano Damiano Capurso delivered a lecture to the students about the activity of the Italian Capitanerie di Porto-Guardiacostiera, focusing on their missions abroad and their numerous interventions at sea, particularly to rescue illegal migrants coming from North Africa in small boats. The students were very interested in learning about the details of these activities and Captain Capurso participated in a long questions and answers session.

In the afternoon, the students went to the Maltese Embassy, which is located in Lungotevere Marzio. After an interesting welcoming speech, Ambassador Walter Balzan hosted a reception for the MEDAC group. The first working day ended around 6pm, allowing the students to visit some of the historical sites in Rome during the evening.

The second morning was devoted to the traditional visit to the Vatican Secretariat of State. Monsignor Pietro Parolin—Under Secretary of the Vatican Secretary of State—welcomed the students in the Library of State. After a short briefing he left the group in the care of Monsignor Rubén Dimaculangan, who delivered a comprehensive and thorough lecture about the Holy See's diplomatic activity. Since the Holy See was the first international entity to develop its diplomatic



MEDAC students on the terrace at the Vatican.

network, it was interesting to learn how the Popes started to build diplomatic relations with the nation states already in the middle ages. The briefing was followed by a tour of the magnificently frescoed Loggioni and Saint Peter's Basilica. The afternoon was spent at the attractive premises of the Società Italiana per l'Organizzazione Internazionale (SIOI), in Piazza S. Marco, the small side square adjacent to Piazza Venezia. Ambassador Alessi—the President—and Director Cravenna showed us the enchanting courtyard of the Palazzetto Venezia before hosting the students in one of the classrooms of the organization. The session consisted of an interesting exposé by Ambassador Alessi about SIOI's activity and the usual students' question time.

The day after we had the chance to visit Villa Madama, which is actually a museum not open to the public where heads of state's meetings are hosted. Consigliere Renato Castellani, Deputy Director of the Istituto Diplomatico Mario Toscano, provided an exquisite and knowledgeable guided tour. Following the tour, Consigliere Castellani gave a very comprehensive summary of Italian diplomacy and the Italian diplomatic corps.



Consigliere Renato Castellani, Deputy Director of the Istituto Diplomatico Mario Toscano with the MEDAC group.

In the afternoon, the students had the opportunity to visit the Swiss Embassy in Rome. Ambassador Bruno Spinner and his colleagues who have been extremely supportive of MEDAC over the years, welcomed the students and provided a comprehensive overview of the main strategic priorities of the Swiss Embassy in Italy. The meeting ended with a reception Ambassador Spinner organized at his private residence. Many ambassadors, professors, and diplomatic personnel were present to meet and greet MEDAC's students.

On Thursday morning the group returned to Malta, enriched by an experience that no one will ever forget.



Europe's Boat People: A Growing Humanitarian Challenge

*By Dr. Derek Lutterbeck
Deputy Director, Academic Affairs,
Holder of the Swiss Chair and
Lecturer in International History*

Irregular migration across the Mediterranean has become an increasingly pressing challenge, not only because many countries have come to view illegal immigration as a “threat” to their security, but also because of the growing death toll of would-be migrants attempting to enter the EU from the south. In many countries bordering the Mediterranean, hardly a week goes by without reports of shipwrecks and dead bodies of migrants found in their waters and on their beaches. According to estimates of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), at least 10,000 migrants have died seeking to cross the Mediterranean over the last 10 years.

Thus far, however, EU countries’ response to this growing humanitarian problem has been rather short-term and technical in focus, largely confined to stepping up law enforcement and policing efforts along their southern borders. Countries such as Spain or Italy have spent large sums of money trying to impermeabilise their Mediterranean coast by deploying ever more patrol boats and sophisticated technical equipment along their borders. In the late 1990s, for example, Spain launched the construction of the so-called SIVE system along its southern coast. The 150 million Euro-worth system is composed of fixed and mobile radars, infrared sensors as well as boats, helicopters and aeroplanes which are being deployed along the country’s Mediterranean borders. The Spanish government, as well as the EU, have also invested large sums of money for upgrading the border defences around the two Spanish enclaves, Ceuta and Melilla, which have traditionally been important entry gates for irregular immigrants seeking to enter the EU. Most recently, the EU set up the border control agency FRONTEX whose main task is to coordinate the border control efforts of EU member countries.



Boat of irregular migrants intercepted off the Canary Islands.

