



L-Università ta' Malta
Mediterranean Academy
of Diplomatic Studies



Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
University of Malta



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MEDAC Newsletter Winter 2022

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Exchange with H.E. President of Germany, Frank Walter Steinmeier on “The Future of Mediterranean Politics: The Role of Young Diplomats”

MEDAC’s 2022/2023 class commenced their postgraduate studies with a unique experience when they participated in a discussion on “The Future of Mediterranean Politics: The Role of Young Diplomats” with the President of Germany, Frank Walter Steinmeier.

Group photo.



After being welcomed by MEDAC Chairman Professor Pirotta and Director Professor Stephen Calleya, President Steinmeier participated in an hour long exchange with MEDAC students on themes that included: the role of youth, climate change, disinformation, the role of international organizations and civil society organizations, public diplomacy and food security.

The memorable occasion was moderated by the German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld.

Germany is a stakeholder in the Academy since 2009, when the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention was established.



Left to right: Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman, Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H.E. President of Germany, Frank Walter Steinmeier & Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Holder of the German Chair, MEDAC.



Meeting with Hon. Minister Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade

On 5 May 2022, MEDAC Chairperson, Prof. Godfrey Pirotta and MEDAC Director, Prof. Stephen Calleya were honoured to meet Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, the Hon. Dr. Ian Borg. During the meeting, MEDAC provided the Minister with an overview of the Academy's activities and also discussed plans for the 2022-2023 Masters in Diplomatic Studies programme. An overview of MEDAC's Alumni network was also delivered. MEDAC is proud to have over 850 alumni from more than 60 countries.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Hon. Dr. Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs & Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, Chairman MEDAC.

Discussion with the President of Malta, H.E. Dr. George Vella

On 4 May 2022, MEDAC was extremely honoured to be able to participate in an academic exchange on “Past and Emerging Global Challenges ... What role for Malta?” with H. E. Dr. George Vella, President of the Republic of Malta. During the discussion with President Vella at San Anton Palace the postgraduate students were able to learn about the multitude of security challenges we are currently facing in contemporary international relations and the very important contribution that Malta has consistently been providing through its commitment to peace and diplomacy.



H.E. Dr. George Vella, President of Malta & Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director.



MEDAC postgraduate students together with MEDAC faculty members attending the discussion with H.E. Dr. George Vella.



Group photo

MEDAC Outreach

Ambassador of Ethiopia visits MEDAC

In April 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Malta. H. E. Ambassador Dembitu Hambisa Bensa and MEDAC Chairman Professor Godfrey Pirota explored numerous avenues of cooperation and agreed to strengthen relations between the Academy and Ethiopia.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H.E. Dembitu Hambisa Bensa, Ambassador Ethiopia to Malta & Prof. Godfrey Pirota, MEDAC Chairman.

Ambassador of Mongolia visits MEDAC

In June 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Narantungalag Tserendorj, Ambassador of Mongolia to Malta. Prof. Stephen Calleya and Dr. Derek Lutterbeck provided H.E. Tserendorj with an overview of MEDAC's M.A. in Diplomacy programme and discussed the possibility of students from Mongolia participating in future MEDAC endeavours.



H.E. Narantungalag Tserendorj, Ambassador of Mongolia signing the MEDAC distinguished visitors' book.

Speech by H.E. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

In May 2022, MEDAC staff and students had the privilege to attend the inspiring speech by H.E. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, who paid a State Visit to Malta. The event was made possible by the Embassy of Ireland in Malta for the invitation and the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA) for hosting the event which was moderated by Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC.

On the occasion of the state visit of H.E. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, to Malta, MEDAC students and staff with University of Malta Rector, Professor Alfred J. Vella.



H.E. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland during his speech at the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA) in the presence of the MEDAC faculty.



Group photo together with the Rector of the University of Malta, Prof. Alfred J. Vella.

Counsellor of Romania visits MEDAC

MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Raluca Eclemea Popescu, Counsellor at the Embassy of Romania to Malta together with H.E. Amb. Prof. Lino Bianco, Ambassador of Malta to Romania in July 2022. This meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views about further enhancing academic cooperation as stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2016.

