



## An Intense Year of Diplomacy Hon. Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Malta

Since January 2023, and with even greater emphasis as of January 2024, Malta has been engaged in a series of multilateral engagements, serving both as an elected member of the UN Security Council, and, as of 1 January 2024, Chair-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

During each of my travels and meetings I'm being asked what we hope to contribute in these roles. I take this as a positive sign of interest in our policies and actions, and a sign of the importance of the respective organisations, which address peace and security both locally and globally.

Our primary task as OSCE Chair-in-Office will be to strengthen the organisation's survival, through the adoption of the organisation's budget, the nomination and appointment of its top positions for the years to come, and the confirmation of the Chair that will assume office in 2026. Ukraine remains a top priority for Malta as OSCE Chair, as we will continue to call upon Russia to end its war and look for solutions to assist Ukraine and its people.

In terms of thematic priorities, we will complement the work being done at UNSC level on themes such as transnational threats, Women, Peace and Security, Climate change, and media literacy. We will also address a number of other issues that are connected to security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, from the safe use of digital technologies to issues like food security, the safety of journalists, and combating trafficking of human beings and violence against women.

We are also in the midst of our final year on the UN Security Council, and here our priorities overlap



considerably with what we are doing at the OSCE. Following on from our work in the UNSC during 2023, we will continue to focus on protecting human life, promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and underlining the need for all parties to adhere to international law. Addressing security in its various aspects, including the problems faced by the most vulnerable states, remains key, and I and the Ministry I lead will continue to be fully engaged on these topics. Foremost in mind we have the situation in Palestine, where we continue to call for an immediate ceasefire to protect the millions of civilians whose lives are at risk.

I hope that by the end of 2024 we will be able to celebrate an important year of accomplishments, and that this will encourage graduates from MEDAC to join the Ministry and embark on a diplomatic career.

Left to Right: Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Hon. Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Professor Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman



# Congratulations to MEDAC Graduates

## MEDAC Class 2022–2023

The University of Malta graduation ceremony for the 2022-2023 MEDAC postgraduate class was held on 8 March 2024 in Valletta, Malta.

We congratulate the recently graduated MEDAC alumni on their significant milestone of achieving the postgraduate degree in Diplomacy and Diplomatic Studies, and extend our best wishes to all as they embark on their careers in international relations and diplomacy.

The Class of 2022-2023 join MEDAC's alumni from across the globe, who are already contributing to the international agenda in numerous organisations including the United Nations, European Union and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

### 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 AKKARY
PALESTINE	MS REEM SHARHA
PALESTINE	MR MOHAMEDALI ABUSHAHLA

### Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

ITALY	MS GIULIA PICCOLI BACHESCHI
MALTA	MS ERICA MARIE BORG
MALTA	MS GERMAINE VASSALLO
MALTA	MR MICHAEL JEREMY DEBATTISTA
MALTA	MR KARL SACCO
MALTA	MS KIMBERLY BONELLO
MALTA	MR JOHN PAUL VELLA



MEDAC Class 2022-2023



## Ambassadorial Lecture Series

### High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malta

On 24 November 2023, H. E. Gloria Gangte, High Commissioner of India to Malta delivered a keynote address to the 2023-2024 Masters students on India's G20 Presidency which focused on the theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. This occasion provided MEDAC postgraduate students with an opportunity to participate in a dynamic question and answer session.



*H.E. Gloria Gangte, High Commissioner of India to Malta providing academic literature regarding India's G20 Presidency to Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director.*

## High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta to India

On 13 February 2023 H.E. Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta to India, provided an insightful overview of Malta-India diplomatic relations from both a historical and contemporary perspective. H.E. Reuben Gauci also informed the students about his overarching diplomatic service as he is also accredited as Malta's High Commissioner to The Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and Malta's Ambassador to Nepal. MEDAC students participated in a discussion with High Commissioner Gauci after the Ambassadorial lecture.

