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Meeting between Foreign Minister **Carmelo Abela** and Federal Councillor **Ignazio Cassis**

In January 2018, Foreign Minister of Malta, Carmelo Abela, paid an Official Visit to Switzerland where he met his Swiss counterpart Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, at the Von Wattenwyl House in Berne. The two countries share many similarities, such as their small size, a tradition of neutrality, and a foreign policy focused on the promotion of peace and dialogue.

The meeting between Ministers Cassis and Abela focused on the ongoing Brexit negotiations and how the potential outcome might affect their two countries, the global challenge of migration, the situation in the Central Mediterranean and the realities facing Malta and Switzerland in their respective regions. Discussions covered also the current status of Swiss-EU relations, as well as the future of the EU and the challenges it currently faces.

The ongoing successful cooperation between the two countries in supporting

(continues on page 2)

Right: Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Carmelo Abela and the Swiss Federal Councillor, Ignazio Cassis.

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EASO Visit

MEDAC students and academic staff visited the European Asylum Support Office, an agency of the European Union based in Malta, on 9 February 2018. They participated in a series of presentations by EASO staff members on the latest asylum trends and operational developments and engaged in a question and answer session. The visit to EASO was organized by the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC. EASO hosts MEDAC students annually as part of its outreach activities. The issue of migration and asylum features high on the agenda of Mediterranean dialogue.



Above: Left to Right: Elaine Obrecht (Communications Assistant), Jean-Pierre Schembri (Head of Communications and Stakeholder Relations) and Anis Cassar (Press Officer).
Below: MEDAC staff and students during the half-day seminar at EASO.



Meeting between Foreign Minister Carmelo Abela and Federal Council Ignazio Cassis

(Continues from Page 1)

the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) and the DiploFoundation was among a number of bilateral issues discussed. MEDAC was established by the Governments of Switzerland and Malta in 1990, and has been the most important and most long-standing joint project between the two countries. The two Ministers agreed that MEDAC continued to play an important role in promoting dialogue, peace and respect for human rights across the Mediterranean at a time when the region was facing

unprecedented challenges. At the same time, Minister Cassis encouraged MEDAC to reflect on its strategy and vision in an increasingly competitive academic environment.

DiploFoundation is a non-profit Foundation established in 2002 by the governments of Malta and Switzerland with the goal of increasing the capacity development of small and developing countries, as well as training and research activities in the digital field especially in internet governance.

The talks also covered the significance of International Geneva, particularly in relation to cyberspace and digitalization.

On the second day of his Official Visit, Minister Abela travelled to Geneva

for talks with the Chief of the Special Procedures Branch at the Office of the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights Beatrice Balbin. Minister Abela met also with the Director General of the International Organization of Migration William Lacy Swing with whom he discussed the challenges of migration in the Mediterranean and Africa in detail.

Minister Abela also visited the premises of the DiploFoundation, for an informative session given by its Director Dr Jovan Kurbalija on the Foundation's initiatives for the coming year. Finally, Minister Abela paid a courtesy visit to Malta's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva where he met with Malta's Permanent Representative Ambassador Olaph Terribile and his staff.

MEDAC Outreach

MOU signed with the University of National and World Economy of Sofia

On 5 February 2018 the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies at the University of Malta, and the University of National and World Economy of Sofia signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting and strengthening scientific, cultural, academic, and professional exchanges.



Above: Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, Chairman of MEDAC, signing a Memorandum of Understanding between MEDAC and the University of National and World Economy of Sofia'.

MOU signed with the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (PFWS)

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (PFWS) and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) on 24 January 2018. The agreement acknowledges the existing relationship that has developed between the two entities and also seeks to strengthen future cooperation. The agreement covers a range of cooperation areas including research activities and the exchange of documents, studies and expertise. The Memorandum was signed by Dr Ruth Farrugia, Director General of the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society and Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies.



Above: Left to right; Mr Alessandro Giuliano, core member PFWS, Dr Ruth Farrugia, Director General PFWS, Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director, MEDAC & Dr Derek Lutterbeck, MEDAC.

Visit by the High Commissioner of Ghana, H.E. Mrs Mercy Bampo Addo

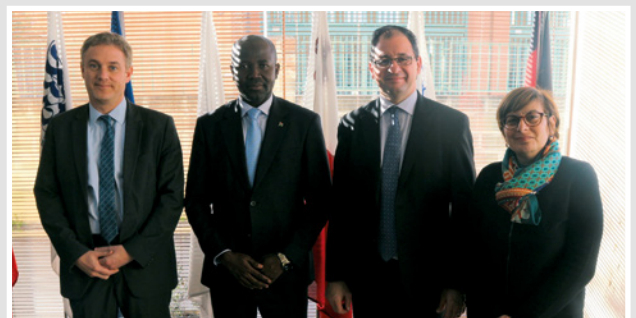
The High Commissioner of Ghana, H.E. Mrs Mercy Bampo Addo visited the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies on 23 January 2018 and was welcomed by Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of the Academy. The visit served as an opportunity to explore numerous avenues of cooperation to enhance further relations between Ghana and MEDAC.



Above: Professor Calleya together with H.E. Mrs Mercy Bampo Addo and Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, S. Jojo Effah-Broni.

Visit by the Ambassador of Gambia, H.E. Mr Lang Yabou

On 12 January 2018 the Ambassador of Gambia, H.E. Mr Lang Yabou visited MEDAC and met with Professor Stephen Calleya and Dr. Derek Lutterbeck. The Ambassador of Gambia expressed his appreciation towards MEDAC for providing academic training to several Gambian diplomats over the years. Discussions also focused on strengthening ties with MEDAC alumni from Gambia.



Above: Left to Right: Dr. Derek Lutterbeck, MEDAC, H.E. Mr Lang Yabou, Ambassador of Gambia, Professor Stephen Calleya, Director, MEDAC, Ms. Lourdes Pullicino (MEDAC).

Tribute to Amb. Alfred Zarb

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies has lost one of its most fervent supporters since its inception. A highly-respected, seasoned diplomat whose knowledge and expertise on Mediterranean affairs was unparalleled amongst career diplomats, Ambassador Alfred Zarb served since 2006 as a Member of the Governing Board of MEDAC representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta.

In his role as Board Member he was indefatigable in promoting the activities of the Academy, unwavering in his commitment to MEDAC's mission of confidence building among the Mediterranean's young diplomats who have studied at MEDAC over the years or who have attended the more than 30 Euro-Med Information and Training seminars organized under the auspices of the European Commission.

Amb. Zarb's relentless engagement was in perfect synchronization with his life-long dedication to Mediterranean co-operation and peace-building. For decades, as ambassador to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, as Malta's representative to the League of Arab States, as Malta's co-ordinator to the EuroMediterranean partnership and the Mediterranean Forum, as representative to the Western Mediterranean Forum, and drafter of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean's Strategy "Building on Our Common Mediterranean Heritage", his knowledge of the processes and initiatives, but also of the multiple challenges that have shaped our Mediterranean was unique. Indeed he helped set up some of these initiatives and students at MEDAC over the years had the privilege of sharing in the insights that only he could bring to the table.

Less than two years ago, in October 2016, Amb. Zarb's assiduous leadership brought to Malta the Anna Lindh Foundation Med Forum held over two days at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta with around 670 participants from 42 countries from various organisations hailing from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. MEDAC students participated also in this international gathering. Indeed Ambassador Zarb's last travel engagement was in October 2017 to Estonia accompanied by a MEDAC representative, to the inter-institutional committee of the Anna Lindh Foundation. MEDAC Board Members, Director, staff and students pay tribute to Ambassador Zarb. We were honoured to work with him and endeavour to continue his work dedicated to a better, more peaceful Mediterranean.



Top left: 31st EuroMed Seminar, November 2011: Amb. Alfred Zarb (right) Mr. Tom McGrath (left) & Dr. Monika Wohlfeld (centre).
Top right: Front Row: H.E Amb. Gudrun Sräga and Prof. Stephen Calleya. Back Row: Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Amb. Alfred Zarb, Dr. George Vella and Dr. Joe Borg.
Bottom left: Amb. Alfred Zarb welcoming the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Didier Burkhalter.
Bottom right: Amb. Alfred Zarb attending the 33rd EuroMed Seminar, November 2012.

MEDAC Ambassadorial Seminars

Visit to the Chinese Embassy

On Friday 12 January 2018 the postgraduate students and academic staff of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies were privileged to be hosted by H.E. Ambassador Jiang Jiang at the Embassy of China.

H.E. Ambassador Jiang delivered a

keynote address highlighting China's Belt and Road Initiative and China's foreign policy agenda in post-Cold War relations. Throughout the 'open house' seminar several MEDAC students were able to share their experience to date as diplomats and their perspectives of contemporary international relations. In his concluding remarks Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, thanked H.E. Ambassador Jiang and all of the diplomats of the Embassy of China who participated in the seminar for such

a wonderful occasion where the students of the Academy were able to gain immense insight on the important role China is playing in global affairs.

Centre: Postgraduate students and academic staff of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies alongside H.E. Ambassador Jiang Jiang.

Right: H.E. Ambassador Jiang Jiang delivering a keynote address.

Left: Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, delivering concluding remarks.



Ambassador of Brazil to Malta visits MEDAC

H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Ambassador of Brazil to Malta, Italy and San Marino, delivered a keynote address to the postgraduate students of MEDAC on 11 January 2018 on the theme 'Geopolitical Trends of the Early 21st Century'.

Ambassador Patriota highlighted the numerous geo-strategic events that have taken place at an international level since the end of the Cold War and provided an in-depth analysis of how the concept of power has evolved as a result of the emergence of a more multipolar international system of states. The important role that the United Nations continues to play was emphasized together with the necessity to continuously examine the possibility

of conducting reform of international organisations to ensure that they remained relevant in the post-Cold War era. Ambassador Patriota also reiterated the importance of diplomacy in seeking to navigate through the complex pattern of relations that has emerged in

contemporary international relations. The seminar provided the students of MEDAC with another opportunity to learn first-hand about the current multipolar system of states and ask numerous questions pertaining to the multitude of security challenges on the international agenda.

Above left: H.E. Ambassador Patriota being welcomed to MEDAC by Professor Stephen Calleya, Director, and Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Holder of the German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention.

Bottom left: H.E. Ambassador Patriota addressing the Postgraduate students of MEDAC pursuing a Masters degree in Diplomatic Studies. Dr. Wohlfeld moderated the seminar.

Right: H.E. Ambassador Patriota signing the MEDAC distinguished visitors book.



MEDAC organized and hosted a post-graduate seminar on the Iran nuclear deal (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) from 2015) in Malta on 5 December 2017. The seminar entitled 'What Future for the Iran Nuclear Deal?', organized with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs brought together eminent experts from the International Institute for Strategic Studies (London), the Institute for Development and Peace (University of Duisburg-Essen), Fondation pour la recherche stratégique (Paris) and the School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (George Mason University) who delivered talks on issues such as nuclear non-proliferation, Iran, and the impact such developments are having on the EU and the Mediterranean region. MEDAC academic staff and Masters students participated throughout the Seminar.

The event was opened by H.E. Ambassador Gudrun Sräga, German Ambassador to Malta and Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC. Working sessions focusing on global security and non-proliferation initiatives, security in North Africa and Middle East, the situation in the Gulf region, and implications for the EU also took place. The seminar, part of the program of the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention held by Dr Monika Wohlfeld, succeeded in addressing aspects related to diplomacy, negotiations, and conflict resolution in the context of ongoing nuclear non-proliferation initiatives vis a vis Iran and beyond.



for the Iran Nuclear Deal?



1. Ms. Paulina Izewicz, (IISS) & Dr. Monika Wohlfeld (MEDAC).
2. German Ambassador, Gudrun Sräga delivering her keynote address and Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC.
3. Prof. J. Hippler, (INEF) & Dr. D. Lutterbeck (MEDAC).
4. Left to right: Dr. Jean-Francois Daguzan (FRS), Dr. Julie Shedd (SCAR) & Dr. Monika Wohlfeld (MEDAC).
5. German Ambassador Sräga and Prof. Calleya (MEDAC).
6. Prof. Stephen Calleya (MEDAC) and Dr. Jean-Francois Daguzan (FRS) coordinating a working group session.
7. Question and answer session during the seminar.
8. MEDAC Seminar Group photo.
9. Students during the working group sessions.

CALENDAR

November 2017

Prof. Annette Jünemann, Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Helmut-Schmidt University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg delivers a module on EU's Democracy Promotion.



15 November 2017

MEDAC students' visit at Cardinal Health, Malta, as part of their International Economics module.

1st Semester 2017/2018

Diplomacy Module with H.E. Olaph Terribile, Malta's Permanent Representative of the UN in Geneva.

November 2017

Lectures on 'Euro-Mediterranean Relations' by Prof. Bichara Khader, Director of the Arab Study Research Centre (C.E.R.M.A.C), DVLP and Professor of Politics, Economics & Social Sciences at Louvain University (UCL), Belgium.



November 2017

Diplomacy Module with Mr. Thomas McGrath, former member of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels.



15 December 2017

MEDAC staff and class were invited to the 'Perspectives on Global Ocean Governance: Where do we stand and where do we go from here?' symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary from Malta's initiative on the Law of the Sea at the UN General Assembly.

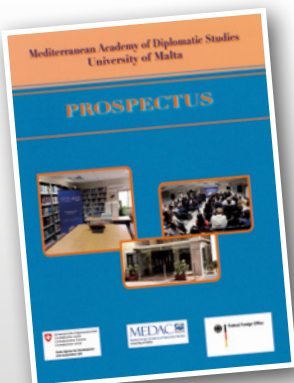
November 2017

MEDAC staff and students participate in the Diplo Foundation 15-year Anniversary Conference.



January 2018

Prof. Ludger Kühnhardt from ZEI, University of Bonn, delivers a module on Regional Integration.



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MEDAC FACEBOOK GROUP
CAN BE ACCESSED ON:
www.facebook.com/groups/19374582384

11 January 2018

Ambassadorial Lecture delivered by H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Ambassador of Brazil to Italy, Malta & San Marino.

12 January 2018

MEDAC staff and students participate in the Ambassadorial Seminar hosted by H.E. Jiang Jiang the Chinese Ambassador to Malta.

February 2018

Amb. George Saliba delivered lectures on International Relations to MEDAC students.



February 2018

International Law lectures by Prof. Henri de Waele, Radboud University, The Netherlands.



February 2018

Amb. M. Hefny and Mr. A. Hamdy deliver a module on Water Diplomacy.



February 2018

Diplomacy module by Dr. Michael Frenedo.

February 2018

Module on 'The Cold War and Mediterranean' by Prof. Dominic Fenech.



March 2018

Dr. Fred Tanner, Senior Advisor at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), delivered a series of lectures at MEDAC on the theme 'Political Analysis in Foreign Policy' and 'European Security'.



Graduating Class of 2016 - 2017

Master of Diplomacy

Algeria	Mr. Abdelhafid Hachem
China	Ms. Yunjiao Yang
Egypt	Mr. Mohammad Kawzaa
Egypt	Mr. Sherif Elbadrawy
Georgia	Ms. Madlena Goksadze
Jordan	Ms. Naser Al-Deen Al-Quran
Malta	Mr. Liam Gauci
Palestine	Mr. Abdelrahman Romana
Palestine	Mr. Ahmed Abushariaa
Tanzania	Ms. Olivia Ludger Maboko
The Gambia	Ms. Rosaline Secka
Ukraine	Ms. Nelia Ivanovchyk

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Ghana	Ms. Barbara Effah-Broni
Libya	Mr. Housam Ali Abushiwa
Libya	Ms. Joumana Ben Younes
Malta	Mr. Sean Aguis
Malta	Ms. Stephanie Caruana
Malta	Dr. Lynn Maria Faure
The Netherlands	Ms. Maureen Aleid Berdien Janssen
UK	Mr. Rory Patrick Kemmis Cunningham

Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security

Egypt	Mr. Khaled Kaddah
Finland	Ms. Nicole Ekvall
USA	Mr. Bryce Kobayashi
USA	Mr. Daniel Altman
USA	Ms. Francesca Keese
USA/France	Mr. Gabriel Monterossa
USA	Mr. Ian Nutter
USA	Ms. Irina Morrow
USA	Ms. Jessie Rosati
USA	Ms. Laurel Stark

International Cuisine Night

The MEDAC class of 2017/18 and the MEDAC Alumni Association organised the Annual International Cultural night on 30 November 2017. The event, which was held the day after the graduation ceremony, is firmly established as one of the highlights of the MEDAC alumni calendar. This year's event was very well attended with the most recent graduates of MEDAC celebrating their achievement together with the

MEDAC academic and administrative staff as well as alumni from various years. The current students from the M.Dip, M.A. Diplomatic Studies and M.A. Conflict Resolution cohorts as well as the MEDAC diploma programme were key to the success of this event. At the beginning of the event, Dr Omar Grech, on behalf of the MEDAC Alumni Association welcomed all the attendees and congratulated the recent graduates while highlighting the

role of the MEDAC Alumni Association in maintaining the MEDAC family spirit. Everyone present greatly enjoyed the variety of national dishes prepared by the students.

Below top right: MEDAC students with Prof. Stephen Calleya; Below top left: Dr. Omar Grech delivers the welcoming address; Bottom: MEDAC students and Alumni.



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MEDAC
Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
University of Malta

MEDAC Alumni Meeting

Date: Thursday, 26 April, 2018 ▪ **Time:** 5:30 PM
Location: German-Maltese Circle, Valletta

Annual Ambassadorial Lecture
by H.E. Mr Pádraig Mac Coscair - the Ambassador of Ireland to Malta

Register by sending an email to simon.bajada@um.edu.mt

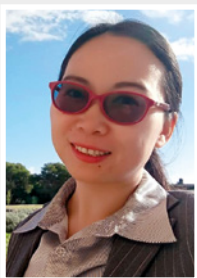


**Sherif
Badrawy**

*MEDAC Alumnus
from Egypt
2016 - 2017*

“A great learning experience. This sentence summarizes what MEDAC offers to its students. For my experience, studying at MEDAC was a journey full of impressive content that reflects academic excellence, and cultural bridging between the two sides of the Mediterranean. Being one of the leading academic institutions specialized in the field of Mediterranean affairs, MEDAC provided me with a comprehensive

and deep level of analysis that allowed me to develop my critical and analytical thinking regarding Mediterranean political, economic, and diplomatic issues. Furthermore, cultural intertwining, that MEDAC is always keen to pursue, facilitated my journey in the small, yet sophisticated, country of Malta which truly merits its geographical location at the centre of the Mediterranean region.”



**Yang
Yunjiao**

*MEDAC Alumnus
from China
2016 - 2017*

international history, international law and international economy with an emphasis on the Mediterranean. MEDAC also provided us with many other enriching classes: diplomatic etiquette, regional integration, development cooperation, water diplomacy, negotiation skills, public speaking, French and German Languages amongst others. I also cherished the many opportunities provided by lecturers and speeches of distinguished political personalities as well as a number of unforgettable international conferences. The study visits to Germany and Switzerland were one of the highlights of the year at MEDAC. MEDAC has expanded my knowledge, broadened my horizon and truly helped my diplomatic career.

MEDAC is like a big magnet, attracting students from many countries in different continents. It was a unique experience for me, being the only Asian student in my class, encountering different cultures in Europe, Middle East and Africa on a daily basis. Often I think of MEDAC as a mini United Nations. I will never forget the Cultural Cuisine Night, the cultural visits and the fun get together that lightened the hours of study.

Now that I am a MEDAC graduate, I keep MEDAC close to my heart and I have nothing but deep gratitude for the faculty, staff and student friends who made this year totally exceptional.

Experience is the most valuable asset in one's life. Studying abroad is such an experience. I'm honoured to have concluded my postgraduate studies at MEDAC and spent an unforgettable nine months in beautiful Malta.

MEDAC provides classes in international relations,

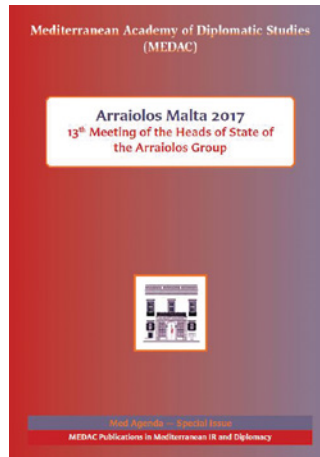


Graduating Class of 2016/2017

MEDAC Publications

A MEDAC publication, the book contains the paper presented by Professor Borg at the first session of the meeting, titled 'Reclaiming Social Europe in the Shadows of a Global Predatory Economy', and Professor Calleya's paper titled 'Managing Security Challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean Area'. Professor Calleya had presented his paper on the second day of the Arraiolos meeting. The two papers are prefaced by Her Excellency's welcome address.

The Arraiolos meeting is a forum of non-executive, European Union Heads of State. The 2017 Arraiolos meeting was held in Malta between 14-15 September 2017.



Above: Book presentation by Prof. Stephen Calleya and Prof. Carmel Borg to H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca.

Honorary Consular Award 2017

The Honorary Consular Corps Prize has been awarded to Mr Sean Agius, student of the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) for his outstanding work and for obtaining the highest grade in the Thesis component of the MA in Diplomatic Studies course.

The Dean of the Honorary Consular Corps, Mr Godwin E. Bencini, presented the award to Mr Agius congratulating him for achieving this milestone and augured that he will have 'a long and successful career in the Foreign Service'. He believes that the annual prize should be viewed as the contribution of the Honorary Consular Corps towards the development of professional diplomats. Professor Stephen C. Calleya, Director of MEDAC, was also applauded by Mr. Bencini for the high level of students that MEDAC turns out consistently every year.

Present for the Honorary Consular Corps Prize award presentation were:

Professor Dr Stephen C. Calleya, Director of MEDAC, Mr Sean Agius, the successful student, Mr Godwin E. Bencini and Dr

Joseph Buhagiar, Dean and Honorary Secretary respectively of the Honorary Consular Corps.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, Mr. Sean Agius, Mr. Godwin E. Bencini, Dean of the Honorary Consular Corps and Dr. J. Buhagiar, Honorary Secretary.

MEDAC Academic Programme

MASTER OF ARTS IN DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

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