

MEDAC Chairman President Emeritus Dr George Vella

MEDAC is proud and honoured to announce the appointment of its new Chairman, President Emeritus Dr George Vella.

Dr George Vella commenced his career as a doctor of medicine in 1964, after having graduated from the University of Malta, later specialising in Family Medicine. During his years at university, which resonated with the height of the Cold War, Dr Vella participated on various student exchange programmes, most notably his visit to the then divided Berlin in 1962. This trip moulded his political thinking already imbued with the empathy and compassion from his formative years.

Politics was a natural career path for Dr Vella. First elected to Parliament at the age of thirty-six, he represented his district almost intermittently for eight legislatures. In Parliament his outlook was primarily international although perhaps less acknowledged is his keen appreciation of the environment. Already in 1978, sitting on the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe he was chosen to be rapporteur on maritime pollution. His first ministerial post in 1996 was as Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Environment. The landmark 1997 Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial

Conference held in Malta under his stewardship was an historical confidence-building measure bringing together the leaders of all the countries around the Mediterranean shores. He was also Deputy Prime Minister from 1996 to 1998.

His second tenure as foreign minister between 2013 and 2017 was again ground-breaking for Malta putting into practice his belief in a just world order built on multilateralism. Suffice to mention the opening of multiple diplomatic representations across the world, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2015 and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2017.

On 4 April 2019, Dr George Vella was sworn in as the tenth President of the Republic of Malta, a Presidency disrupted by Covid-19, the invasion of Ukraine and more volatility in the Mediterranean. He none the less organised the Arraiolos Group meeting in 2022. His Presidency continued to project calm and stability. True to character, he was outspoken, but significantly a conscientious guardian of our constitution.

President Emeritus Dr Vella has been a steadfast supporter of MEDAC's mission of training young diplomats from across the region and has worked tirelessly to advance the importance of security and prosperity in the Mediterranean for all peoples across the region.



Dr George Vella during the Helsinki 40 Conference held in November 2015



Left to Right: Dr George Vella and Professor Stephen Calleya during MEDAC's 25th Anniversary International Conference in December 2014

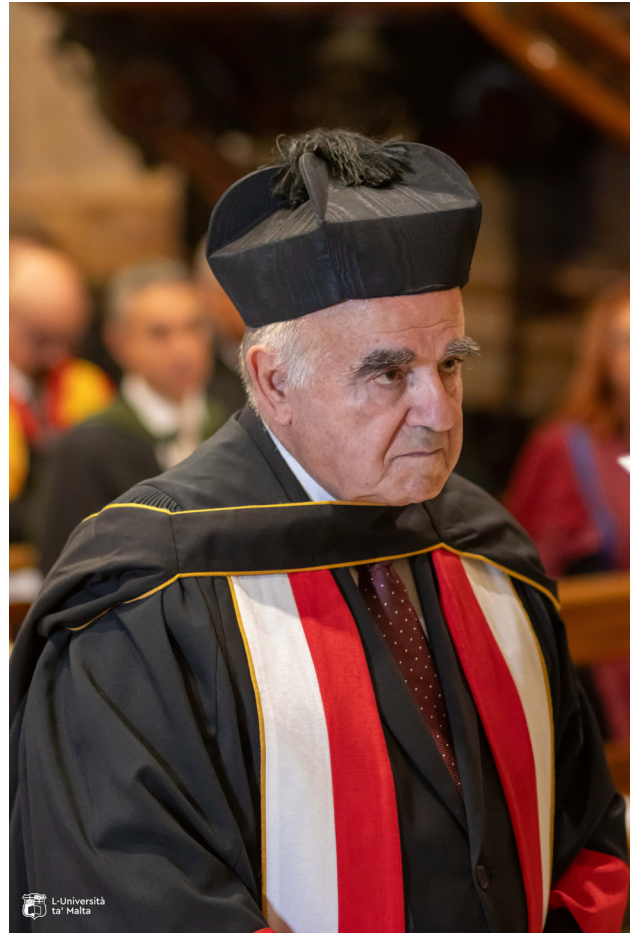
Conferment of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) Degree

President Emeritus Dr George Vella

The Chairman of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, President Emeritus Dr George Vella was awarded the Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) Degree by the University of Malta on 22 November 2024. This award recognised President Emeritus' distinguished vocation to the Maltese people, most prominently as President of the Republic of Malta, as well as his overall commitment to diplomacy and dialogue in our Mediterranean.