Unfortunately, however, these border enforcement measures do not seem to have had any significant effect in reducing the flow of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean. Rather, the main consequence seems to have been to divert the migratory flows towards other, usually longer and thus also more dangerous routes across the Mediterranean. Thus, while Italy has largely succeeded in reducing undocumented migration across the Adriatic—and thus in “plugging” one of the main “loopholes” in the EU’s southern borders—over recent years, a constantly growing number of irregular migrants has been attempting reach Italy via Sicily and Lampedusa. Similarly, one main effect of Spain’s efforts to strengthen its southern borders along the Straits of Gibraltar and around Ceuta and Melilla, has been to divert the migratory flows towards the Canary Islands. These displacement effects have come at a considerable human cost, as both of these routes are much longer and much more dangerous than the original entry gates used by the would-be migrants. Along Spain’s southern borders, for example, the number of reported deaths of clandestine immigrants rose from 66 in 1999 to more than 360 in 2005, with the actual death toll most likely being much higher.

It seems clear, that the problem of irregular migration across the Mediterranean cannot be addressed unilaterally, but only in close cooperation between the countries north and south of the Mediterranean. In this regard as well, however, EU countries have thus far shown a bias towards short-term and technical fixes, without much concern for the human rights and security of the would-be immigrants. While a growing amount of technical equipment, including military hardware, has been provided to the countries south of the Mediterranean to more effectively control their borders, little if any assistance has been given to improve these countries’ systems of asylum protection, whose deficiencies have been pointed out by many human rights organisations.

A sustainable solution to the challenge of irregular migration across the Mediterranean, which would be in line with international human rights standards, would require EU countries to move beyond the current focus on beefing up their and their southern neighbours’ borders. While effective border controls and technical assistance are necessary, southern Mediterranean countries should also be supported in building up effective systems of refugee protection and migration management. Moreover, much more would need to be done to address the root causes of migration in the countries of origin. Without such efforts, the migratory flows will not be reduced but only displaced—most likely at the expense of the security and safety of the would-be immigrants seeking to enter the EU from the south.

Alumni News

Orientation Visit and Alumni Reunion in Brussels

By Dr. Omar Grech

A delegation from the MAA Committee traveled to Brussels between the 10th and 13th December 2007. This visit, funded by the Civil Society Fund administered by the Forum Malta Fl-Ewropa, was intended as a familiarization trip enabling MAA Committee members to meet with individuals from the various EU institutions.



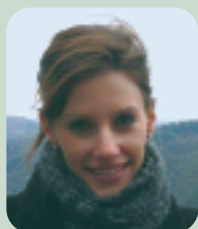
MEDAC Alumni having a reunion in Brussels on 10th December 2006

The visit included meetings with Yvette Azzopardi from the European Economic and Social Committee, Elefterios Eleftheriou from the Directorate General of Freedom, Liberty and Security as well as Johan Caruana from the European Parliament.

These meetings were particularly useful in identifying possible themes and speakers for an activity being planned for the next academic year. The key event for MEDAC Alumni based in Brussels was a get-together held on Sunday 10th December in the evening. A group of about 15 alumni coming from Georgia, Algeria, Malta, France and Latvia attended this event which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. It is hoped that similar activities will be held in other locations where a substantial number of MEDAC alumni are working either in their respective embassies, ministries or in international institutions.



From left to right: MAA Committee Members Ian Gauci Borda, Omar Grech and David Cassar at the European Parliament.



Ms. Lysanne Milja Celine Bakker

*M.A. Alumni from the Netherlands
Class 2005-2006*

A degree, a large amount of knowledge, and some very interesting encounters. I definitely feel that the ten months as an M.A. student at MEDAC were a worthwhile experience.

In my opinion, the strength of the course programme was primarily a result of the twofold approach taken. Besides a strong theoretical focus on the main subjects of International Relations, International Law, International History, International Economics and Diplomacy, we also had ample time to familiarise ourselves with the different aspects of a diplomatic career. This was primarily achieved by presentations of numerous ambassadors at MEDAC, by several visits to different embassies, by two very interesting study trips to Rome and Geneva, and finally by special seminars on subjects such as protocol and negotiation. Moreover I believe that studying alongside colleagues who are already diplomats (the M.Dip students) reinforces the aspect that every student can and should benefit from one another's experience.

In my experience, the final part of the M.A. course was perhaps the toughest, but also the most constructive element of studying for a

Masters degree. Even though writing this dissertation required a near total devotion during the precious summer months, the end result was something very substantial. Few would regard it as a souvenir from MEDAC, however flicking through its pages; it definitely brings back fond memories.



MEDAC Class 2005-06 at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Universitaires, Geneva.



