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MEDAC’s Swiss-Maltese Legacy with a Multilateral Mediterranean Vocation

As the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) is approaching its 30th anniversary, it is worth reflecting on the key reasons for the Academy’s continued relevance and success. With its more than 800 graduates from the Mediterranean region and beyond, many of whom now occupy very senior positions in their respective countries, including Ministers and Ambassadors, MEDAC now has a solid track record as an educational and training institution. During this time it has not only established itself as the only existing regional multi-cultural diplomatic academy in the region, and as a unique centre of excellence on Mediterranean issues, but it has helped to build, through its alumni, a network for dialogue between the countries of this region. These are the attributes that has made MEDAC a resounding success.

The Swiss-Maltese partnership has, since its inception, been the key in the Academy’s success story. As two small and neutral countries, whose main foreign policy objectives has been to promote peace and respect for human rights, Malta and Switzerland have been ideally suited to support an institution like MEDAC which operates in a region, which—unfortunately—continues to be fraught with tension and instability.

This unique combination of a consistent neutral foreign policy as well as a long-standing tradition of providing ‘good offices’ and of building bridges between other countries has helped to fuel the demand for admission by young diplomats and students seeking a career in diplomacy.

Since 2009 the Academy has benefitted immensely from the establishment of a German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention which is funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. More recently MEDAC’s multi-stakeholder perspective has been strengthened with support from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Regional Program Political Dialogue and Regional Integration South Mediterranean and the Anna Lindh Foundation for Multi-cultural Dialogue.

We firmly believe that through MEDAC, Switzerland and Malta, together with other stakeholders, can continue to make an enduring contribution to the promotion of peace and stability in the Mediterranean at a time when the region continues to experience tumultuous changes. We thus look forward with confidence to a continuation and indeed strengthening of this essential partnership through MEDAC as a unique institution in Mediterranean affairs.



Above: Professor Godfrey Pirota, Chairman of MEDAC.

Academic Year 2018-2019

MEDAC New Cohort

This year's cohort at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) of postgraduate students pursuing the Masters of Arts in Diplomatic Studies and Master of Diplomacy degree programmes consists of 20 students from 9 different countries.

Students participating in the one year full time academic course come from Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Tanzania, The Gambia and Tunisia.

The current intake is MEDAC's 29th annual Masters programme where the focus is on International Relations, International History, International Economics, International Law and Diplomacy.

Since its establishment in 1990 MEDAC is privileged to be able to count more than 800 alumni within its Alumni network. Many of these alumni are diplomats representing their countries but many others have also embraced different professional careers. MEDAC alumni can be found the world over.

*Below: Prof. Stephen Calleya addressing the postgraduate students.
Bottom: M.Dip / M.A. 2018-2019 Class Photo.*



Academic Year 2018 - 2019

Master of Diplomacy

Palestine	Ms Roba Al Jamal
Palestine	Ms Dania Dasouqi
Tanzania	Mr Habibu Awesi Mohamed
Egypt	Ms Hanan Abdelall M.I.
Egypt	Ms Yara Nawar M.N.
The Gambia	Ms Sohna Touray
Tunisia	Mr Zroud Hamdi
Tunisia	Mr Wael Mohamed Khammassi
Georgia	Ms Khatia Tchelidze
Morocco	Mr Reda El Ouddane

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Malta	Mr David Rossi
Malta	Mr Mark Manduca
Malta	Mr Thomas Attard
Malta	Ms Aurora Tesi
Malta	Mr Luke Mintoff
Malta	Ms Leanne Gafa
Malta	Mr Danillo Bonnici
Malta	Mr Brandon John Agius
Malta	Ms Michelle Baldacchino
Germany	Ms Vanessa Fink

MEDAC Outreach

MOU signed with the Directorate of the Diplomatic Academy of the Republic of Macedonia

On 29 May 2018 the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies at the University of Malta and the Directorate of the Diplomatic Academy of the Republic of Macedonia signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement covers a range of cooperation areas; exchange of information on training programmes for diplomats, in expertise and joint research areas.



