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Visit by the Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion

MEDAC was honoured to host Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion on 6 November, 2017. Minister Abela was welcomed at the Academy by Professor Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director and the Board of Administrators including Professor Godfrey Pirotta, Mr. Anthony Vella Gregory and Ambassador

Gudrun Sräga, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Malta. He also met with the academic staff of MEDAC.

The Minister's keynote address to MEDAC students focused on the theme "The Current Strategic Priorities of Malta's Foreign Policy". MEDAC students had the privilege of fielding questions to

the Minister on a number of interesting themes. Minister Abela also met and greeted all the students on an individual basis.

Below: MEDAC Class 2017-2018 together with Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.



Academic Year 2017 - 2018

MEDAC New Cohort

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) welcomed the class of 2017/2018 postgraduate students that are pursuing the Masters of Arts in Diplomatic Studies and Master of Diplomacy degree programmes.

This year the students participating in the one year full time academic course come from Algeria, China, Egypt, France, The Gambia, Georgia, Jordan, Latvia, Libya, Macedonia, Malta, The Netherlands, Palestine, Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

The current intake is MEDAC's 28th annual Masters programme in which the focus is on International Relations, International History, International Economics, International Law and Diplomacy.

Since its establishment in 1990 MEDAC is privileged to be able to count more than 750 alumni within its Alumni network. Many of these alumni are diplomats representing their countries but many others have also embraced different professional careers. MEDAC alumni can be found the world over.

For the eighth year running, MEDAC also welcomed students pursuing the dual degree offered by the University of Malta and George Mason University in Washington DC reading Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security.



Top: M.Dip/M.A. 2017-2018 Class Photo.

Above: MEDAC academic faculty welcoming students.

Master of Diplomacy Academic Year 2017-2018

Jordan	Mr. Osama Al-Mashini
Palestine	Mr. Rami Farhat
Palestine	Mr. Mohammad Younis
Tanzania	Ms. Tagie Daisy Mwakawago
Algeria	Mr. Ishak Dehibi
Egypt	Mr. Ahmed Anwar Abdelmoaty
Egypt	Mr. Abram Latif Wagdy Gad
Malta	Mr. Robert John Micallef
China	Mr. Bin Bin Wang
The Gambia	Ms. Binta Jeng
Georgia	Ms. Mari Vardosanidze
Macedonia	Mr. Marjan Barton

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies Academic Year 2017-2018

Malta	Mr. Omar Aguis
Malta	Mr. Abdal Fatah Belaama
Latvia	Ms. Kristine Bogdanovica
Malta	Mr. Nicholas Borg
Malta	Ms. Rose-Ann Buhagiar
Malta	Ms. Rachel Cachia
Malta	Ms. Chantelle Camilleri
Malta	Mr. Matthew Caruana
France	Ms. Raphaelle Chamignon
Malta	Mr. Shaun Chircop
Malta	Mr. Norbert Cilia
Netherlands	Ms. Lana Felicia Eekelschot
Libya	Ms. Mawada H.M El Hadi
Malta	Mr. Dorian Farrugia
Malta	Ms. Dorina Elena Gabriele
Malta	Mr. Ryan Grech
U.K	Ms. Lauren Harrison
Libya	Ms. Rawia Khayal
Malta	Ms. Emily Mifsud
Malta	Mr. Joseph Mathew Olaolu
Malta	Ms. Christine Sultana
Malta	Mr. Tulbert Cosmos William

MA Conflict Resolution & Mediterranean Security Academic Year 2017-2018

USA	Ms. Elizabeth Franklin
USA	Mr. Jack Jasper
USA	Mr. Sean Mcelhinney
USA	Mr. Alexander Wilke
USA	Ms. Caitlin Rusche

Diploma in Diplomatic Studies Academic Year 2017-2018

Malta	Mr. Charles James Desira
Malta	Mr. Joseph Gatt
Malta	Ms. Stephanie Cassar
Tunisia	Ms. Molka Sfar
Bulgaria	Ms. Teodora Beshirova

MEDAC co-hosts Bertelsmann Foundation Event

On 15 March 2017 MEDAC was privileged to co-host together with the Bertelsmann Foundation a book launch on the occasion of their timely prestigious publication entitled **ESCAPING THE ESCAPE - EUROPE AND THE REFUGEE/ MIGRATION CRISIS**.