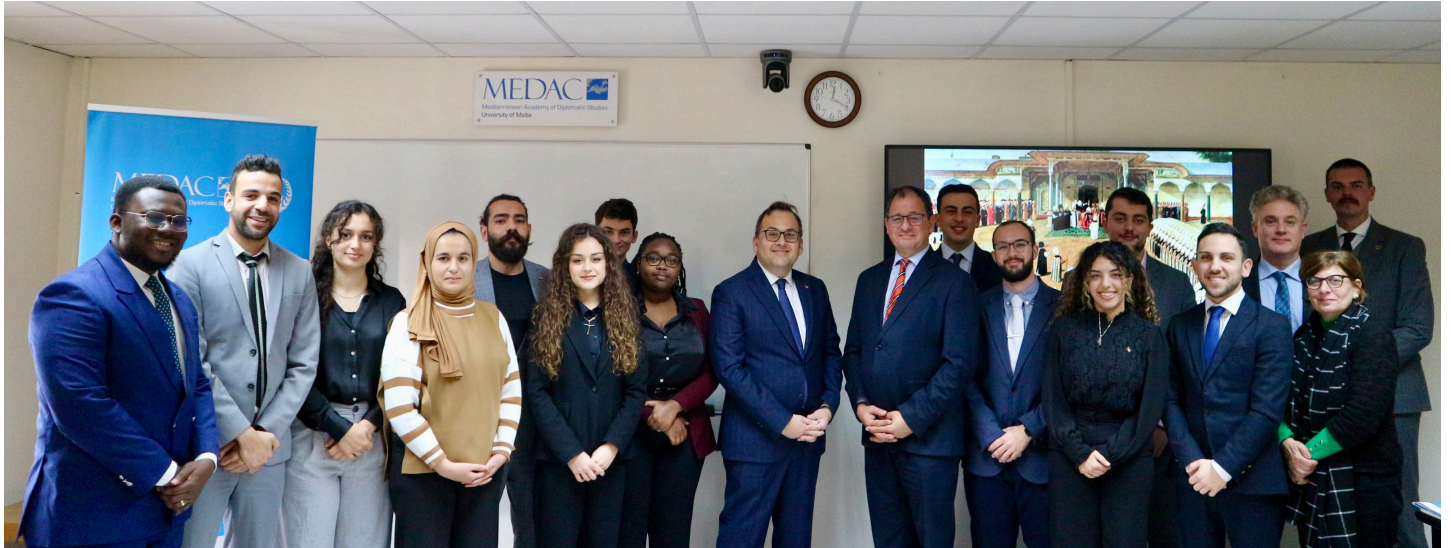


*H.E. Reuben Gauci delivering a lecture to MEDAC postgraduate students on Malta-India relations.*

## Ambassadorial Lecture Series

### Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye

The Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Erdeniz Şen, delivered an Ambassadorial lecture on the theme of '500 years of Turkish Diplomacy' at MEDAC on 29 February 2024. This distinguished event provided MEDAC students with an opportunity to achieve a better understanding of the important role that Türkiye plays in contemporary international relations.



H.E. Erdeniz Şen, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye with MEDAC students and academic staff

## Keynote Address

### Mr Luis Martinez Montes

On 2 November 2023, MEDAC was honoured to welcome Ambassador José María Muriel Palomino, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain and Mr Luis Martinez Montes, a Spanish diplomat, scholar, historian and writer. Mr Martinez Montes delivered a keynote address to MEDAC students on the theme of Spain's current presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Spanish Embassy donated a collection of books to the MEDAC library, including books written by Spanish Ambassador Miguel Ángel Ochoa Brun and Mr Martinez Montes.



Mr Luis Martinez Montes delivering a keynote lecture on Spain's presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2023.



The Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain book donation to MEDAC. The book featured in the photo was written by Mr Luis Martinez Montes



## Keynote Lectures

### Ms Zinovia-Chaido Stavridi, Legal Adviser at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 10 November 2023, MEDAC was honoured to welcome the Permanent Secretary for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Mr Christopher Cutajar and Ms Zinovia-Chaido Stavridi, Legal Adviser of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms Stavridi addressed the 2023-2024 MEDAC Masters students on Greece and recent maritime delimitation developments.



Left to right: Ms Zinovia-Chaido Stavridi, Legal Adviser of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor Godfrey Pirotta, MEDAC Chairman and Mr Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade

### Mr Mohamed Wael Khammassi, the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia in Malta

Mr Mohamed Wael Khammassi, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia in Malta, delivered a keynote lecture at the Academy, on 15 November 2023 that focused on EU-Tunisia relations. Mr Khammassi provided the students with a brief history of the agreement between Tunisia and the EEC in 1976 and the Association Agreement which was signed thereafter. Mr Khammassi also engaged in a lively discussion with MEDAC students on the pillars of the current EU-Tunisia partnership.



MEDAC students with Mr Mohamed Wael Khammassi, the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia in Malta



## MEDAC Outreach

### State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia

On 30 October 2023, MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Filip Tosevski, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia. The visit to the Academy provided an opportunity to explore potential academic opportunities with North Macedonia. MEDAC is proud to have several alumni from North Macedonia.



H.E. Filip Tosevski signing MEDAC's distinguished visitor's book.

### Honorary President of the International Ocean Institute

On 3 November 2023, Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director and Ms Lourdes Pullicino, Senior Associate Academic held a meeting with Professor Awni Behnam, Honorary President of the International Ocean Institute and Ms Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director of the International Ocean Institute. MEDAC looks forward to further collaboration with IOI.



Left to right: Ms Lourdes Pullicino, Senior Associate Academic, Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Professor Awni Behnam, Honorary President of the International Ocean Institute and Ms Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director of the International Ocean Institute.



## Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

On 6 December 2023 MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Demitu Hambisa, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia to Malta. The visit to the Academy provided an opportunity to explore further potential academic opportunities between MEDAC and the African Leadership Excellence Academy in Ethiopia.

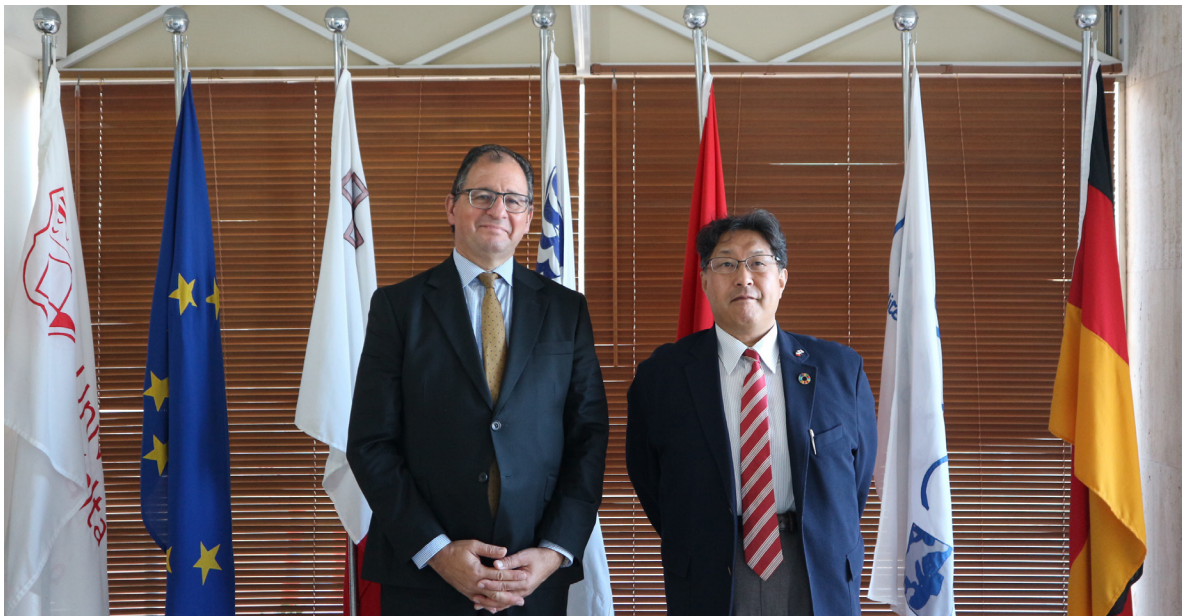


Left to right: H.E. Demitu Hambisa, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia to Malta and Professor Derek Lutterbeck, MEDAC Deputy Director.

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## Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan

MEDAC was honoured to welcome Mr Tadahiko Yamaguchi, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan in Malta on 29 January 2024. During this visit Mr Yamaguchi was informed about MEDAC's main activities, particularly its academic postgraduate programmes.



Left to Right: Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director and Mr Tadahiko Yamaguchi, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan in Malta.