Above: Mr. Anthony Vella Gregory, MEDAC board member and Mr. Viktor Dimovski, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia signing a Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of Hon. Dr. Joseph Muscat, Prime-Minister of Malta and Hon. Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of Macedonia.

MEDAC honours Dr. George Vella

On 8 October 2018, MEDAC unveiled a plaque in honour of Dr. George Vella for his support towards the Academy and his contribution to peace and stability in the Mediterranean.

Throughout his distinguished career including as Foreign Minister of Malta, Dr. Vella has regularly shared his experiences and wisdom in the field of diplomacy with the postgraduate students of MEDAC.

On this occasion the Director of the Academy, Prof. Stephen Calleya expressed the appreciation of everyone at MEDAC to Dr. Vella for inspiring two generations of MEDAC scholars to achieve a better understanding of regional relations in the Mediterranean and to work towards a more peaceful future in the region.



Above: Dr. George Vella together with Prof. Stephen Calleya.

MEDAC and Tunisia Enhance Longstanding Relations

In April 2018, MEDAC was honoured to welcome Professor Ahmed Ouenais and Ambassador Mondher Dhraief, Director General of the Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies of Tunisia together with H.E. Ambassador of Tunisia to Malta, Mr. Zyed Bouzouita.

Prof. Ouenais, former Foreign Minister of Tunisia in 2011, delivered a keynote lecture on the theme of The 'Mediterranean Dimension of Diplomacy' and participated in a dynamic discussion with the students and staff of the Academy.

On 10 April 2018, MEDAC and The Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies of Tunisia signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will enhance significantly the longstanding cooperation that exists between the two academic institutions.

Top: From left to right; Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director MEDAC, Prof. Ahmed Ouenais, Prof. Godfrey Pirota, Chairman MEDAC, Amb. Mondher Dhraief, Director General of the Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies of Tunisia, Amb. Bouzouita, Ambassador of Tunisia to Malta & Mr Mounir Jomni Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, Tunisia. Bottom: Seated; Prof. S. Calleya & H.E. Ambassador Mondher Dhraief Standing; Prof. G. Pirota & H.E. Ambassador Zyed Bouzouita



MOU signed with the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India

On the occasion of the official visit to Malta by H.E. Vice-President of India, Venkaiah Naidu to Malta to meet with H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta

and Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 17 September 2018 between MEDAC and the Foreign Service Institute,

Ministry of External Affairs. The MOU was signed by Mr. Rajesh Vaishnaw, High Commissioner of India in Malta and Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director, MEDAC.

Right: Mr. Rajesh Vaishnaw, High Commissioner of India in Malta and Prof. Calleya signing a Memorandum of Understanding between MEDAC and the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India in the presence of H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro, President of Malta, H.E. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-President of India and Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.



Ambassadorial Visits

Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria visits MEDAC

MEDAC received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Italy, San Marino and Malta, H.E. Marin Raykov on 10 May 2018. Amb. Raykov addressed MEDAC staff and students on the achievements of the Bulgarian EU Presidency and participated in a Q and A session on the subject. Bulgaria held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January to 30 June 2018.

Top right: H.E. Marin Raykov addressing the MEDAC class.
Below left: H.E. Marin Raykov signing the MEDAC visitor's book.
Below right: Left to right: Prof. S. Calleya, Director MEDAC, H.E. Marin Raykov, Prof. G. Pirotta, Chairman MEDAC, H.E Prof. Lino Bianco Ambassador of Malta to the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania and Dr. M. Wohlfeld, MEDAC.



MOU signed with the College of Europe in Natolin, Poland

Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC visited both the College of Europe in Natolin and the Diplomatic Academy in Warsaw in March 2018.

Professor Calleya met with the Vice-Rector of the College of Europe Professor Osniecka-Tamecka and the Director of the Diplomatic Academy, Ambassador Artur Harazim and held a lengthy discussion

on possibilities of future trilateral cooperation.