In his keynote address, Dr Vella reflected on the parameters shaping and determining international politics and global governance. Dr Vella referred to the ongoing wars and conflicts that are accounting for the death of millions, displacement of whole populations and the despoilment of human dignity. President Emeritus called for the need to urgently reinforce the structure of international organisations so that multilateralism is strengthened. Dr Vella also proposed enhancing the legal framework of international governance on a global level so that diplomacy, both preventative and reparative becomes more effective. Dr Vella expressed the urgent need for the involvement of everybody, including a more active role by the younger generations so that together we can voice our concerns and actively contribute towards ensuring better prospects for future generations.

The oration was delivered by Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies. Professor Calleya highlighted Dr Vella's immense contribution to peace and diplomacy and his legacy of integrity in his outstanding domestic and international career.



President Emeritus Dr George Vella receiving the Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) Degree



MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleya delivering the oration on this occasion



President Emeritus Dr George Vella during the Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) Degree ceremony

MEDAC Class 2024–2025

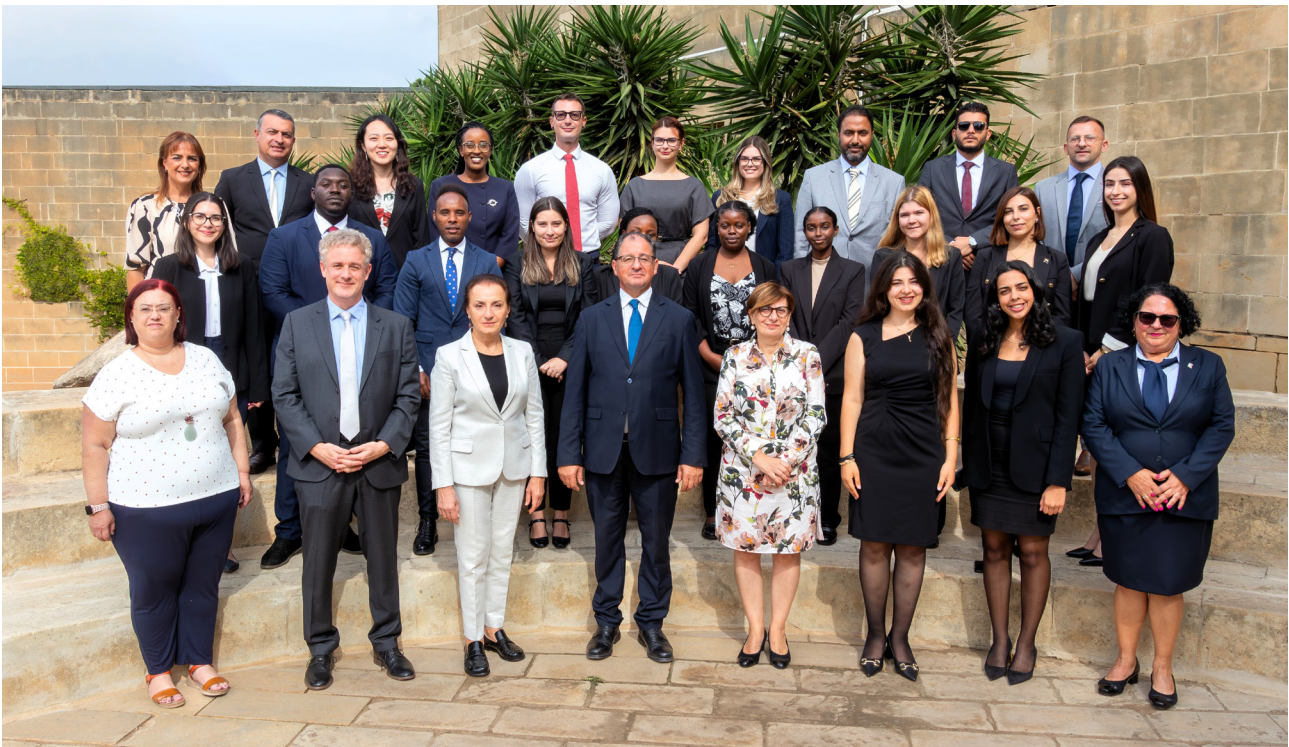
The 1st of October 2024 marked the beginning of the 35th academic year at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies. Postgraduate students from across the Mediterranean and beyond are pursuing their Masters Degree in Diplomatic Studies at MEDAC, University of Malta. MEDAC extends its very best wishes to all our new students and looks forward to a rewarding academic year ahead.