## ZIF-MEDAC Certification Program 2024

ZIF (Centre for International Peace Operations) and MEDAC (Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies) welcomed the 2023/24 cohort of students at MEDAC to a certification program on the Fundamentals of Peace Mediation from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The programme was introduced by the organisers from MEDAC and ZIF with welcoming remarks by Mr Elmar Udo Kohlhofer, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. ZIF was represented at the programme by Ms Amelie Overmann, Head of the Project 'Strengthening of Mediation and Dialogue Capacities' and Ms Lilian Reichert, the project's coordinator. Dr Natalia Mirimanova, a conflict resolution scholar-practitioner with over 25 years of experience in mediation and dialogue processes joined the ZIF team. Dr Natalia Mirimanova is senior political adviser of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Ms Overmann introduced the role of ZIF in training diplomats in conflict negotiations and elaborated on the four pillars on which ZIF operates - election monitoring, training, peace mediation and analysis.

The Program sketched out the principles of mediation and the concept of the Dispute Resolution Continuum with the role of Third-Party Intervention in peace processes. The different levels of mediation and their formats were described with diplomatic tracks introduced and placed into the context of negotiation and the stages of conflict necessitating varying approaches. Students then broke out into groups to utilise the three methods to analyse a hypothetical conflict and drew charts depicting their rationales.

A number of special guests participated online, namely Carsten Wieland, German diplomat, former senior UN consultant, Middle East, and conflict expert with high-ranking mediation experience and Patrizia Albrecht, Climate Affairs Adviser, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. Dr Wieland provided a brief and engaging introduction to his illustrious career experiences and elaborated on the role of trust in negotiation processes and the impact that constant change in diplomatic staff and agencies has on this variable. Ms Albrecht gave some insight into the role of the OSCE in climate change and its elevation to a security issue; she also emphasised numerous issues related to specific regional projects and concerns with their practical implementation.

*Ms Natalia Mirimanova sharing her insights and expertise in mediation with the students, with Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, in attendance*







The adaptive conflict toolbox, micro, meta and macro skills, ripeness and readiness and entry points are a few of the concepts that were introduced to the students. The fact that mediation is just one part of peace building, though a key one, was reiterated throughout.

The highlight of the seminar was a role-playing simulation in which students were engaged in an exercise to demonstrate and put into practice the principles outlined during the previous days. The concepts of mediation, negotiation and conflict resolution were put into practice and followed by an extensive debrief and evaluation session.

Certificates were presented to the students by H.E. Tanja I. Beyer, Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

MEDAC expresses its gratitude to the German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution which funds and supports this very important theoretical and practical component of our Masters programme.

Group photo with MEDAC students, and MEDAC and ZIF staff



Ms Natalia Mirimanova leading a breakout session with one of the negotiation simulation groups



Professor Derek Lutterbeck, Deputy Director of MEDAC, Amelie Overman from ZIF, and H.E. Tanja I. Beyer, Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany at the closing session of the program



## Seminar on International Political and Diplomatic Negotiation

On 26 and 27 October 2023, Professor Paul Meerts led a seminar for MEDAC students on international political and diplomatic negotiations. This seminar included theoretical insights as well as various workshops and negotiation simulation exercises regarding strategies of conflict behaviour, conflict mode instruments, behaviour of skilled negotiations and negotiation styles. At its conclusion, students underwent an assessment, and grades were assigned based on their performance throughout the simulation exercise. This seminar was funded by the German Chair in Conflict Prevention and Peace Studies at MEDAC.



Group Photo



MEDAC students engaging in group discussions as part of the workshops conducted during the seminar.





*Professor Paul Meerts engaging with MEDAC's postgraduate students on diplomatic negotiation.*



*MEDAC's postgraduate students brainstorming during a preparatory session during the Seminar.*



## Training Course for Coast Guard Officials from MENA Countries

As in previous years, MEDAC in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) and with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), organised a 2.5 week training course for Coast Guard officials from North African and Middle Eastern countries. The course was carried out from 20 November to 5 December 2023 at the Maritime Safety and Security Training Centre (MSSTC) of the AFM. Ms Gisela Schlupe, Manager for International Cooperation at the SEM, also paid a visit to the course in the context of a monitoring and evaluation mission.

A total of 13 participants from Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye attended the course, making it one of the largest intakes ever. The main objective of the course was to strengthen search and rescue activities in the Mediterranean, given the growing challenge of seaborne migration in the region. More specifically, the

course sought to enhance participants' understanding of how to plan and coordinate maritime search and rescue operations. The course also familiarised participants with current trends of migration in the Mediterranean region, and with the most important legal (including human rights) frameworks which need to be respected in this context. Apart from the AFM and MEDAC, the UNHCR office in Malta also contributed to the training course.