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

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

Since my days at MEDAC, which I recall with gratitude and nostalgia, my focus on Euro-Mediterranean issues has become a priority. I decided to analyze and study the Mediterranean region with a prior importance to lighten the necessity of believing in the positive prospective of this cooperation process. Having this devise in mind I went on discovering the region through study programs and researches, through conferences and workshops taking place in the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean. Most of my contributions are available at the web page I created: www.euromed-forum.net providing a platform for a wide range of views and debate.

Recently I succeeded to defend my PhD thesis and was awarded the PhD title. My dissertation deals with "The Euro-Mediterranean partnership: A model of regional development in perspective of global governance". My theses is registered in both Faculté des

sciences juridiques politiques et sociales de Tunis (Université 7 Novembre Carthage) and the Faculté de droit et de science politique d'aix-Marseille III (Université Paul Cézanne) under the tutorial system. The interesting news is that I am the first PhD in European community law in a Tunisian University.

In 2006, I worked as a consultant at The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures for the preparation of the study on Culture and Communication for the preparation of the EuroMed Ministerial Conference on Equality of Opportunities that had been convened in November 2006. Gender issues are the core of the study I provided.

I do believe that the Mediterranean is full of mysteries that should be resolved in order to understand better its needs. Anywhere where people are gathering, a world is created between them and it is in this middle space that all human affairs are resolved. The Mediterranean is this middle space and I believe that everyone living in this middle space has to answer the same question: What can we do together in order to set up a system-transforming mechanisms to alleviate regional complexity and stabilizing the "Euro-Mediterranean regional development" ?



Mr. Mourad Youssry
M.Dip. Alumni from Egypt
Class 2005-2006
Diplomat working at the Egyptian Mission in Argentina, MFA

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

It was a great excitement for me to go back to the student life once again and the warmth of the country, the great similarity between Malta and Egypt, the helpful atmosphere created by all MEDAC staff and above all the best group of class mates ever made me feel so much comfortable and able to adapt in no time.

The course was very useful and so relevant to my job; it had this special mix of being as any other Masters in international relations but with more significant importance to Diplomacy and how to apply the theories in our daily tasks.

MEDAC brought me good luck in so many ways as well, as during my stay there I got the news about my second post to Argentina.

Going to Latin America I thought I will find minimum relation with what I studied in the Mediterranean Academy, but I was so mistaken!! I still remember Prof. Calleya's lectures every time I observe the socialist governments' expansions in Latin America. I remember Dr. Grech's when I read about opening the files of the old dictator regimes and the crimes against humanity they are accused with. And of course, Dr. Colazingari's international economy's lectures when I spend so much time "trying" to understand the measures the Argentinean Government took and is still taking to overcome the economic crisis they have passed through.

I will never forget the year I spent in Malta and in MEDAC and my colleagues who became very close friends to me, believing that we will meet very soon somewhere some how. Simply, I miss every second I spent and every person I met there.



Mr. Fabio Pirotta

M.A. Alumni from Malta

Class 1997-1998

Policy Officer, European Commission

I walked through MEDAC's doors not knowing what to expect – the year was 1997. I met all sorts of people – we had an interesting mix of nationalities and characters. Perhaps this was the greatest plus point the Academy had to offer – its multicultural environment. Back then, I felt rather “junior” compared to my peers – both in terms of age as well as experience. A good number of my classmates had already been in their country's diplomatic service or on the international scene for a number of years, while I had just graduated and my only “international” experience lay with student organisations. I heard numerous anecdotes from my fellow students, half of which I still vouch were fibs! Yet the way they were told taught me much about diversity – and how never to dismiss a tale: there's always a lesson to learn. Yes of course, there was also the academic side of MEDAC, which is the main reason for which one enrolls to the Academy in the first place! I felt sufficiently challenged yet comfortable with the work we had to do. This was admittedly greatly facilitated by our mentors. I was and still am proud to have been part of the Academy's alumni. It was with the same pride that years later I had crossed to the other side of the classroom in my

attempt to share some acquired knowledge with MEDAC's diploma students. Well, to sum it up: my experience at the Academy was great – I'd repeat it any time!



MEDAC Alumni Elaine Cordina and Fabio Pirotta from Class 1997-98 at the Alumni reunion organised by MAA in Brussels.