Professor Calleya also delivered a lecture on the contemporary security challenges in the Mediterranean at the Diplomatic Academy in Warsaw. Students from both the Academy and the College of Europe participated actively in the question and answer session that followed.

Malta's Ambassador to Poland, H.E. Natasha Meli Daudey, was instrumental in facilitating such a productive MEDAC visit to Warsaw.

On 29 June 2018 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between MEDAC and The College of Europe Natolin Campus. The main aim is to strengthen cooperation in the areas of information, research activities, teaching and training programs & exchange of documents, studies and expertise.

Right: Group photo at the College of Europe in Natolin, Poland.



German Ambassador to Malta visits MEDAC

The German Ambassador to Malta, H.E. Gudrun Sräga, lectured at MEDAC on 12 April 2018. Ambassador Sräga addressed MEDAC students on German foreign policy and diplomacy from a personal perspective, and participated in a Q and A session on the subject. The German Foreign Office

is a stake-holder of the Academy and in 2009 established the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC. Ambassador Sräga is a member of the MEDAC Board of Administrators on behalf of the German Foreign Office.

Left: Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director, MEDAC, German Ambassador Gudrun Sräga and Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Holder of the German Chair, MEDAC.

Below: German Ambassador, H.E. Gudrun Sräga, delivering a lecture at MEDAC.



Study visit to Switzerland

MEDAC's annual study visit to Switzerland took place from 3 to 7 April 2018. The first part of the visit was held in Geneva, where MEDAC students visited several international organisations located there, such as the UN Headquarters, the WTO, the UNHCR, the WHO and the ICRC. MEDAC students were also briefed by representatives of the Maltese mission to the UN about their work. The second part of the study trip took MEDAC students to the Swiss capital, Berne, where briefings and discussions about the Swiss political system, as well as current developments in the MENA region, were organised by the Political Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Moreover, MEDAC students also had the opportunity to visit the so-called Federal Palace, which houses both the Swiss Parliament and the Government of Switzerland (the Federal Council).



1. MEDAC students at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne.
2. MEDAC students visiting the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva.
3. MEDAC students visit the World Health Center Headquarters in Geneva.
4. With Ambassador Olaph Terribile, Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN.
5. MEDAC students and staff visit the Swiss Parliament in Berne.



Study visit to Germany

From 14 to 19 April 2018, MEDAC's students travelled to the Federal Republic of Germany on a study visit. MEDAC students first visited the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where they were welcomed by the Head of Training for International Diplomats, Mr. Stefan Biedermann. Over two days the students participated in sessions with representatives of key departments of the Ministry. The MEDAC group also had briefings at the German Parliament and the Maltese Embassy with H.E. Ambassador Albert Friggieri.

The group continued to Bonn, at the invitation of the Bonn University Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI) and its Director, Prof. Ludger Kuehnhardt, where a joint event with Master students took place.

The MEDAC group also visited Deutsche Welle, Germany's international broadcaster where they had the opportunity to speak with the Area Manager of the MENA Region and the Head of Online and Multimedia Arabic Services.



1. MEDAC students welcomed by Mr. Stefan Biedermann, Head of Training for International Diplomats at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. MEDAC students at the German Parliament (Bundestag).
3. Ambassador Albert Friggieri meeting with MEDAC students at the Embassy of Malta in Germany.
4. MEDAC students at Deutsche Welle.
5. Prof. Ludger Kuehnhardt, ZEI Director welcoming ZEI and MEDAC students in Bonn.



March 2018

H.E Mr. Nassif Hitti, the former representative of the League of Arab States at UNESCO, Paris and Ambassador to Italy delivered a module on 'Regional Dynamics and Current Challenges in the Middle East and Trans Mediterranean Relations'.



March 2018

H.E Ambassador Klaus Brandes delivered a module on Diplomacy.



April 2018

Study Visit to Geneva & Berne in Switzerland.

April 2018

Study Visit to Berlin and Bonn in Germany.

9 April 2018

Professor Ouenais, former Foreign Minister of Tunisia in 2011, delivered a keynote lecture on the theme of 'The Mediterranean Dimension of Diplomacy' to the students of MEDAC.