The course was coordinated by Prof. Derek Lutterbeck, MEDAC Deputy Director, and LTC Marvin Mangion from the AFM. The graduation ceremony was presided over by AFM Deputy Commander Colonel Edric Zahra. All of the course participants expressed their gratitude for the financial support provided by the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, which made the course possible.



Group photo.



## Johnny Ibrahim – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lebanon to Argentina

### MEDAC Class of 1998

Dear fellow alumna/alumnus of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC).

MEDAC is bearer of the Mediterranean name, enshrined in the history of human evolution since times immemorial. Many legends, myths, cultures, religions, and civilizations rose and fell with the Blue waves crashing on the shores of Southern Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa. Different races and peoples have been interacting around and through the Mediterranean with different interests, objectives, and perspectives. Each from its own angle of vision, perceptions, values, and above all national interests. A clash of civilizations has been fueling recent developments. Yet, economic interests and national security concerns remain the main engines guiding the ones and the others, under different embellished slogans.

The *civilized* North wishes to transmit its values of human and refugee rights, gender equality, democracy, structural adjustments, security system reforms and good governance. The East and the South are eager to grow economically, to exercise their right to self-determination in observance of their cultural heritage, and the right of their people to prosperity and diversity.

Scratching the surface, one shall recall the discovery of large reserves of hydrocarbons in the East Mediterranean Basin. A discovery accompanied by the *Arabic Spring* and all the transformations that followed in the region, escorted by the Russia-Ukraine War, and crowned by the eruption of another armed conflict in the protracted Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

It is no coincidence that Malta's diplomacy, with the skills of its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, managed to broker UN Security Council Resolution 2712 (2023) calling for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors through the Gaza strip. A MEDAC alumna, Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, initiated to international law and the values of the Mediterranean, embracing its diverse shores as a unity, guided this diplomatic breakthrough.

With thirty-three years of tradition, and hundreds of diplomat alumni from tens of countries, MEDAC is a discrete shrine that could shift the paradigm in the relationships between the different shores of the Mediterranean and around the world. *Realism* is not the only alternative to the current international or regional system. Safeguarding the national security of Europe from access to energy, resources, food, labor, and markets is possible without hypocrite policies that destabilize the Order and create even more threats to Europe. Peace, stability, and prosperity in the neighboring countries are better alternatives to wars, combatting illegal migration and criminality, or to complaisance with non-transparent governments in return of economic privileges.

In this panorama, MEDAC is a hidden gem, a veiled philosopher's stone, a diplomatic instrument capable of transforming into a think tank, a pressure group, or a power behind the throne to advance constructive policies on the different shores of the Mediterranean, making the world a better place.

Every MEDAC alumna and alumnus is depository of the Academy's ideals in her and his professional diplomatic life. Not only in gratitude of the knowledge that has been transmitted to us, but also to make a difference at the domestic and international realms. By vibrating these values individually, we create a collective oscillation that resonates globally.

*Diversity is not a threat; it is a source of strength and innovation.* (Amin Maalouf).



H.E. Johnny Ibrahim during his posting as the Consulate General of Lebanon in Los Angeles



## International Economics and Business Development – MEDAC visits Seifert Systems Ltd.

On 12 December 2023 MEDAC students and staff were privileged to visit Seifert Systems Ltd., a manufacturing company of industrial air-conditioning and cooling solutions which was founded in 1965. Seifert Systems Ltd. launched its second production site in Malta in 1991. Furthermore in 2023, a smart factory was officially inaugurated in Malta. Ing. Andres Ochoa, Area Sales Manager kindly provided a tour of the factory and provided an extensive overview of the Seifert's production line in Malta and the company's global dimension. This company visit was part of International Economics and Business Development module which is delivered by Ambassador Dennis Vella.

MEDAC would like to thank the management of Seifert Systems Ltd. for this opportunity and Ambassador Vella for coordinating this visit.



*Ing. Andres Ochoa explaining the industrial production line at the Seifert Systems Ltd. smart factory.*



*Seifert Systems Ltd. Production Line*





*Ing. Andres Ochoa engaging with MEDAC students on Seifert's global dimension.*



*MEDAC students together with Ambassador Dennis Vella.*





# Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

*Starting October 2024*



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**DIplomacy IN THE EURO-MED REGION**