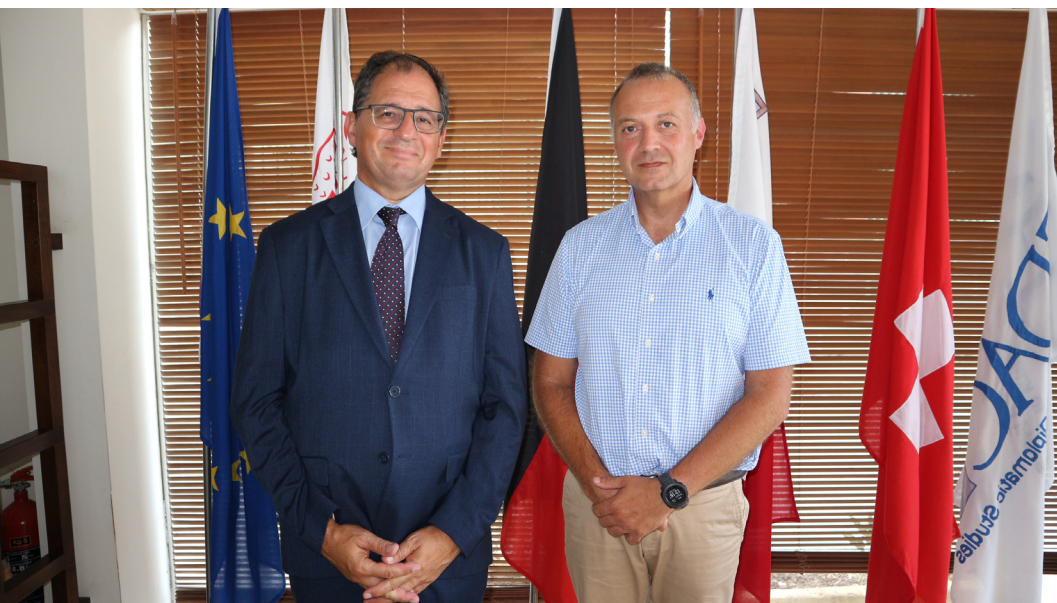


Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director MEDAC, H.E. Raluca Eclemea Popescu, Counsellor, Embassy of Romania to Malta & H.E. Amb. Prof. Lino Bianco, Ambassador of Malta to Romania.

The Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta, Brigadier Clinton O'Neil visits MEDAC

In August 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta, Brigadier Clinton O'Neil.

The meeting at the Academy with Professor Stephen Calleya and Dr. Derek Lutterbeck provided an opportunity to explore several avenues of academic cooperation.



Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director together with Brig. Clinton O'Neil, Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta.

Ambassador of Malta to Kosovo visits MEDAC

MEDAC was honoured to welcome Ambassador of Malta to Kosovo, H.E. Ambassador Juliana Scerri-Ferrante in July 2022. During the meeting, discussions focused on ways to enhance MEDAC's relations with Kosovo.



Prof. Stephen Calleya & H.E. Amb. Juliana Scerri-Ferrante discussing the MEDAC alumni network map.

Ambassador of Tunisia visits MEDAC

In August 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Yassine El Oued, Ambassador of Tunisia to Malta. During the visit, Amb. El Oued provided an update about recent developments in Tunisia.



H.E. Yassine El Oued, Ambassador of Tunisia, signing the MEDAC distinguished visitors' book.

Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India visits MEDAC

In August 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, H.E. Meenakshi Lekhi. The prestigious visit provided an opportunity to explore modalities of academic cooperation.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H.E. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India & Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman.

Ambassador of Cyprus visits MEDAC

In October 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome the Ambassador of Cyprus to Malta, H.E. Yiorgos Christofides who met with MEDAC Chairman, Amb. Prof. Godfrey Pirotta and MEDAC Director, Prof. Stephen Calleya.

The visit to the Academy provided an opportunity to explore the possibility of coordinating different modalities of academic cooperation between MEDAC and Cyprus.

