
Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco

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Mme de Marco, Members of the de Marco family, your Excellencies, dear friends

I am not speaking on behalf of the European Commission, the European External Action Service or the European Union, as I know that President Barroso and HRVP Ashton have already addressed their thoughts and condolences to you on the sad occasion of Guido's passing last year. So, for the next 2 minutes I will be representing myself, as I share some personal reflections and memories with you of a person I hold in the highest regard and affection.

I feel immensely privileged:

- to have known Guido,
- to have shared his company here and in his - your - home,
- to have listened and learned from his quiet wisdom,
- to have been embraced by his extraordinary warmth and humanity.

Quite simply - he was a monumental man.

And thus, his loss is equally monumental – for his family, his country, the Euromed region, his friends worldwide, MEDAC and these very seminars.

He was a man of great intellect, dignity and humility.

He was a man of extreme warmth who possessed the great gift, when you were in his company, of making you feel that you were the only person in the universe as he listened to you; and that your words sprang from eternal fountains of wisdom. But it was Guido's words that fill the void left by his passing.

He was a wonderful orator who spoke –

- With passion and poetry,
- And at length, without notes, with amazing powers of recall.

He brought fairness and understanding to complicated and fraught subjects concerning the Middle East;

His words weaved a spell, both capturing and enrapturing audiences;

Those same words resonated with the injustices he witnessed;

And those words were his weapons, in the politics of persuasion, on his lifelong quest for justice.

Those words and his thoughts he shared with us, twice a year,
at these seminars.

Sadly no more, and while it might be easy to say that -
These seminars have been devalued by his absence

I would say, rather, that they have -
Been dignified by his presence.

And will continue to be enriched and inspired by his great legacy.

It was a great honour to have known him.

In Ireland, we have a saying that is only attributed to the
deserved few:

'He was a relic of old decency'

And continuing in the Irish theme I will finish with a blessing in
Irish and rescue the interpreters with the translation afterwards:

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam"

Which means:

'May his soul rest on the right hand side of God'





Prof. Guido de Marco. A photo-portrait from 1990s as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta.



Family photo of participants of the 1st Euro-Med Seminar for Diplomats in Autumn 1996 with Prof. Guido de Marco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta and Marc Pierini, Head of Unit, DG 1B, EU. 4th to the left of Prof. de Marco is then MEDAC director Prof. Fred Tanner (CH).



Foreign Minister Guido de Marco looks on as professor Fred Tanner (left) and Mr Salv Stellini sign the Agreement between Malta and Switzerland regarding MEDAC (September 1996). Also in photo, Professor David Attard, Dr. Jovan Kurbalija, and Ambassador Alfred Zarb.



Group photo of MEDAC professors and students with Board Chairman Prof. Guido de Marco at the 2009/10 academic year opening ceremony.



Academic year opening ceremony during which launch of German Chair at MEDAC was announced. Professor de Marco, Professor Stephen Calleya and German Ambassador Bernd Braun [Lto R].



Prof. Guido de Marco (left) during the international conference “The end of the Cold War and the Mediterranean 1989 – 2009” with MEDAC students and Ambassador Alexander Bessmertnykh (right), former Foreign Minister, Russian Federation.



Hon. Amr Moussa then Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, was welcomed by Prof. Guido de Marco, President Emeritus of Malta, when he visited MEDAC on the occasion of opening of the Euro-Arab liaison office in Floriana in October 2009.



[L to R] Prof. Guido de Marco, Amb. Francesco Paolo Fulci and MEDAC Director Prof. Stephen C. Calleya
During his lecture at MEDAC in 2008 on The reform of the Security Council of the UNO Amb. Fulci, former Ambassador of Italy to the UNO said: "I am truly grateful for the invitation to Prof. Guido de Marco, President Emeritus of the Republic of Malta, whose personality is known and highly respected all over the world, especially for his eminent role as President of the 45th General Assembly of the United Nations in 1990. President de Marco is a sincere and good friend, of my country, Italy, and of my native island, Sicily, where, like many Maltese, are the origins of his family."