12 April 2018

The German Ambassador to Malta, H.E. Gudrun Sraga, delivered a lecture to MEDAC students on German foreign policy and diplomacy.

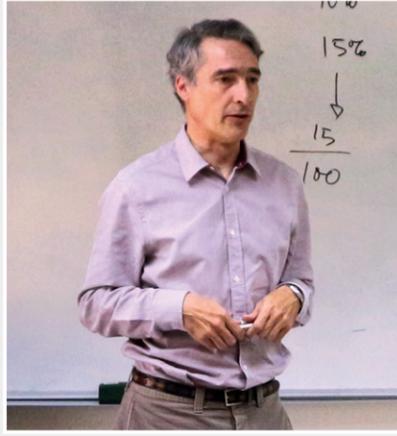
April 2018

Dr. Michael Frendo delivered a module on Diplomacy.



April 2018

Lectures in International Economics by Prof. Alejandro Lorca and Prof. Gonzalo Escribano.

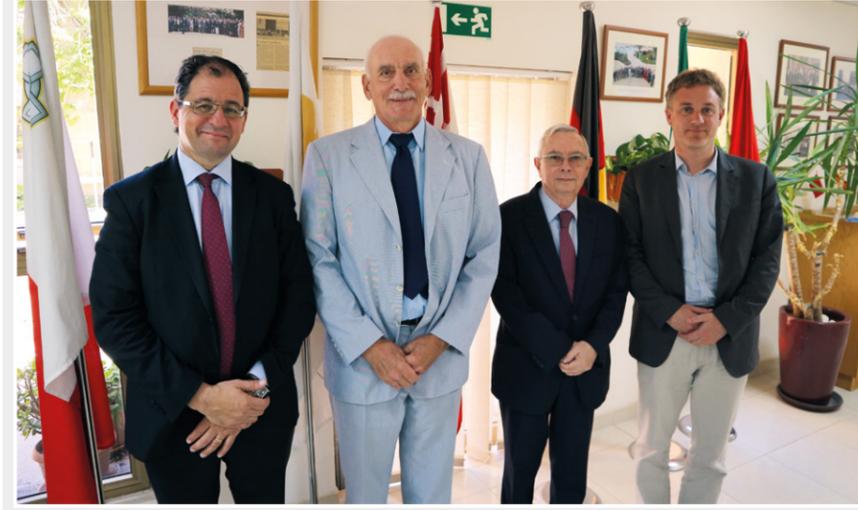


26 April 2018

The Ambassador of Ireland to Malta, H.E Padraig MacCoscair, addressed the annual MEDAC Alumni Association Ambassadorial Lecture.

May 2018

Dr. Andri Bisaz, MEDAC Board Member, delivered a module on Development and Diplomacy to the MEDAC class.



10 May 2018

Ambassadorial Lecture delivered by H. E. Marin Raykov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria on the achievements of the Bulgarian EU Presidency.

6 June 2018

MEDAC Annual Student Dinner 2017/18



2 October 2018

MEDAC Opening Address for the Master of Diplomacy and the Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies students.

October 2018

A Module on Diplomacy was delivered by Dr. George Vella, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta.



October 2018

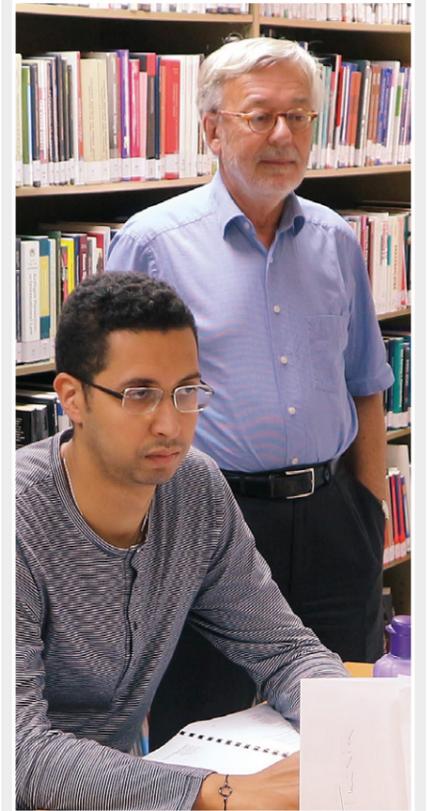
Lectures on the 'EU Presidency' by Mr. John Iguanez.