Since the end of the Cold War and especially since the upheaval in the Arab World in 2011 there has been a tremendous increase in the number of displaced persons across the Southern Shores of the Mediterranean and beyond. The sea-change in the international relations of the Mediterranean has unleashed horrific humanitarian consequences throughout the Maghreb and Mashreq resulting in the untold suffering of millions of people as they seek to escape from the nightmare they are facing in their own countries. This excellent and timely publication offers the necessary insight to help adopt a more effective policy making strategy to mitigate the human suffering caused by the illegal trafficking of human beings we are witnessing on a daily basis across our Mediterranean.

Professor Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, delivered welcoming remarks and Mr. Kevin Mahoney, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security of Malta, delivered the keynote Introductory Remarks.

The book launch's main panel consisted of Ms. Mariam Safi, Afghanistan, founding director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS); Abdulkader S. Mohammad, Eritrea, emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Oslo; Ziad Majed, Lebanon, associate professor at the Department of International and Comparative Politics at the American University in Paris; Zakariya El Zaidy, Libya, protection team leader for the Danish Refugee Council in Libya; J. Shola Omotola, Nigeria, professor of Political Science at the Federal University Oye Ekiti in Nigeria; and Amira Ahmed Mohamed, Sudan, assistant professor at the Department of International Development and Social Change at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Christian Hanelt, Senior Expert, Europe and the Middle East of the Bertelsmann Foundation.

MEDAC Students and Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps in Malta participated in a lively debate that followed the series of country presentations.



Top: Professor Stephen Calleya addressing the audience present for the 'Escaping the Escape' book launch.

Centre: Briefing by Dr. Christian Hanelt, Senior Expert, Europe and the Middle East of the Bertelsmann Foundation.

Bottom: Audience present at the Bertelsmann Foundation event.

Right: Escaping the Escape - Towards Solutions for the Humanitarian Migration Crisis book launch.



MEDAC's contribution to the Maltese EU Presidency

The European Diplomatic Programme

On behalf of the Maltese EU Presidency, MEDAC prepared and delivered the participants' programme during the European Diplomatic Programme - Module IV 'Emerging Challenges and Global Issues in Current Diplomacy', held in Malta, from 17 to 19 May 2017. The module included a training programme for diplomats on the themes of Conflict/Security, Sustainability and Economy and Trade. MEDAC was also responsible for the preparation of training programmes on EU decision making, EU networking and on crisis communications, delivered by MEDAC visiting lecturer Dr. Paul Meerts and his colleagues Mara van der Meer and Hans Wurzer.

The European Diplomatic Programme is a training programme promoting the idea of common European diplomacy. It is a common project between the EU member states and EU institutions, and is part of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. This year's programme was the 17th edition. Participants were young diplomats from the foreign services of member states and officials of the European Commission and the Council Secretariat. Each programme consists of four modules.

Top: Left to Right - John Cassar White, former BOV Chairman, Brian Buhagiar, EC Representation Malta, Adelina Tomova, EEAS, Amb. John Paul Grech, Malta Presidency, MFA, Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director MEDAC and Helga Mizzi, DG Political MFA.

Centre: Dr Simon Duke, MEDAC visiting lecturer and Dr Omar Grech addressing the group attending the Seminar on Sustainability.

Bottom: Professor Stephen Calleya delivering a Seminar on Conflict and Security during the EDP.

Below: Left to right: Dr Omar Grech, Mr. Tom McGrath (EEAS), Prof. Stephen Calleya and Dr. Monika Wohlfeld.



EASO Visit

On 30 March 2017, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) hosted MEDAC students and academic staff for a half-day seminar focused on the work of the Office. EASO is an agency of the European Union that acts as a centre of expertise and support on asylum issues to EU Member States and the European Commission, and contributes to the development of the Common European Asylum System. The Head of Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Jean-Pierre Schembri, welcomed the group and presented an introduction on the work and activities of the Office. Specific sessions focused on EASO's role in the relocation processes and the implementation of the EU-Turkey Agreement, EASO's activities in the hotspots and on the current situation of asylum in the EU.



*Above and below: Question and answer session during the half-day seminar at EASO.
Bottom left: The Head of Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Jean-Pierre Schembri, delivering an introductory speech.*



On 27 and 28 April 2017, MEDAC students and staff had the opportunity to participate in the High-Level Conference on the EU Global Strategy which was organised as part of the programme of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Union Institute for Security Studies. The EU Global Strategy conference consisted of three panel discussions. The first session focused on the implementation of the EU Global Strategy at the strategic level. The EU Global Strategy's relevance, one year after its adoption, was discussed in relation to the current crisis including the one in Libya and the wider region. The second more operational session took stock of the implementation of the security and defence aspects of the EU Global Strategy and that of the European Defence Action Plan. The third session elaborated on the internal and external security nexus, the integrated approach towards conflict and crisis as well as state and societal resilience with a special focus on Libya.