Master of Diplomacy

DJIBOUTI	MOUNISSA ABOUBAKER
EGYPT	DINA EHAB ATTA
EGYPT	MAI ASHOUR
ETHIOPIA	TADESSE DANIEL MOHAMMED
GHANA	AMANDA STEPHANIE NAA ADOLEY ADDO
GHANA	CYRIL AMARTEI BROCKE
LIBYA	AHMED ABDULMULA BUSHAHEWA
PALESTINE	NOUR NASSERALLAH
PALESTINE	RANA ABUEIN
RWANDA	JOELLA UMUTESI
RWANDA	VANESSA PEACE UDAHOGORA
TÜRKIYE	AYSE ALEyna KARASAC

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

CHINA	JINGYA YUAN
CANADA/GERMANY	JOSHUA HOUSTON WIEBE
HUNGARY	BIBOR ZSUZSANNA FANICI
KUWAIT	FARAJ ALHAJERI
MALTA	ALEXIA FARRUGIA
MALTA	BERNARD BORG



MEDAC Class 2024-2025

Keynote Lectures

Representatives of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta

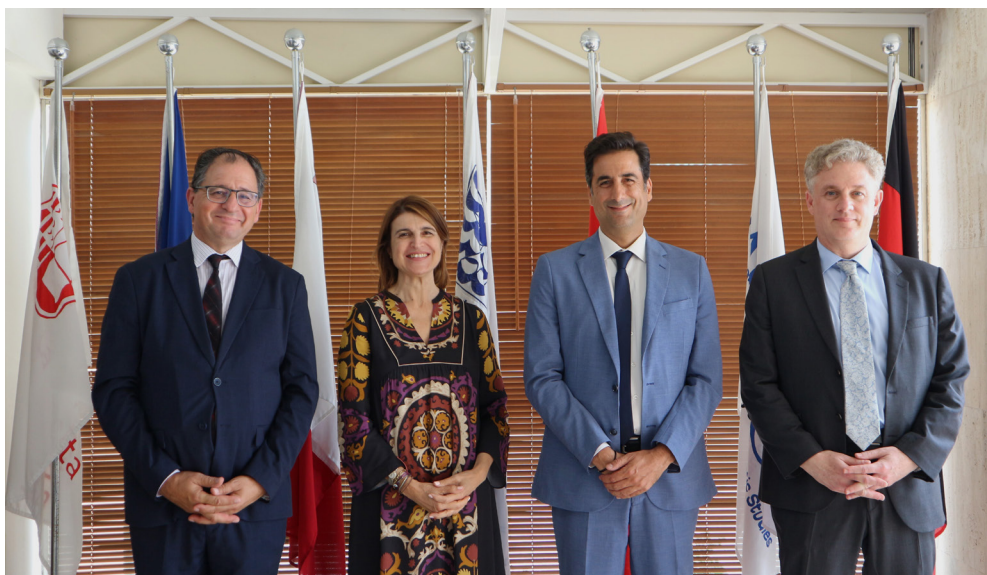
On 2 May 2024 Dr Alessia Carbone, Ms Gabrielle Caligari Conti and MEDAC Alumni Mr Michael Jeremy Debattista delivered a lecture on Economic Sanctions in the World of Diplomacy. MFET officials also provided background information on the work of the Sanctions Unit and Sanctions Monitoring Board as well as the Commercial Diplomacy Unit at the Ministry. This address was followed by a dynamic Q & A session with the MEDAC students in attendance.