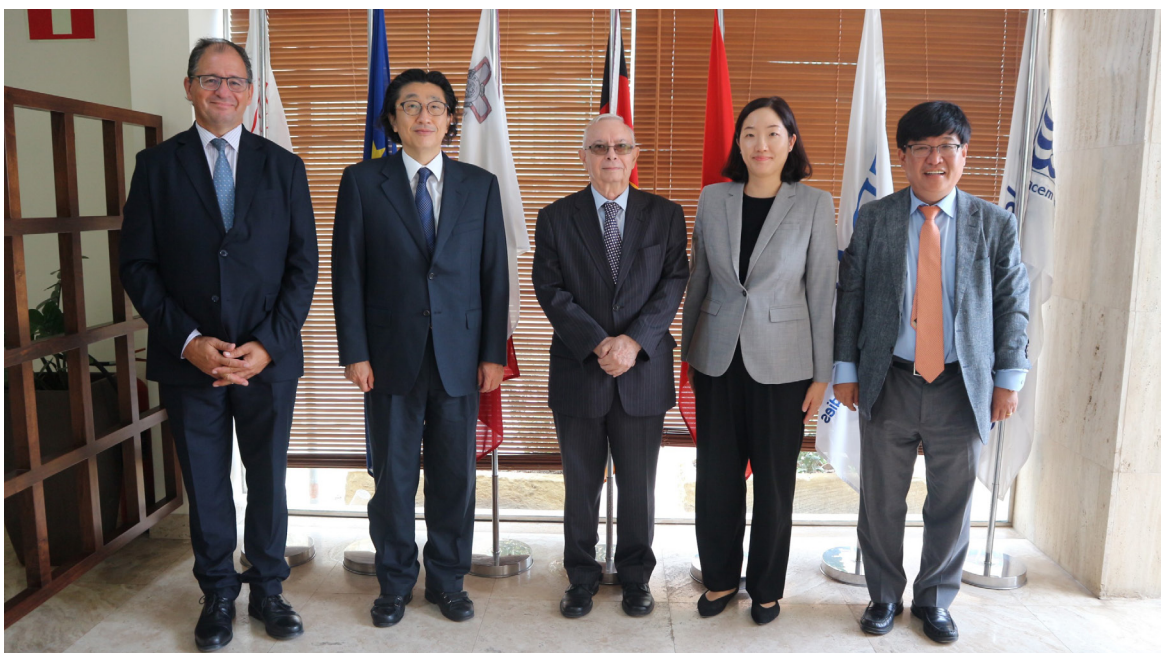


Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H.E. Yiorgos Christofides Ambassador of Cyprus to Malta & Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman.

Delegation from South Korea visits MEDAC

In October 2022, MEDAC was honoured to welcome a delegation from South Korea which included Prof. Dok ju Kim, Director General, Prof. Seunghyun Nam and Prof. Joonkoo Yoo within the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA).

The meeting with MEDAC Chairman Prof. Godfrey Pirotta and MEDAC Director Prof. Stephen Calleya provided an opportunity for exploratory talks to be held in anticipation of establishing academic cooperation in the future.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, Prof. Dok ju Kim, Director General (KNDA), Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, Prof. Seunghyun Nam (KNDA) & Prof. Joonkoo Yoo (KNDA).

MEDAC signs Memoranda of Understanding

On 14 July 2022, MEDAC was honoured to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Leadership Excellence Academy (ALA) in Ethiopia which was allowed for the first time a young diplomat from Ethiopia to join the MEDAC Master programme in academic year 2022-2023.

MEDAC is grateful to the Ministry of Foreign, European Affairs and Trade for its commitment in bringing this relationship to fruition and especially H.E. Amb. Ronald Micallef, Ambassador of Malta to Ethiopia and MFET Director of International Development and Economic Affairs, Ms. Leonie Aquilina.