EUGS Security and Defence Aspects Conference



MEDAC Academic Staff alongside MEDAC students at the EUGS Conference during the Maltese Presidency.

Study Visit to Switzerland

MEDAC's annual study visit to Switzerland took place between 18 - 22 April 2017. The first part of the visit was held in Geneva, where MEDAC students visited several international organisations located there, such as the UN Headquarters, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). MEDAC students were also briefed by representatives of the Maltese mission to the UN about their work, in particular in the context of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The second part of the study trip took MEDAC students to the Swiss capital of Berne, where briefings and discussions between representatives of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and MEDAC students were held. These discussions focused on the Swiss political system, in particular the instruments of direct democracy, Swiss foreign policy, as well as current political developments in the MENA region. This part of the study visit was organised by the Political Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, under the leadership of Ambassador Olaf Kjelsen and Mr. Manuel Irman. In Berne, MEDAC students also had the opportunity to visit the so-called Federal Palace, which houses both the Swiss Parliament and the Government of Switzerland (the Federal Council).

Top: MEDAC students visiting the UN Headquarters in Geneva.

Centre: MEDAC students visiting the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva.

Bottom: MEDAC students at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne.



Study Visit to Germany

From 2 to 7 April 2017, MEDAC students travelled to the Federal Republic of Germany on a study visit to Berlin, Bonn and Frankfurt. The group first visited the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin, where it was welcomed by its Head of Training for International Diplomats, Mr. Stefan Biedermann and over two days participated in sessions with representatives of key departments of the Ministry. The MEDAC group also had exchanges at the German Parliament, the Swiss Embassy and the Maltese Embassy with Ambassador Albert Friggieri.

A joint seminar with Master students of the Bonn University Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI) at the invitation of its Director, Prof. Ludger Kuehnhardt explored a number of themes related to the Euro-Mediterranean region. As part of long-term co-operation efforts between the two institutions, both MEDAC and ZEI students delivered short presentations followed by lively discussion on migration, border management, and diplomatic relations.

The MEDAC group also visited Deutsche Welle, Germany's international broadcaster, where they had the opportunity to speak with the Head of Online and Multimedia Arabic Services, as well as the United Nations University on the UN Campus in Bonn, where Dr. Szarzynski presented his work on human security and disaster preparedness.

Finally, MEDAC students visited the European Central Bank, and the KfW, the German Government owned Development Bank in Frankfurt.

- 1: MEDAC students with Dr. Wohlfeld at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.
- 2: MEDAC students at the Bundestag (lower house of the German Parliament).
- 3: Ambassador Albert Friggieri addressing MEDAC students at the embassy of Malta in Germany.
- 4: ZEI and MEDAC students and academic staff in Bonn. On the right Prof. Kühnhardt, Director ZEI, Dr. Wohlfeld and Prof. Calleya.



CALENDAR

9, 10 March 2017

H.E. Mr. Nassif Hitti, the former representative of the League of Arab States at UNESCO, Paris and Ambassador to Italy delivered a module on “Regional Dynamics and Current Challenges in the Middle East and Trans Mediterranean Relations”.



15 March 2017

Book launch of ESCAPING THE ESCAPE with the Bertelsmann Foundation.

27 March 2017

Ambassador Joe Mangion, Ambassador of Malta to Iran and Oman, and special envoy to Libya, delivered an address to MEDAC students.



28 March 2017

The 2017 MEDAC Alumni Association annual Ambassadorial Lecture was delivered by HE Jiang Jiang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China. The event was kindly hosted by the Chinese Cultural Centre in Valletta.

29 March 2017

Mr. Peter Hafner, the liaison officer of Switzerland to Malta during the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, paid a courtesy visit to MEDAC.

30 March 2017

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) hosted MEDAC students and academic staff for a half-day seminar focused on the work of the Office.

2 - 7 April 2017

Study visit to Geneva & Berne in Switzerland.

18 - 22 April 2017

Study visit to Germany.

24 April 2017

Dr Stephanie Babst, Head of the NATO's Strategic Analysis Capability, visited MEDAC and had an exchange of views on issues pertaining to Mediterranean Security with MEDAC Director Professor Stephen Calleya and Dr Omar Grech.



24-26 April 2017

Lectures in International Economics by Dr. Gonzalo Escribano, EL CANO Institute, Madrid, Spain.