Representatives of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade delivering an address on sanctions

Dr Heracles Moskoff

MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Tasia Athanasiou, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic and Dr Heracles Moskoff, Secretary General for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection at the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum. Dr Moskoff delivered a keynote address on human security and migration on the theme 'A safety net for unaccompanied minors'.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, H.E. Tasia Athanasiou, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic, Dr Heracles Moskoff, Secretary General for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection at the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum and Prof. Derek Lutterbeck, MEDAC Deputy Director

Ambassadorial Lectures

H.E. Agnès Von der Mühl

On 30 April 2024 MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Agnès Von der Mühl, former Ambassador of France to Malta. Ambassador Von der Mühl delivered a keynote address on the theme 'Universal Values in a Multipolar World', as part of MEDAC's Ambassadorial lecture series. The Academy expresses its gratitude to Her Excellency and the Embassy of France in Malta for supporting its academic endeavours.



H.E. Agnès Von der Mühl, former Ambassador of France to Malta delivering her address in the MEDAC classroom

Professor Godfrey Baldacchino

MEDAC was honoured to welcome Professor Godfrey Baldacchino, Malta's Ambassador for islands and small states. The theme of this Ambassadorial lecture was 'The Success of Small States in International Relations', the title of Professor Baldacchino's new edited book published by Routledge. This special occasion provided MEDAC students with another opportunity to participate in a thought-provoking academic discussion.



H.E. Godfrey Baldacchino delivering his lecture on the success of small states in international relations

MEDAC Outreach

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Resident Representative to Tunisia

On 14 March 2024 former MEDAC Chairman Professor Godfrey Pirotta and MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleya held a meeting with Dr Malte Gaier, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Resident Representative to Tunisia. MEDAC looks forward to further collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.



Left to Right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Dr Malte Gaier, KAS Resident Representative to Tunisia and Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, former MEDAC Chairman

High Commissioner of Rwanda

On 4 April 2024, MEDAC was honoured to welcome H.E. Johnston Busingye, High Commissioner of Rwanda to Malta. This meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on contemporary international relations and the participation of young diplomats from Rwanda in MEDAC's Master of Diplomacy programme.



Left to Right: Ms Lourdes Pullicino, MEDAC Lecturer, Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Ms Christella Akoguteta Fatina, MEDAC student and H.E. Johnston Busingye, High Commissioner of Rwanda to Malta

Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia

MEDAC was honoured to welcome the Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia, H.E. Zouheir Bouras on his first visit to the Academy on 16 April 2024. The Ambassador was accompanied by First Secretary Mr Wael Khammassi who is also a MEDAC alumnus. H.E. Zouheir Bouras and Professor Calleya highlighted areas of cooperation that could be explored to further strengthen the longstanding relations that MEDAC has developed with Tunisia over the years.



Left to Right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director and H.E. Zouheir Bouras, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia

Foreign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

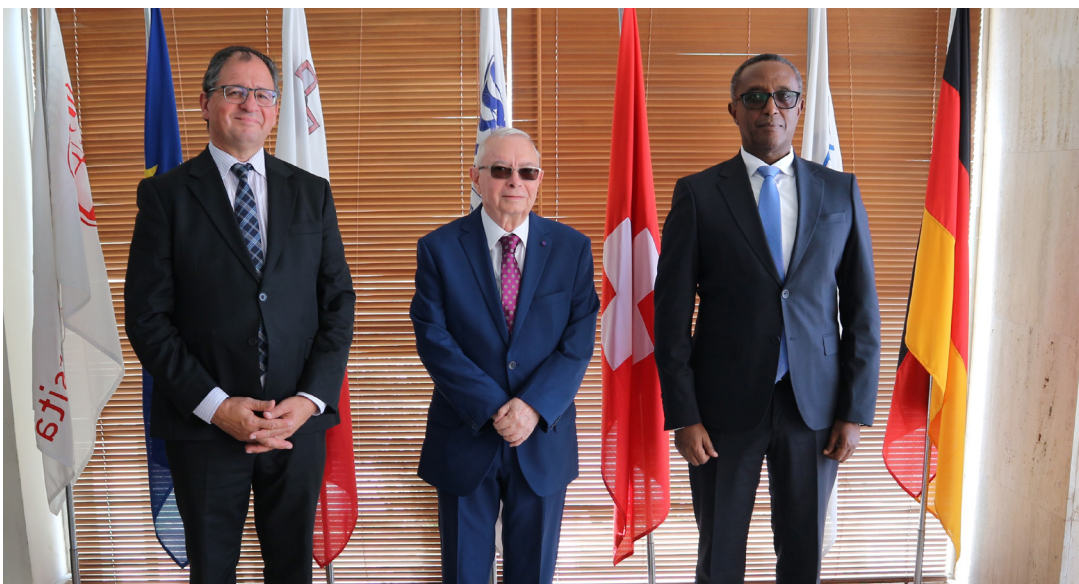
On 22 April 2024 Ambassador Godfrey Pirotta, former MEDAC Chairman was honoured to welcome H.E. E.P. Chet Greene, Foreign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.



