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## PREFACE

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**G**ozo is a distinct island region with particular characteristics. Its smallness and peripherality create a number of specific advantages and disadvantages which will have to be considered when assessing the benefits or otherwise of Malta's possible accession to the E.U.

The present volume contains a selection of papers originally presented during the seminar held at L-Imgarr Hotel on 28 January 2000, on the theme "The Effects of E.U. Membership on the Island Region of Gozo". The seminar was organised by the Gozo Business Chamber and sponsored by the Ministry for Gozo and HSBC.

The papers deal with a number of aspects on the overall theme, including the strengths and weaknesses, threats and opportunities, posed by the small economic size and the double insularity of Gozo. A theme that recurs in the discussion relates to the intense competitive environment within which Gozitan business would be expected to operate when and if Malta joins the European Union. The funding opportunities that Gozo could

*The closing session of the seminar with (from left to right), Mr John Magro, President of the Gozo Business Chamber, the Hon. Eddie Fenech Adami, Prime Minister of Malta, Professor Lino Briguglio, Chairman of the seminar, the Hon. Alfred Sant, Leader of the Opposition and Mr Jean Didier Hache, Executive Secretary of the Island Commission of the Peripheral and Maritime Regions of Europe.*



## Preface



*The Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, addressing the participants at the seminar*

access as an island region, following Malta's accession to the E.U., is another common theme addressed in the papers.

The political relevance of the island region of Gozo in the national debate on the pros and

cons associated with Malta's accession to the E.U., was testified during the January seminar by the fact that the panel of speakers included the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Gozo and the Opposition spokesman for Gozo.

Other guest speakers included H.E. Dr Giorgio Boggio, Head of Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, the Hon. Dr Michael Frendo and Mr Alfred Mifsud, the three of whom have written extensively on the Malta-E.U. relationship. Mr John Magro and Dr Joe Ellis, who are both directly involved in business in Gozo, also addressed the seminar. The general introduction to the overall theme was presented by Professor Lino Briguglio, director of the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta. The guest international speaker was Mr Jean-Didier Hache, Executive Secretary of the Island Commission of the Peripheral and Maritime Regions of Europe. The seminar was well attended, and evoked considerable discussion from the participants.

As editor of this volume, I would like to thank all the authors, who in their papers covered a wide spectrum of themes, thereby making important contributions to the literature on Gozo and its economy. It is hoped that this book will serve to further disseminate information about the effect of E.U. membership on the economy of the Maltese Islands.

**Lino Briguglio**