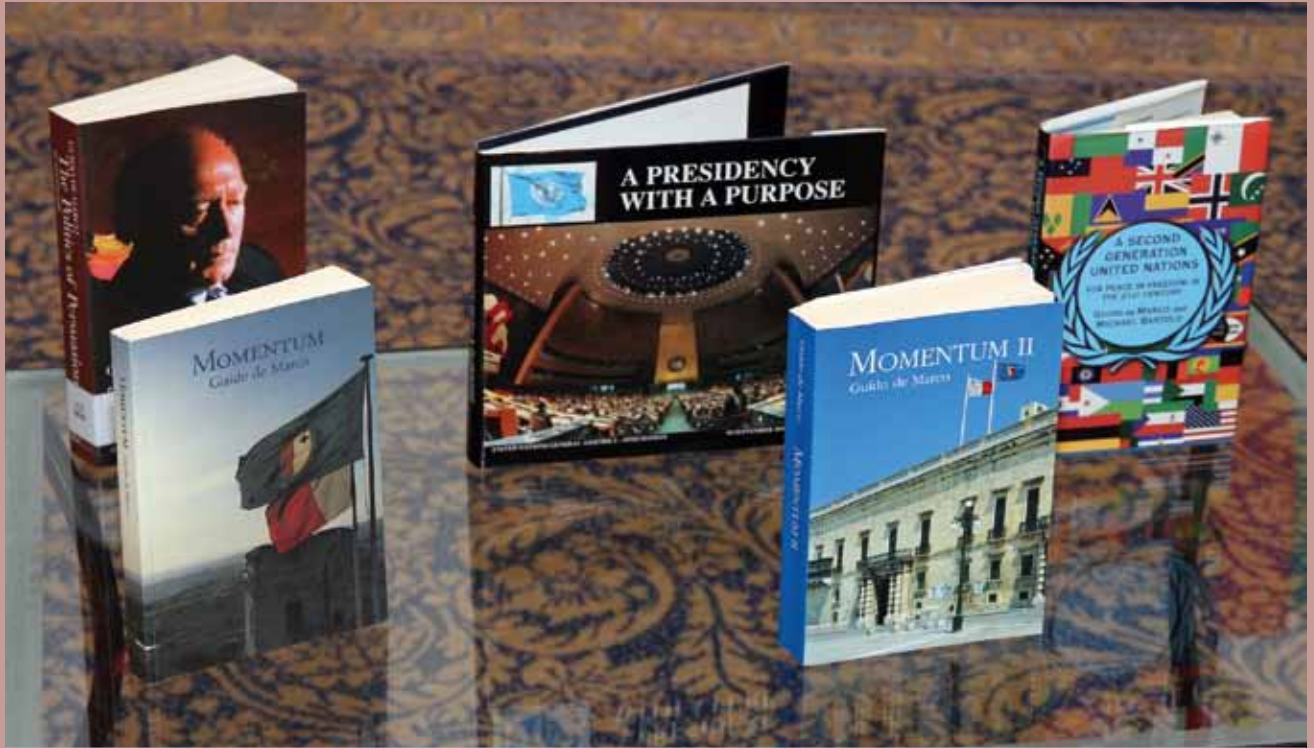
Prof. Richard Falk, Princeton Univ. NJ, USA, and his wife Prof. Hilal Elver, who spent sabbatical year lecturing at MEDAC in 1996, with MEDAC Chairman Prof. Guido de Marco and Prof. Stephen Calleya (L to R) during a visit to MEDAC in 2007.



Participants of XIII Euro-Med Seminar (November, 2002) at the reception with President of Malta Professor Guido de Marco at the Presidential Palace, Valletta.



Professor Guido de Marco, President Emeritus of Malta, MEDAC Chairman at the December 2009 international conference “The end of the Cold War and the Mediterranean 1989 – 2009” held to commemorate twenty years since the end of the “Bush-Gorbachev” summit in Malta [L to R]: Ambassador Christian Meuwly, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland; Ambassador Alexander Bessmertnykh, Russian Federation; Prof. de Marco; Professor Stephen C. Calleya, Director, MEDAC; Hon Dr. Tonio Borg, Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta; Governor John H. Sununu, former Chief of Staff to U.S. President George H. W. Bush.



A selection of publications written or co-authored by Professor de Marco about his career, political struggle and diplomatic initiatives.



The panel of speakers at the Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco During the 30th Malta Seminar (L to R): Amb. Magdy Hefny, Director of the Regional Center for Research and Studies of Water Ethics, Cairo, Egypt; Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director, MEDAC, Malta, Dr. Joe Borg, Chairman, MEDAC; Dr. Bichara Khader, Director, Arab Study and Research Centre at the Univ. of Louvain, Belgium; Dr. Nick Hopkinson, former Director, Wilton Park, UK; Mr. Tom McGrath (Ireland), Administrator, EC, External Relations DG, Brussels.



de Marco family members at the Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco



A group photo of the de Marco family with the panel of speakers at the Prof. Guido de Marco Tribute session.