Left to Right: H.E. Godfrey Pirotta, former MEDAC Chairman and H.E. E.P. Chet Greene, Foreign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda

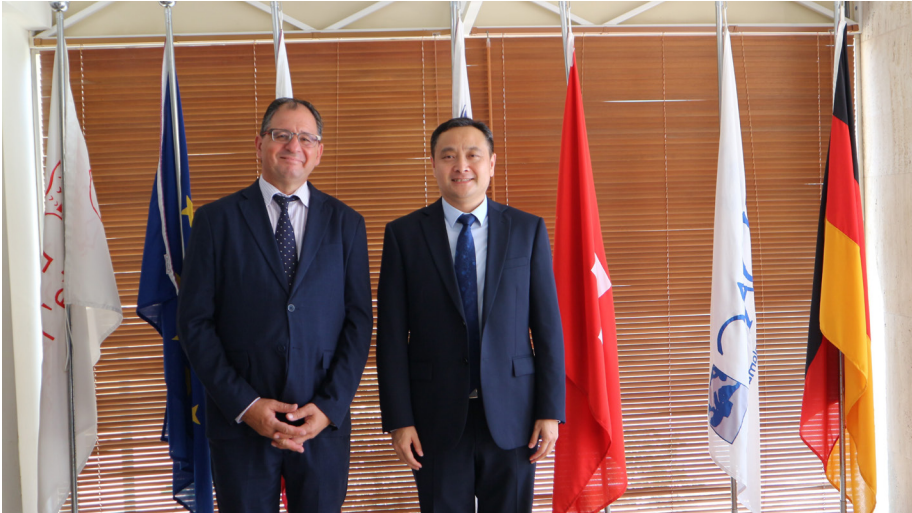
It was a privilege to welcome Hon. Dr Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda at the Academy on 29 April 2024. This distinguished visit served as an opportunity to further enhance academic avenues of cooperation between MEDAC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda.



Left to Right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Prof. Godfrey Pirotta, former MEDAC Chairman and Hon. Dr Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda

Chargés d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China

On 13 June 2024, Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, was honoured to welcome and hold a discussion with Mr Peng Yijun - Chargés d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.



Left to right: Prof. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director and Mr Peng Yijun, Chargés d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China

Vice Minister of the International Department of the People's Republic of China

MEDAC was honoured to welcome a delegation from the People's Republic of China led by Vice Minister Mr Lu Kang on 9 July 2024. This visit served as an opportunity to discuss and exchange views on contemporary international relations and diplomacy.



A fruitful discussion was held between the delegation from the People's Republic of China led by Vice Minister Mr Lu Kang and former MEDAC Chairman, MEDAC Director and Academic staff

Visit by Members of the German Bundestag

MEDAC was honoured to welcome representatives of the German Bundestag's Parliamentary Friendship Group for Relations with Malta and Cyprus together with H.E Tanja Beyer, German Ambassador to Malta. This prestigious visit provided MEDAC academic faculty and students with a unique opportunity to exchange views with representatives of the German Bundestag.



Members of the German Bundestag's Parliamentary Friendship Group for Relations with Malta and Cyprus, H.E. Tanja Beyer, Ambassador of Germany, together with former MEDAC Chairman, MEDAC Director and Academic staff

Memorandum of Understanding between MEDAC and SIOI

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and the Italian Society for International Organisation (SIOI) on 18 June 2024, in Rome, Italy. MEDAC Director, Professor Stephen Calleya and SIOI President, Ambassador Riccardo Sessa held a fruitful discussion on possible joint initiatives which the two parties will explore. The collaboration between MEDAC and SIOI will mostly be focused on providing diplomatic training and joint academic research and development projects. MEDAC looks forward to continue exploring mutually beneficial cooperation between the two parties.



Left to Right: Ambassador Riccardo Sessa, SIOI President and Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director

Academic Study Visit Berlin, Germany

MEDAC students participated in a study visit to Berlin in April 2024. This academic programme allowed the 2023/2024 postgraduate class to interact with numerous distinguished diplomats and policymakers including at the German Federal Foreign Ministry.

Upon arrival at the Foreign Office, MEDAC received a very warm welcome from H.E. Catalina Cullas, Ambassador for Relations with EU Member States, Cross Border and Regional Cooperation. During a day-long programme, MEDAC students had an ample opportunity to exchange views on the Mediterranean, the European Union and German foreign policy with several senior officials at the Foreign Office. These included Dr Jens-Christian Gaedtke - Head of EU Policy and Strategic Priorities, H.E. Klemens Semtner - Head of Vision of Crisis Prevention and Stabilization Process, H.E. Christian Buck - Director General for Political Affairs, H.E. Gesa Bräutigam - Ambassador for Feminist Foreign Policy and Human Rights and H.E. Marcus Hicken - Director for Energy, Foreign Policy, Climate and Security.

H.E. Vanni Xuereb, Malta's Ambassador to Germany together with other diplomatic colleagues of the

Embassy of Malta in Berlin provided an interesting overview of the Embassy's work as well as contemporary international relations. During the discussion which followed, Ambassador Xuereb shared his insights on a career in diplomacy which certainly inspired MEDAC's students.

MEDAC is also grateful to have been hosted by Konrad Adenauer Foundation Chairman Prof. Norbert Lammert and Dr Canan Atilgan, Head of the MENA Department at Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) headquarters in Berlin. MEDAC students and academic staff participated in a thought-provoking discussion that focused on developments in the Mediterranean region and beyond.

During the study visit MEDAC students also attended a guided tour of the German Bundestag as well as a walking tour of Berlin.

This study visit was co-organised with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Malta and is made possible by funding provided by the German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC.



MEDAC 2023/2024 Class at the German Federal Foreign Office



MEDAC staff and students together with H.E. Vanni Xuereb at the Embassy of Malta in Germany



KAS officials engaging in a lively discussion with MEDAC academic staff and students at the KAS headquarters in Berlin



MEDAC students at the German Bundestag

KAS-MEDAC Seminar

The Euro-Mediterranean Relations Revisited: Southern Neighbourhood Policy of the EU in a Changing Global Order

A two-day joint seminar was held in March 2024 by MEDAC, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Andrassy University of Budapest. This conference's discussion was on EU-MENA relations in a changing global order with a focus on the European Union's neighbourhood policy, particularly its southern partnership.

Dr Malte Gaier, Head of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Tunisia Office, Ambassador Heinrich Kreft, Professor at Andrassy University and MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleya shared insightful remarks on this occasion. Several experts were also invited to chair panel discussions. Dr Matt Herbert, Head of Research at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime addressed the attendees on EU-North Relations and Migration and Prof. James Sater, Professor at the Department of International Relations at the University of Malta chaired the panel on civil society.

As part of this conference, a visit was organised to the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), whose headquarters are in Malta. EUAA experts and the students participated in an interesting discussion on the work of the Agency and regarding asylum and migration issues within the European Union.

On the second day of the conference the students delivered their presentations. MEDAC students shared their findings on the Southern Mediterranean perspective on the European Union while students from the Andrassy University examined Central and Eastern Europe's relationship with the European Union.

MEDAC expresses its gratitude to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for its ongoing support.



Introductory panel of the conference made up of KAS Director and academic staff from MEDAC and Andrassy University



Group Photo



Visit to the European Union Agency for Asylum



International Political and Diplomatic Negotiation Seminar

Professor Paul Meerts led a two-day negotiation seminar for MEDAC students on 7 and 8 October 2024. The students benefited from Professor Meerts' vast knowledge on negotiation, diplomatic bargaining and training. The seminar included theoretical insights on political and diplomatic negotiation as well as practical exercises such as workshops and simulation exercises. The seminar was the first practical simulation exercise of the academic year for the 2024-2025 MEDAC students.



Professor Paul Meerts engaging with MEDAC students on diplomatic negotiation



Professor Paul Meerts

ZIF-MEDAC Certificate Program 'Fundamentals of Peace Mediation'

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) together with the Center for International Peace Operations (Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze, ZIF) supported by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of Germany in Malta conducted a three-day "Fundamentals of Peace Mediation" certificate program for the 2024-2025 MEDAC student cohort. The program was conducted by Dr Natalia Mirimanova, Holder of the German Chair for Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention (MEDAC), Ms Amelie Overmann, Head of Project "Strengthening of Mediation & Dialogue Capacities", Policy, Partnerships & Innovation (ZIF) and Ms Lilian Reichert, Coordinator Project "Strengthening of Mediation & Dialogue Capacities", Policy, Partnership & Innovation (ZIF).

The students were presented with the foundational concepts of peace mediation and international normative frameworks that elevated peace mediation to the top of the agenda of the United Nations and regional organizations, such as the European Union, African Union, Economic Community of West African States and others. Interactive methodology of the training helped students practice mediation skills through simulation exercises, apply conflict analysis tools to conflict cases, and dwell into the design and implementation of peace processes. Inputs by the experts, Dr Martin Wählich, Senior Researcher on Mediation and Digitalization (ZIF) on the role of digitalization and artificial intelligence in peace and mediation processes and Dr Carsten Wieland, German diplomat, former senior UN mediation consultant in the Middle East, who shared his insights into the peace mediation craft, common challenges, and strategies to ensure conflict parties engagement in talks, enriched the training with cutting-edge developments in the field.

At the end of the program, H.E. Tanja Beyer, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Malta congratulated students for the successful completion of the program and handed out certificates.



MEDAC students engaging with the seminar facilitators on process design



Ms Amelie Overmann leading a breakout session on peace mediation

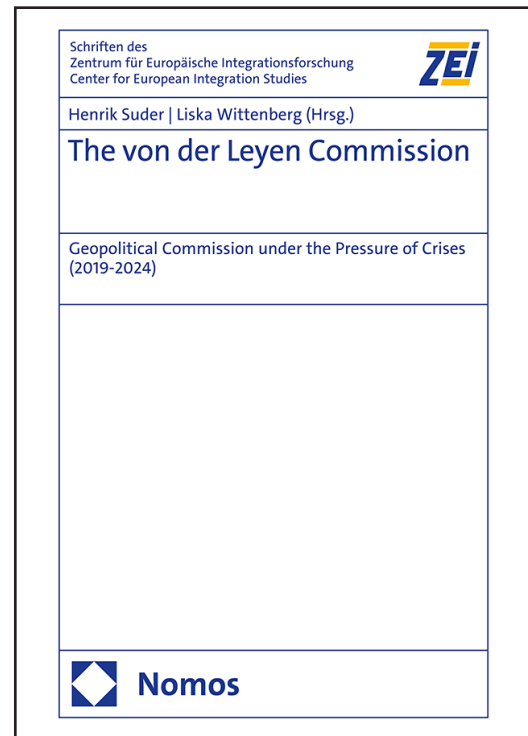


Group photo with H.E. Tanja Beyer, MEDAC students, and MEDAC and ZIF Staff

Publication

The von der Leyen Commission

Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director has contributed to a recent publication by the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI) on the von der Leyen Commission: Geopolitical Commission under the Pressure of Crises (2019-2024). Professor Calleya's chapter provides a thorough policy analysis of the von der Leyen's 2019-2024 European Commission's fourth priority: A Stronger Europe in the World. This book is part of the publication series 'Schriften des Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung (ZEI)'.



Honorary Consul Award

Mr Nicholas Vella was awarded the Honorary Consuls Corps Award for achieving the highest dissertation grade of the 2023/2024 cohort of Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies. The award was presented by the Dean of the Honorary Consul Corps of Malta, Prof. Ing. Joseph Buhagiar. MEDAC Chairman President Emeritus Dr George Vella, MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleya and MEDAC Academic staff were present during this occasion.

We congratulate Mr Nicholas Vella on his distinguished success and we thank the Honorary Consul Corps for its recognition of MEDAC students' achievements.



Mr Nicholas Vella receiving the Honorary Consul Award from Prof. Ing. Joseph Buhagiar, Dean of the Honorary Consul Corps of Malta in the presence of MEDAC Chairman President Emeritus Dr George Vella and MEDAC Academic staff