October 2018

A series of lectures on 'Mediterranean States in the EU' by Mr. Patrick Tabone.

October 2018

Negotiation Seminar with Dr. Paul Meerts, Clingendel, Netherlands Institute of International Relations.



October 2018

H.E. Amb. Olaph Terribile delivered a module on Protocol and Diplomacy.



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www.facebook.com/groups/1484843081622485/



Ambassador of Georgia to the Hellenic Republic of Greece and Serbia

Ioseb Nanobashvili

MEDAC Alumnus from Georgia 2000 - 2001

It was my great pleasure to visit MEDAC after 18 years. I returned with a sense of deep appreciation and gratitude to the MEDAC, its academic and administrative staff. After so many years I appreciate even more the knowledge and skills which I acquired in this institution, a truly educational center with a rich history, traditions and accomplishments. I

hope the MEDAC will keep working for the sake of future generations of diplomats who will serve their countries and the world with honor, knowledge and love.



Mohamed Bialy Alolaimy

MEDAC Alumnus from Egypt 2011 - 2012

Mohamed Bialy Alolaimy, a 2012 MEDAC Alumnus from Egypt, has been awarded the Degree of PhD in Political Science from Amity University, India, after defending his Doctoral Thesis, titled "The Mediterranean Arms Control in the Wake of the Arab Spring".

The PhD Thesis of Dr. Mohamed Bialy Alolaimy is an early research attempt at articulating a regional

arms-control theory and designing a comprehensive regional arms-control regime in the Mediterranean in the wake of the democracy-seeking revolutions erupted in the Arab World since late 2010, widely known as the Arab Spring. In this regard, a conceptual framework of arms control is provided, through critically reviewing relevant ancient, medieval and contemporary theories on arms control, including the analysis of foreign policy making, and various arms-control levels and components. The historic background and main international frameworks of arms control are traced at the global, regional and bilateral levels, with a focus on the Mediterranean stands towards those frameworks.

The geo-history of the Mediterranean arms control prior to the Arab Spring

is reviewed in order to compare with the post-Arab-Spring arms control in the Mediterranean, concluding the impact of the democracy-seeking Arab revolutions on arms control in the region. For this purpose, the Arab Spring and the Mediterranean arms distribution and control are considered dependent variables since they have been affected by each other in a cascaded trilateral interaction. The potential regional arms-control configurations in the post-Arab-Spring phase are explored in this Thesis, incorporating various measures and arrangements.



Lucy Mary Paterson

MEDAC Alumnus from the UK 2012 - 2013

When I began my Masters at MEDAC in 2012 I had little idea of the road ahead. Now I find myself, 6 years later, about to receive a doctorate in Security Studies from King's College London. My initial career was in finance and business, so studying at MEDAC was a chance to change direction and follow a deep seated interest in International Relations. At MEDAC the accomplished teaching in subjects such as International Relations, European History and

International Law served to increase this interest. My fellow students, not just from Malta, but from countries such as Egypt, Jordan, China and Azerbaijan, provided an additional education, via their diverging and well educated perspectives on international issues. The visits to Geneva, and institutions such as the UN and the WHO provided further highlights and stimulated my future doctoral research inquiries as to how these organisations, such as NATO and the EU Commission actually work! Finally, the conferences and written assignments, including a book review and lengthy thesis, prepared me for further academic activities.

It was the continued support of MEDAC staff after leaving that gave me the confidence to apply to study for a doctorate at King's College London. Having completed my doctorate, I am now teaching at

the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, and have just started a new job at the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) in London. RCDS educates highly experienced military professionals, diplomats and civil servants from all over the world. I believe that my experiences at MEDAC will serve me well in understanding the perspectives and interests of these senior professionals, and will give me a solid basis for my new career as an academic in Security Studies.