The Memorandum was signed during a virtual event between Addis Ababa and Malta by Professor Mehret Debebe, Director ALA and Professor Stephen Calleya, Director MEDAC. Present in Addis Ababa was also Ambassador Eshetu Tilahun, Director General for America and Europe at the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry who delivered concluding remarks. Amb. Tilahun augured that this signing would be the first of many opportunities for both Academies to work together not least on capacity building but also to create new dialogues between Africa and Europe.

Top left: Ms. Leonie Aquilina, Director of International Development and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade.

Top right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director
Bottom: The Ethiopian Delegation



The Ethiopian Delegation present in Addis Ababa, consisting of, H.E. Amb. Ronald Micallef, Ambassador of Malta to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative of Malta to the African Union, Professor Mehret Debebe, Director ALA & H.E. Amb. Eshetu Tilahun, Director General for America and Europe at the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry.



Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director signing the Memorandum of Understanding between MEDAC and the African Leadership Excellence Academy (ALA)

Launch of the Alumni Circle by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation (KAS) and Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)

Between 13 and 15 June 2022, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Regional Program Political Dialogue and Regional Integration South Mediterranean (PolDiMed) and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) jointly organized the first annual KAS-MEDAC Alumni Circle entitled 'Discussion on the Future of Euro-Mediterranean Relations' in St. Julian's, Malta.

The conference marked the official launch of the KAS-MEDAC Alumni network for students who receive KAS funding to pursue a Masters at MEDAC and who have successfully completed their Master of Diplomacy (M.Dip.) programme. KAS-MEDAC alumni from the different cohorts along with decision-makers and experts from the Mediterranean region met for the first time in Malta. The envisaged annual event was a great opportunity for the alumni to enrich their list of professional contacts by integrating in the dynamic KAS and MEDAC networks. Moreover, the students were able to exchange views about the most recent developments facing both shores of the Mediterranean, bringing new insights to the debate as young diplomats.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Prof. Thoms Volk, KAS Director, H.E. Walter Hassmann, Ambassador of Germany & Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Holder of the German Chair at MEDAC.



Q & A with MEDAC Alumni and students.



The MEDAC faculty together with KAS and MEDAC Alumni.

This year, the conference consisted of two lively panel discussions followed by a field visit to a Euro-Med historical institution and an official ceremony. The first panel discussion examined the prospects of Euro-Mediterranean relations where the panelists and participants addressed a plethora of questions in relation to geopolitics, development, security, migration, democracy, to name a few. The second panel tackled economic development and job creation in the region where the speakers and participants shed light on the most pressing challenges facing the region's economies and outlined a set of recommendations to stimulate sustainable economic growth.

The conference was concluded by an official ceremony held to welcome the KAS-MEDAC Alumni to the network. Dr. Evarist Bartolo, former Minister for European and Foreign Affairs of Malta and Dr. Abdelkader El Khissassi, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean both delivered keynote speeches to the alumni and distinguished guests in which they stressed the importance of fostering mutual understanding between future generations and strengthening multi-dimensional cooperation between the Mediterranean countries to achieve stability and prosperity.



Q & A with MEDAC Alumni and students.



KAS-MEDAC Alumni presented with the official certificate of the occasion.



Group photo.

German Foreign Policy Week at MEDAC

From 3 to 6 May 2022, MEDAC postgraduate students were privileged to take part in a German Foreign Policy Week co-organized with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Malta and coordinated by Amb. Walter Hassmann and the German Chair at MEDAC, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld. They were able to profit from the insights of top level officials at the German Federal Foreign.

Amb. Dr. Christian Buck, Director for the Near and Middle East and North Africa at the German Federal Foreign Office and former ambassador to Libya delivered a keynote speech and took part in a lively exchange with students on the morning of 5 May 2022 in the presence of Amb. Walter Hassmann. Mr. Florian Laudi, Director for the United Nations and Counterterrorism at the German Federal Foreign Office also addressed the students and staff of MEDAC and participated in a Q & A.



Dr. Christian Buck, Director for the Near and Middle East and North Africa at the German Federal Foreign Office delivering a keynote speech. Session chaired by H.E. Amb. Walter Hassmann and the German Chair at MEDAC, Dr. Monika Wohlfeld.