27, 28 April 2017

MEDAC staff and students attended the High-Level Conference on the EU Global Strategy which was organised as part of the programme of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

4 May 2017

Briefing at MEDAC by Mr. Peter Hafner, who served as Liaison Officer of Switzerland to Malta during the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



2 - 5 May 2017

Module on Development and Diplomacy with Dr. Andri Bisaz.



16, 17 May 2017

Negotiation Seminar with Dr. Paul Meerts, Clingendael, Netherlands Institute of International Relations.



17 - 19 May 2017

MEDAC academic staff participate in the European Diplomatic Programme.

26 May 2017

MEDAC Board Meeting.

9 June 2017

MEDAC Annual Student Dinner 2016/17.



28 June - 5 July 2017

MEDAC Human Rights Summer School 2017.

15 September 2017

Prof. Calleya addresses the Arraiolos Group Meeting.

3 October 2017

MEDAC Opening Address for the Master of Diplomacy, the Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies and the Diploma in Diplomatic Studies.

9 October 2017

Diplomacy Module with former Maltese Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr. George Vella on Parliamentary Diplomacy.



9 October 2017

H.E. Eyal Sela, the Israeli Ambassador to Malta, delivers a lecture on "The Israeli Perspective on Diplomacy in the Middle East".



6, 11 October 2017

Lectures on the 'EU Presidency' by Mr. John Inguanez.

12, 16 October 2017

Diplomacy Module with H.E. Amb. Olaph Terribile, the Maltese Ambassador to the UN in Geneva.

13 October 2017

Cultural Visit to Birgu.

18, 19 October 2017

Negotiation Seminar with Dr. Paul Meerts, Clingendael, Netherlands Institute of International Relations.

6 November 2017

Visit to MEDAC by the Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.





**Madlena
Goksadze**

*MEDAC Alumnus
from Georgia
2016 - 2017*

After spending an unforgettable academic year in Malta, I am delighted to

be called a graduate student of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic studies. My diplomatic career has provided me with many opportunities that have given me constant incentives to improve myself, to gain more knowledge in the field of international relations and MEDAC offered me an exceptional chance to achieve this goal.

The academic programme the Academy provides is outstanding due to the professionalism of the academic staff, as well as the opportunities for

direct engagement via meetings with distinguished political personalities as well as participation in international conferences. At the same time, the multicultural environment one encounters at MEDAC presents unique experiences at both professional and personal levels. Of immense benefit is the chance to engage with amazing individuals and colleagues from various countries.

I am deeply grateful and honoured for the opportunity to be part of the network of MEDAC graduates.



**Antonella
Bajada**

*MEDAC Alumnus
from Malta
2013 - 2014*

Before doing my M.A. in Diplomatic Studies in 2013-2014, I always heard positive comments from previous alumni on their experience at MEDAC. This made it easier for me to decide which post-graduate programme I should pursue after finishing my undergraduate studies back in 2013. Three

years have passed since I completed my academic programme at MEDAC, and I can say that it was one of the most memorable and enriching experiences I had, not only academically, but also at a personal level.

Academically, the course has provided me with in-depth knowledge in areas related to the world of diplomacy: international relations, international law, economics etc. Furthermore, the study visit to Geneva was very informative, as one gets a more practical view of the diplomacy behind the walls of the UN and other international institutions.

From a personal point of view, I can say that the experience of having classmates from 20 different countries has helped me broaden my perspectives and

knowledge on the different cultures from around the world. Also, being in the same class with professional diplomats coming from different Foreign Ministries has been beneficial - it was always amazing to hear the experiences and stories of my fellow classmates from their previous postings and their work in the Ministry (and it was a good opportunity to take some tips for my future career!).

Now that I am a diplomat myself, I will always cherish what I have learnt during the year spent at MEDAC, from both my professors and fellow classmates. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone at MEDAC for this marvellous experience.

Operational Maritime Law Training Course

From 9 to 20 October 2017, MEDAC in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Malta, organised a two-week training course in Operational Maritime Law for Coast Guard officials from Middle Eastern and North African countries. A total of 11 participants from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia attended the course, which was held at the Maritime Safety and Security Training Centre (MSSTC) of the Armed Forces of Malta. The main objective of the course was to enhance search and rescue activities in the Mediterranean, given the growing

challenge of seaborne migration in the region. More specifically, the course sought to provide junior and mid-grade operational maritime personnel with a practical understanding of the impact of maritime law, both international and domestic, on the execution of their duties. Topics covered by the course included the sources of International Maritime Law (UNCLOS), jurisdiction principles, flag state rights and obligations, jurisdictional zones, domestic law, universal jurisdiction, rules of engagement and use of force, and the law of armed combat. The course was funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration.