International Night

By Mr. David Cassar

M.A. Class 2003-2004

P.R.O., MEDAC Alumni Association

The MEDAC Alumni Association (MAA) together with the current MEDAC students organised an international night at Sundown Court on Friday 1st December 2006. The event was a great success with students and alumni from Albania, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey preparing their respective traditional dishes. Music from these countries was also played on the stereo in the restaurant, with some students performing folk dances. The event gave the opportunity to the numerous alumni attending the event to meet with their former class mates and to get to know the other alumni and students of MEDAC. It also introduced the current students to the MEDAC Alumni's big family. The MAA would like to thank all the alumni and students who contributed to the success of this event.



Some of the dishes prepared for the International Night.

MEDAC thanks all alumni contributors to this issue of the MEDAC Newsletter and extends to them all the best wishes in their endeavours. We are also very keen to know more about our former students. The MEDAC Alumni Association looks forward to all former students participating in our activities. All those former students interested in joining our Alumni Association, kindly visit the website at www.medacalumni.org

The Official Alumni country contacts at their respective Foreign Ministries are:

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Reem Jabr, *Syria*
Maysoun AlMozayyen, *Palestine*
Lassaad Boutara, *Tunisia*
Gang Luo, *China*
Rowaida Tawfiq Ebrish, *Libya*

Hossam El Din El Shenawy, *Egypt*
Agustela Nini, *Albania*
George Vital Zammit, *Malta*
Sihem Mazouz, *Algeria*
Lela Garsevanishvili, *Georgia*
Stella Ankrava, *Latvia*

Dmytro Senik, *Ukraine*
Jana Grilc, *Slovenia*
Amina Selmane, *Morocco*
Ma'en Al-khreasat, *Jordan*
Johnny Ibrahim, *Lebanon*
Ebru Ekeman, *Turkey*



Climate Change in the Euro-Mediterranean Area: A Matter of Urgency

*By Prof. Eberhard Rhein
Advisor, European Policy Centre*

Global warming does take place! Nobody on earth can any longer have any doubts about it. 2006 has been the hottest year ever registered in the USA, and the British Meteorological Service expects 2007 to become the hottest year ever recorded for the earth. According to its forecast the average global temperatures might be 0.5°C higher than the average for the years 1961-90! That is a 4% increase in an extremely short period.

The Mediterranean will not escape the negative consequences of global warming. It will suffer even more from lack of rainfall and creeping desertification. And, of course, if the sea level were to rise substantially in the wake of smelting pole ice caps, the coastal lines in the Mediterranean will not be spared.

It is too easy to put blame for global warming on the prosperous West. Yes, the West has been for many decades the main culprit. But today the USA and Europe are responsible for less than half of the CO₂ emissions that are the main factor behind global warming. The countries south and east of the Mediterranean are emitting as much CO₂ as prosperous France!

So, what should the countries around the Mediterranean do to help containing the rise of temperatures on our small planet? Is there anything they can do at all? Yes, they can make a contribution however modest it might be. Here is a three-point programme.

First, use energy more efficiently. To that end, governments should induce hotels, offices and private homes to improve the thermal insulation of buildings. Double-glazing and other insulating devices should become mandatory in all new buildings. Municipalities in the big cities should make public transport much more attractive and thereby encourage people to use it rather than private cars.

Second, make oil and gas more expensive. All countries around the Mediterranean would be well advised to raise the excise taxes on gasoline and fuel, while reducing the income tax and VAT. Such measures would induce citizens to buy fuel-efficient cars, reduce the use of cars and thus also put a lid on the unbearable air pollution in all major metropolitan areas.

Third, tap the huge wind and solar energy potential in the southern Mediterranean countries. Most Mediterranean countries are able to cover their energy demand by wind and solar energy. They only have to ready to pay a higher price. It will take two to four decades to fully develop that potential. Lead times for investments are long. Thus you better start today preparing for the future.

The technologies are available. Wind energy in particular has made huge technology leaps during the past 10 years. Big wind parks with more than a hundred rotors are being implanted offshore, especially around the British Isles. Similar considerations also apply to solar power.

So why not mobilise that potential by drawing upon European technology and Arab capital? European utilities will have to rely increasingly on wind and solar inputs, as the EU will oblige them to progressively switch away from coal-or gas-fired power stations.

So why not generate part of that electricity in the South and transport it North, to Spain and Italy, through the emerging trans-Mediterranean power grid?

The future starts today! Governments and utilities have to anticipate what will happen in 10-20 years. It would therefore be timely to put climate change and energy generation on the agenda of the Barcelona process.

FOR THOSE SEEKING TO PREPARE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

The Academy offers the following courses:

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For more details on these courses and various activities of the Academy write or fax to:

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