Mr. Florian Laudi, Director for the United Nations and Counterterrorism at the German Federal Foreign Office.

On 6 May 2022, MEDAC students and staff took part in an in-person panel discussion at Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta with Amb. Sabine Stoehr, Director for the EU Financial Framework and EU Policies at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. The panel discussion was co-organised by the youth organisation JEF. Taking part in the panel discussion were also Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC and Mr. Andre Debattista, lecturer at the Institute for European Studies at the University of Malta.

MEDAC staff and students were also the guests of H.E. Amb. Hassman and Mrs. Hassmann at a reception at their residence on 3 May 2022.

Germany is a partner of MEDAC and since 2009 funds the German Chair and other academic activities.



H.E. Amb. Walter Hassman together with MEDAC students during the reception.



Group photo.

Honorary Consular Corps Award given to MEDAC student

The Honorary Consular Corps (HCC) held their bi-annual reception on 19 October 2022.

During the Honorary Consular Corps event, H.E. Dr George Vella presented the 2021-2022 Honorary Consular Corps Award to Joanna Camilleri, a UM student of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) for obtaining the highest grade in the thesis component of the M.A. in Diplomatic Studies course.

The Honorary Consular Corps was established in 1995, and consists of Honorary Consuls General, Honorary Consuls, and Honorary Vice-Consuls accredited to Malta and representing sixty different countries.



(left to right): First Lady Miriam Vella, HE Dr George Vella, Joanna Camilleri, Prof. Ing. Joseph Buhagiar (Dean of the HCC) and Prof. Stephen Calleya (MEDAC Director)



Speech by Prof. Ing. Joseph Buhagiar, Dean of the Honorary Consular Corps, during the bi-annual reception of the HCC.

Diplomatic Practice at MEDAC

Academic Simulation Exercise on Migration and Asylum Policy

On 28 and 29 April 2022, Prof. Annette Juenemann from Helmut-Schmidt University, Hamburg delivered a module on Migration entitled 'Forced Migration: A Challenge for Europe's contested migration & asylum policy'. MEDAC postgraduate students also participated in an academic simulation exercise on the subject.



Prof. Annette Juenemann interacting with MEDAC postgraduate students.

MEDAC Simulation Seminar on Negotiation Strategies

MEDAC postgraduate students participated in a two-day Simulation Exercise conducted by Prof. Paul Meerts from Clingendael Netherlands, Institute of International Relations on 10 and 11 November 2021. The academic exercise provided MEDAC students with a unique opportunity to learn about theoretical insights and practical experiences that are an essential part of negotiations in international diplomacy.



Prof. Paul Meerts advising MEDAC students on negotiation strategies.



MEDAC students during one of the simulation exercises.



Students preparing a negotiating strategy.

Calendar

Semester 2

Academic Year 2021/22

May 2022

International Economics Seminar

MEDAC students participated in an academic session that focused on the practical aspects of attracting foreign direct investment. This opportunity was conducted by Ms Nathalie Farrugia on behalf of Malta Enterprise and Amb. Dennis Vella, MEDAC visiting lecturer in International Economics and Business Development.



Prof. Karina Korostelina delivered a lecture on ‘War and Peace in Ukraine: the roots and consequences of the Russian Invasion’.



Semester 1

Academic Year 2022/2023

October 2022

Dr. Evarist Bartolo, former Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and former Minister of Education, delivered a series of lectures in MEDAC’s postgraduate programme.



Professor Tanya Sammut Bonnici, Pro-Rector, University of Malta delivered a module on Diplomacy and International Economics.



Dr. Alexandra Schaerer delivered a module on International Relations focusing on ‘Foundations of State Instability and Societal Fracture’.



November 2022

Dr. Alex Sceberras Trigona delivered a module on Diplomacy entitled, ‘Small States Diplomats in a firmly geopolitical world’.



Ms. Sue Garcia Imbernon, President of the MEDAC Alumni Association delivered a module in International Law focusing on ‘Human Rights’.



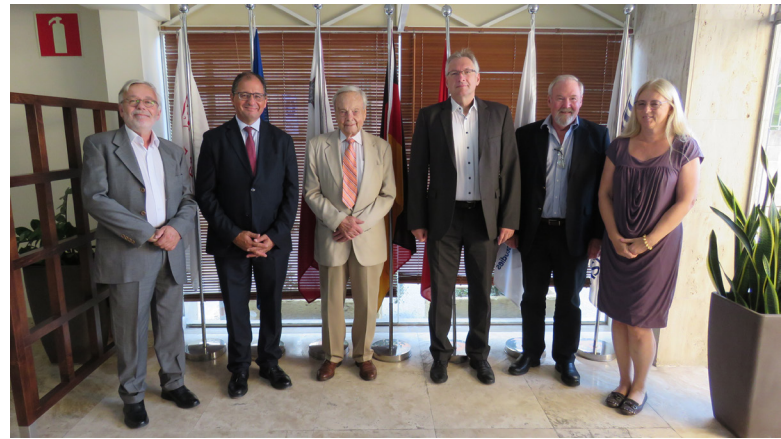
MEDAC welcomes Professor William Zartman and members of the steering committee of the Processes in International Negotiation (PIN)

On 18 October 2022, MEDAC was honoured to host Professor William Zartman who delivered a public lecture on “What Role for Negotiation in the Present World Order?” at the University of Malta. Professor Stephen Calleya welcomed Professor Zartman and other members of the steering committee of the Processes in International Negotiation (PIN).

University postgraduate students participated in a thought provoking discussion which was moderated by Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, Holder of the German Chair in Conflict Prevention and Peace Studies at MEDAC.



Q & A session with Prof. W. Zartman



Left to right: Prof. Paul Meerts, Prof. Stephen Calleya, Prof. William Zartman, Prof. Rudolf Schuessler, Prof. Mark Anstey & Dr. Monika Wohlfeld.



Prof. W. Zartman addressing the audience during the public lecture.

MEDAC's Ambassadorial Lecture Series

The 2022/2023 MEDAC Ambassadorial lectures series commenced on 12 October 2022 with the Ambassador of Egypt to Malta, H.E. Khaled Anis and the Ambassador for Climate Action Malta, H.E. Prof. Simone Borg, delivering a lecture on "Multilateral Diplomacy and Climate Change".

MEDAC's postgraduate students participated in a thought provoking discussion with the Ambassadors that focused on the importance of the Climate Change endeavour.



H.E. Prof. Simone Borg, Ambassador for Climate Action Malta & H.E. Khaled Anis, Ambassador of Egypt to Malta.

MEDAC Cohort Academic Year 2022–2023

On 4 October 2022, MEDAC Director Prof. Stephen Calleya and academic staff welcomed the MEDAC cohort of 2022/2023. Students from across the Mediterranean region and beyond commenced classes reading for a Master degree in Diplomatic Studies.



Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, addressing the Academy's new cohort.

Master of Diplomacy

ALGERIA	MR FARES BOULOUDANI
EGYPT	MR MOHYELDEIN MEDHAT SALEH ALY
EGYPT	MS NOURHANE MAGD HASSAN REFAAT
ETHIOPIA	MR HENOK JEMAL AMAN
GHANA	MS EMMANUELLA KARIKARI AGYEMAN
LEBANON	MS SARA AKKARI
PALESTINE	MS REEM SHARHA
PALESTINE	MR MOHAMEDALI ABUSHAHLA

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

BANGLADESH	MR ATHAR SHIHAB RUSAFI
BRAZIL/ITALY	MS GIULIA PICCOLI BACHESCHI
CANADA/MALTA	MS ERICA MARIE BORG
MALTA	MS KIMBERLY BONELLO
MALTA	MR MICHAEL JEREMY DEBATTISTA
MALTA	MR JOHN PAUL VELLA
MALTA	MS GERMAINE VASSALLO
MALTA	MR KARL SACCO



MEDAC Class 2022-2023