The Ambassador of Ireland to Malta, H.E. Padraig MacCoscair, was the 2018 speaker at the annual MEDAC Alumni Association Ambassadorial Lecture.

Ambassador Mac Coscair's lecture entitled 'Irish Foreign Policy and Small State Diplomacy' dwelt on the key priorities of Ireland's foreign policy (including the challenge presented by Brexit) and explained the ways in which these objectives were pursued and delivered. In particular, Ambassador MacCoscair, outlined Ireland's pioneering use of single-diplomat missions focusing on the opportunities offered to smaller states by this model. Following the lecture, the Ambassador responded to a number of questions from the audience, which ranged on various topics such as the impact of Brexit on the Northern Ireland Peace Process to the applicability of single-diplomat missions to non-EU contexts.

The event was held on 26 April 2018 at the German-Maltese Circle in Valletta.



Top: Left to right: Dr. Omar Grech, Director, Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution, former Ambassador of Ireland to Malta, H.E. Padraig MacCoscair and Ms. Suzanne Garcia Imbernon, President of the Alumni Association.

Centre: Former Ambassador of Ireland to Malta, H.E. Padraig MacCoscair addressing the MEDAC Alumni Meeting.

Bottom: Speakers and students at the end of the meeting.

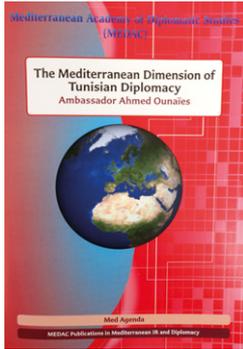


MEDAC Cultural Night

Date: 22 November 2018 Time: 7:30pm Venue: NSTS Residence

Contact: simon.bajada@um.edu.mt

MEDAC Publications



THE MEDITERRANEAN DIMENSION OF TUNISIAN DIPLOMACY

This special issue was published on the occasion of the visit to MEDAC of Professor Ahmed Ounaies, former Foreign Minister of Tunisia where he delivered a keynote lecture on the theme of “The Mediterranean dimension of Tunisian Diplomacy” to MEDAC students. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed to enhance further co-operation between MEDAC and The Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies of Tunisia.



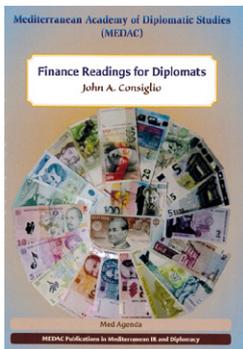
WHAT FUTURE FOR THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL?

This publication was edited by the Director of MEDAC, Prof. Stephen Calleya and the holder of the German Chair, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld. It emerged from a postgraduate seminar on the same subject matter on 5 December 2017. The authors of the papers presented in this special volume of the Med Agenda series engaged during the seminar in a lively interaction with MEDAC students, many of whom are young diplomats from Mediterranean countries. This seminar was made possible by the funding provided by the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN RELATIONS: FROM ILLEGAL TO LEGAL MIGRATION?

This joint special issue of the Future of Europe Observer showcases the longstanding cooperation on Euro-Mediterranean migration policies between the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC), University of Malta and the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI), University of Bonn. It comprises analyses by Master Fellows (“Class of 2018” and M.A. students) from both institutions.



FINANCE READINGS FOR DIPLOMATS

by Dr. John A. Consiglio

In recent years the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies has been very fortunate to benefit from the knowledge and extensive research pertaining to financial and economic issues of Dr. John A. Consiglio, lecturer at MEDAC and at the Department of Banking and Finance, Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy, at the University of Malta. This publication is a collection of Dr. Consiglio's papers addressing economic and financial transitions in the post-Cold War era with a specific focus on the so-called former Eastern Bloc countries that are nowadays referred to as Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs). It also includes an analysis of geo-economic trends in the Mediterranean area.

MEDAC 
Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
University of Malta

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www.um.edu.mt/medac