Training Course Participants and Instructors.

MEDAC Alumni Meeting 2017

The 2017 MEDAC Alumni Association annual Ambassadorial Lecture was delivered by HE Jiang Jiang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China on 28 March. The event was kindly hosted by the Chinese Cultural Centre in Valletta. Dr Omar Grech introduced the Ambassador while President of the Alumni Association, Ms. Suzanne Garcia Imbernon, welcomed the numerous alumni and students who attended the event. HE Jiang Jiang gave a comprehensive overview of China's foreign policy priorities in the various spheres of diplomatic activity. Following his address the Ambassador participated in a Question and Answer session with MEDAC faculty, students and alumni.

Right: MEDAC academics and alumni present at the 2017 MEDAC Alumni Association annual Ambassadorial Lecture.

Below: H.E. Ambassador Jiang Jiang addressing the audience on China's foreign policy priorities.

Bottom right: Question and answer session during the 2017 MEDAC Alumni Association annual Ambassadorial Lecture.





MEDAC

Cuisine Night

Date: 30th November 2017 • Time: 7.30pm • Venue: NSTS Residence
Contact: simon.bajada@um.edu.mt



Arraiolos Group Meeting



Professor Calleya delivered an address to the Arraiolos Group which brings together non-executive Presidents of Member States of the European Union. Those participating included H.E Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Malta, H.E Alexander Van der Bellen, Austria, H.E Rumen Radev, Bulgaria, H.E Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Croatia, H.E Kersti Kaljulaid, Estonia, H.E Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany, H.E Prokopis Pavlopoulos, Greece, H.E János Áder, Hungary, H.E Sergio Mattarella, Italy, H.E Raimonds Vējonis, Latvia, H.E Andrzej Duda, Poland, H.E Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, Poland and H.E Borut Pahor, Slovenia. The two day Arraiolos Meeting was held under the auspices of H.E. Marie

Louise Coliero Preca, President of Malta, in Malta on 14 and 15 September 2017.

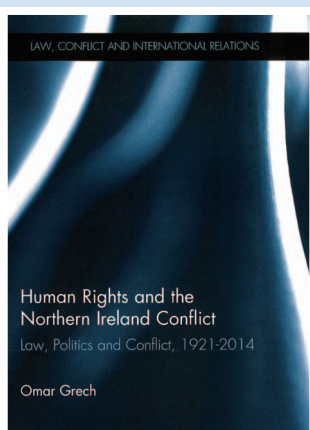
Professor Calleya discussed the theme 'Managing Security Challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean Area' and provided an overview of the multitude of sources of insecurity that are present across the Mediterranean which include ongoing conflicts, the emergence of failed states, an increase in terrorism, the proliferation of weapons procurement, illegal migration, drug trafficking and other types of organized crime.

In light of the more turbulent and transitional times across the southern shores of the Mediterranean Professor

Above: Professor Calleya delivering an address on the theme 'Managing Security Challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean Area'.

Calleya called for a re-set in Euro-Mediterranean relations in an effort to establish a more cooperative regional framework where all security challenges are addressed in a more coherent manner. The challenge the EU is facing, he argued, is to demonstrate that the EU can be a source that exports stability rather than one that imports instability. He highlighted the need for the creation of a 'Marshall Plan' type of policy framework financed by the G20 and including the rich Gulf States, which could help foster economic development across the MENA region.

Recent Publications



Human Rights and the Northern Ireland Conflict: Law, Politics and Conflict 1921-2014

Routledge have recently published Dr Omar Grech's book entitled Human Rights and the Northern Ireland Conflict: Law, Politics and Conflict 1921-2014. Dr Grech's book explores the Northern Ireland conflict through a human rights framework.

The book examines the conflict from the creation of the Northern Ireland state in 1921 to 2014. This time-frame allows an analysis of how international, regional and local human rights principles and laws impacted upon the conflict in its broadest understanding.

Furthermore, it allows for a better understanding of how the various stages of the conflict impacted upon how human rights are understood in Northern Ireland today. More generally, this interdisciplinary work explores the relationship between law, politics and conflict. This book will be of particular interest to students of human rights, conflict resolution, British politics, law and security studies. Dr Grech is a lecturer in International Law at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies