

N E W S



Malta's Euro-Mediterranean Vocation

*By the Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Malta*

<http://www.med-academy.org/>

Malta's strategic relevance in the central Mediterranean has led the country to pursue a comprehensive and proactive foreign policy in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The importance that Malta attaches to international security issues is highlighted by the prominent role that Malta has consistently played in security institutions such as the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP).

This foreign policy agenda is best regarded as a continuation of the constant support Malta has given to a succession of trans-Mediterranean security initiatives over the years. As an advocate of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (CSCM), a proponent of a Council of the Mediterranean and a member of the Mediterranean Forum and 5 + 5 West Mediterranean Forum, Malta has certified its continued effort to stabilise relations in the Mediterranean.

EU membership has served as a new incentive to adapt to the rapidly changing international system with Malta extending its political stability and economic influence across the Mediterranean. Malta's active participation in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership offers it another opportunity to further peace, security, and stability across the Euro-Mediterranean geo-strategic region. Strengthening practical policy dialogue mechanisms will add momentum to the Euro-Med Partnership Five Year Work Programme (2006-2010) that is currently being implemented and which seeks to integrate our Mediterranean partners closer into the fabric of European society.

The Five Year Euro-Med Work Programme also calls for the "Launching of a substantial scholarships scheme for university students from Euro-Mediterranean Partner

countries and increase mobility grants for Higher Education staff".

The educational field is a sector where much more needs to be done. The European Commission together with its member states needs to trigger both public and private stakeholders to work hand in hand with a long-term perspective to attract a larger number of Arab students to their shores. This will of course require an updating of procedures for visas, making them more user friendly for such a category of professionals. The Euro-Med Education Ministerial that took place in Cairo in June 2007 has started to serve as a catalyst in this regard.

When it comes to diplomatic training, Malta has already established itself as a regional centre of excellence in the Mediterranean through its educational and training institution, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) where over 400 graduates from 41 countries have been trained in the last eighteen years. (continued on pg. 2)

CONTENTS

Malta's Euro-Mediterranean Vocation	1-2
MEDAC Study Visit - Berne & Geneva	2
Mediterranean Forum on Migration, Development and Diplomacy	3
Twenty-Fourth Euro-Mediterranean Information & Training Seminar	4
Human Rights Summer School	5
Visiting Professors	6-7
Study Visits to the Italian, Russian & Chinese Embassies	8
Alumni News	9-10
Farewell & Welcome	11
A Libyan Perspective on Irregular Immigration	12

Since 1996, MEDAC together with the European Commission and the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also been responsible for coordinating the Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars which are an official confidence building mechanism of the Barcelona Process where more than 800 diplomats have had the opportunity to interact and discuss openly Euro-Mediterranean issues.

The Euro-Med Partnership: Union for the Mediterranean offers Europe and the international community an opportunity to carry out a strategic reassessment that will allow for more political attention and economic resources to be directed towards upgrading stability and opportunities across the Mediterranean.

Malta's active participation in the Euro-Mediterranean Process is perhaps best described as an extension of its

co-operative security philosophy. It should also be regarded as a tangible contribution to creating a Euro-Mediterranean region based upon the attributes of positive diplomacy.



Prof. Stephen Calleya presenting a copy of Euro-Med Seminar newsletters to the Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg.

MEDAC Study Visit to Berne and Geneva

Between the 25th - 29th March 2008, MEDAC students took part in the annual study visit to Geneva, which this year also included a visit to Berne. The main objective of the study visit was to familiarise the students with the workings of the various international organisations located in Geneva and with certain aspects of Swiss foreign policy.

The Geneva visit kicked off with a panel discussion at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). MEDAC students were welcomed by Ms Katharina Vögeli, Deputy Director of the GCSP and Mr. Ian Mansfield, Deputy Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian De-mining (GICHD).



MEDAC students during their visit to the World Trade Organisation, Geneva.

This was followed by visits to a number of other organisations in Geneva, including the UN



MEDAC students 2007/08 outside the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation, Berne.

Headquarters, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as well as the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI), a long-standing partner institution of MEDAC, and the Small Arms Survey.

On the last day, MEDAC students had the opportunity to visit the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne. The visit was organised by Dr. Derek Lutterbeck, Holder of the Swiss Chair at MEDAC, in cooperation with Ms. Ilaria Dali-Bernasconi, Programme Director at SDC.



Mediterranean Forum on Migration, Development and Diplomacy (MEDAC and Istituto Studi Mediterranei, Lugano)

By Dr. Derek Lutterbeck

Deputy Director, Academic Affairs, Holder of the Swiss Chair and Lecturer in International History

In 2008, MEDAC together with the Istituto Studi Mediterranei (ISM) in Lugano, launched a new initiative: The Mediterranean Forum on Migration Development and Diplomacy. The main objective of the Forum is to provide a platform for open discussion and dialogue on migration and development issues in the Mediterranean region. The project seeks to facilitate exchange of experiences and information among southern Mediterranean countries on migration and development-related issues, and to strengthen cooperation among these countries in the area of migration policy.

The project was launched against the backdrop of the growing “migration crisis” in the Mediterranean. While there is a growing awareness among European countries that something should be done to alleviate this crisis, there is currently no platform where the countries south of the Mediterranean can express their views and exchange experiences independently of the EU’s often restrictive and control-oriented agenda.



Prof. Calleya, Dr. Lutterbeck, Prof. de Marco, Dr. Tonti & Dr. Ivan Ureta Vaquera (both ISM).

A first workshop within the context of this Forum was held in Malta from the 2nd to the 4th of June 2008. The workshop brought together officials and academics from Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

Prof. Guido de Marco, President Emeritus, delivered the key note opening address. Other participants included H.E. Dr. Ali Errishi, Libyan Minister of Immigration. During the first part of the workshop, representatives of the four countries were invited to present the main challenges confronting their respective countries in the field of migration policy. The second part was devoted to thematic issues, as well as possible ways in which cooperation between southern Mediterranean countries could be enhanced in the area of migration and development.

During the workshop various migration and development-related issues were discussed. These included, for example, the increasingly important role of the media in southern Mediterranean countries in stimulating emigration, the lack of institutional structures to reintegrate returned migrants, or challenges in channeling remittances and other financial transfers of emigrants into projects which would benefit the community as a whole. The workshop generally revealed that there was a need among southern Mediterranean countries for a forum for exchanging views, information and experiences on migration and development-related issues, as the countries faced many similar challenges and could greatly benefit from their respective experiences. The second workshop within the framework of the project is scheduled to take place in Lugano in the spring of 2009.



Participants from Morocco: Ms. Naima Baba, Prof. Khadida Elmadmad, Prof. Moha Enaji & Mr. Mohammed Bernoussi.



Twenty-Fourth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar

By Prof. Stephen C. Calleya

*Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and
Lecturer in International Relations*

The Twenty-fourth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar took place in Malta between April 11th – 14th 2008. The four days of proceedings focused on recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, particularly the progress registered in implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Five Year work programme and developments that have taken place during the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union during the first half of 2008.

This Euro-Mediterranean Seminar brought together diplomats from the majority of the twenty-seven European Union member states and the twelve Mediterranean Partner countries, including the recently admitted Mauritania and Albania that are currently members of this multilateral initiative. The Seminar was organized by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of the University of Malta under the auspices of the European Commission, who assist in coordinating this Euro-Mediterranean confidence building initiative.



Participants during the Euro-Mediterranean Seminar.

Throughout the four-day seminar academic specialists and other professionals from Europe and the Mediterranean presented a series of lectures on developments within each of the three chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, namely the political and security, economic and financial, and the cultural and human resources chapters. Particular attention was dedicated to topics that included: The Euro-Med

Partnership and the Slovenian EU Presidency, Perspectives of the Euro-Med Partnership and the Neighbourhood Policy, Security Challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean Area, the Current Dialogue on Intercultural Understanding, and the EMP and Political Reform and the Euro-Med Parliamentary Assembly. The topic of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the French Union for the Mediterranean initiative was also discussed.



The Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg, Prof. Stephen C. Calleya, Prof. Bechir Chourou, Ms. Nina Cinkole and Mr. Tom McGrath.

The twenty-fourth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training meeting, or Malta Seminar as the meetings have become more commonly known, was opened on Friday, April 11th 2008 by the Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, who delivered the keynote opening address.

Further information on the Euro-Mediterranean Seminars can be found at www.euromed-seminars.org.mt



The Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg together with the participants attending the Euro-Mediterranean Seminar, April 2008.



Human Rights Summer School

*By Dr. Omar Grech
Coordinator of the Human Dimension Programme and
Lecturer in International Law*

The 9th MEDAC Human Rights Summer School was held between the 2-10 July 2008 with the theme Human Rights and Human Security. This year's participants came from a wide range of countries including Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Ireland, Georgia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Canada, Malta, Armenia and Latvia. In the evaluation session conducted at the end of the school, the participants emphasised the importance of discussing human rights issues within such a multi-cultural context. The topics dealt with during the summer school included the following:



A view of the participants in the 2008 Summer School.

- *Sources of International Human Rights Law*, Prof. David Attard, Director, IMO -International Maritime Law Institute
- *Human Rights Education*, Dr. Peadar Cremin, President, Mary Immaculate College, Ireland
- *Human Security: An Introduction*, Dr. Colm Regan, Coordinator, 80:20 Ireland
- *Arab Perspectives on Human Security*, Prof. Fouad Amor, GERM, Morocco
- *Migration and Human Security: a view from Malta*, Ms. Celine de Wailly, Jesuit Refugee Service, Malta
- *Human Security and Human Rights Panel*, Dr. Derek Lutterbeck, MEDAC, Dr. Alain Sigg Expert Political Division IV, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, Dr. Claire Spencer, Head MENA Programme, Chatham House, London.
- *Balancing Liberty and Security in Europe*, Dr. Katrzyna Grzybowska, Policy Officer, DG Justice Liberty and Security, European Commission
- *Genocide: a Failure of Human Rights and Human Security*, Dr. Omar Grech, MEDAC

- *Human Security: A Multi-disciplinary Approach*, Dr. Elisabeth Hofer, Director of Studies, Vienna Academy of Diplomatic Studies.



Dr. Alain Sigg, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, discussing human security in post conflict societies.

Apart from the formal lectures, workshops and seminars the participants also had the opportunity to engage in a drama and human rights workshop led by drama therapist Daniel Mercieca. During these sessions the use of drama as a human rights education methodology was explored in the context of human security and insecurity. Another three sessions were devoted to the construction of identity boxes by the participants. This exercise allowed all who took part the possibility of investigating their personal links to human rights and human security. Apart from the structured learning opportunities the group also had occasion to engage in discussion and exchange of views outside the classroom. A welcome reception and a tour of Malta were two such opportunities. The summer school is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



Summer School participants engaged in group work.

Visiting Professors



Prof. Baria Alamuddin
Senior Analyst (ICE) International
Communication Experts
“Why Do We Need Effective Communication
Courses?”



MEDAC students with Prof. Alamuddin & Dr. Grech.



Dr. Andre Bisaz
Former Head, Middle-East and North Africa
Division, Swiss Agency of Development and
Cooperation
“Development and Cooperation”



MEDAC students during Dr. Bisaz's lecture.



Prof. Beatrice Dumont
University of Rennes, France
“International Economics: French Foreign
Economic Policy towards the MENA Region”



Students following Prof. Dumont's lecture.



**Amb. Dr. Magdy Hefny & Mr Timur El
Hadidi**
Director, Regional Centre of Research and
Studies of Water Ethics
“Module on International Waters Negotiation
& Dispute Resolution in the Arab Region”



Group photo with Prof. Calleya & Amb. Hefny.



Dr. Eberhard Rhein
Advisor, European Policy Centre
“Economic Policy in the Age of Climate
Change and Globalization”



Class 2007/08 during Dr. Rhein's lecture.



Module on Diplomacy and Negotiation

By Costas Apostolides

Senior Civil Servant of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus

Costas Apostolides presented the role of diplomacy in conflict resolution and the practical lessons of negotiations in three workshops organized at MEDAC in February 2008. The aim of the module was to relate theory and the role of diplomacy to issues of conflict resolution.

The first workshop was on **“The International Environment and its impact on the Negotiation Process”**. This included a brief introduction to the Cyprus problem, the role of the international environment in setting the context for diplomacy and negotiation, and the strategy of a small country (Cyprus) in trying to attain a political settlement to its problems. The second workshop was on **“The Cyprus Negotiations Process (1999-2004)”**. This described the procedure and lessons to be learnt from the “macro process” at leadership level, and the “micro process” at technical committee level.

On the third day **“The International Implications of a Non-Solution”** were tackled. The implications of a non-solution of the Cyprus Problem on the United Nations, the



MEDAC students together with Dr. Costas Apostolides.

European Union, NATO, human rights law, Turkey, Greece and Malta were examined. It was revealed that the non-solution of a problem affecting a UN and EU member state creates operational problems for those institutions as well as for relations between institutions (i.e. EU and NATO). In addition, frequent policy decisions have to be taken by other states (i.e. EU member Malta) in the various international forums, and some of the decisions have effects on other states.

Ambassadorial Lecture on The Reform of the Security Council of the United Nations: Why Still an Open Question?

By H.E. Francesco Paolo Fulci, former Ambassador of Italy to the United Nations

Ambassador Francesco Paolo Fulci delivered a lecture on “The Reform of the Security Council of the United Nations: Why Still an Open Question?” in May 2008. The lecture was part of the Ambassadorial Lecture Series that MEDAC organizes during its academic programme of activities.



Prof. Guido de Marco, President Emeritus, MEDAC Chairman, Amb. Francesco Fulci and Prof. Stephen Calleya.



Prof. Stephen Calleya highlighting the global reach of MEDAC alumni to Amb. Francesco Fulci.

Amb. Fulci highlighted the numerous factors that have prevented reform of the UN Security Council from taking place. As Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN between 1993 and 2000, Amb. Fulci assumed a leadership role in trying to forge a common way forward to try and carry out reform of the UN Security Council. The thought provoking lecture has also been published as part of MEDAC’s **Med Agenda Working Paper** series and is available on line.

Study Visits to the Italian, Russian and Chinese Embassies

Study visit to the Italian Embassy, Malta

In February 2008, MEDAC students were invited to a study visit at the residence of H.E. Mr. Paolo Andrea Trabalza, Ambassador of Italy to Malta. Amb. Trabalza gave a broad overview of Italian foreign policy over recent decades, stressing the role of the EU and NATO as the two main pillars of Italian foreign policy. Part of the lecture also focused on the relationship between Italy and Malta. Amb. Trabalza highlighted Italy's commitment to supporting democratic rule in Malta since independence, and the significant financial and other support Italy provided to this end. The last part of the lecture dealt with Italy's political system.



H.E. Mr. Paolo A. Trabalza meeting with MEDAC students.

Study visit to the Russian Embassy, Malta

On the 18th of February 2008, MEDAC paid a study visit to the Russian Embassy in Malta, where they were welcomed by H.E. Mr. Andrey E. Granovsky, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Malta. In his lecture on Russian foreign policy, Amb. Granovsky stressed the pragmatic and non-ideological nature of Russia's foreign policy.



MEDAC class 07/08 together with H.E. Mr. Andrey E. Granovsky, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Malta.

He also highlighted Russia's commitment to a multi-polar international system, the main poles being the US, the EU and Russia. Part of the lecture also dealt with Russian domestic politics, in view of the upcoming presidential elections in Russia. Ambassador Granovsky argued that while it was practically certain that Dmitry Medvedev would win the elections, given that President Putin had supported him, it remained to be seen what exactly the distribution of political power between the still largely unknown Medvedev as President and the hugely popular Vladimir Putin as Prime Minister would be.

Study visit to the Chinese Cultural Centre, Malta

On the 4th of April 2008, MEDAC students were invited to a study visit at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Valetta, which is one out of only six Chinese Cultural Centers in the World. At the Centre, the students were welcomed by H.E. Mr. Chai Xi, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta. Ambassador Xi delivered a lecture on different aspects of Chinese foreign policy. He highlighted in particular the fast economic development China has witnessed over recent years,



MEDAC class 2007/08, together with H.E. Mr. Chai Xi, at the Chinese Cultural Centre.

which has lifted many people in China out of poverty. On the other hand, significant parts of the Chinese population still today lived on less than a dollar per day. During the discussions, Ambassador Xi also focused on China's current role in Africa. He argued that, in contrast to common perceptions, China's role in Africa today was not significantly different from its role in the past, in that China had always maintained close ties with the countries of the African continent. After the lecture and discussions, MEDAC students and staff were invited to a generous Chinese lunch at the Cultural Centre.

Alumni News



Ms. Ana Siashvili

M.Dip. Alumni from Georgia

Class 2006 - 2007

Diplomat working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Georgia

I close my eyes and see golden rocks, blue marine and white buildings – Malta, so beautiful with its people, traditions, feasts and landscape. Precious memories come to my mind when I think about Malta and my experience at MEDAC. Now at home, I go back to those days when I was preparing for exams, or trying to keep up with deadlines or numerous presentations and essays, things which all made it worth it to study at MEDAC.

Indeed lectures, the library, study visits, social events, as well as, the invaluable staff at MEDAC significantly broadened my knowledge. I got acquainted with the variety of cultures, everyday finding out something new and interesting. I remember the International Night where everybody presented one's traditional food and music.

Of course, I also remember myself baking all day long our traditional dish 'Khachapuri' for the first time. And what is most important, is that, I found friends who became my family during my stay in Malta and will remain in my mind and heart forever.



MEDAC students 2006/07 during the study-visit in Rome.



Mr. Mohamed Raed Hergli

M.Dip. Alumni from Tunisia

Class 2005 - 2006

Diplomat working at the Embassy of Tunisia in Washington DC

Moving mountains would be much easier for me than to briefly describe the outstanding experience I had in 'Malta El Hanina' and at MEDAC: It's really an uphill task! However, I can say that the nine months I spent at MEDAC were: 'The Gate to the Diplomatic World'.

Primarily, the syllabus was appropriately designed to provide every junior diplomat or future diplomat with indispensable academic knowledge in the various fields offered by the Academy. In addition, the practical side of the program was more than beneficial in many respects. The study visits we had to Rome and Geneva, the seminars we attended and the visiting lecturers we interacted with gave us a unique opportunity to match the theoretical concepts with the complexity of the world we live in.

I feel very lucky that I was able to follow the M.Dip course before taking on my first assignment abroad, for the simple reason that this program shaped my daily life



MEDAC class 2005/06, together with Dr. Eberhard Rhein.

at work and how I perceive the issues I handle. Of course, I cannot talk about my experience in Malta without paying a special homage to the exceptional MEDAC teaching team and staff who did their utmost to make our academic year a success as well as to my marvellous group of friends. Finally, I would not say: 'I'll never forget my experience in Malta' because I do not perceive it as a memory but rather as part and parcel of who I am today!



Ms. Sharon Zarb

M.A. Alumni from Malta

Class 2001 - 2002

First Secretary, Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union

I decided to follow the Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies at MEDAC when I was exploring my options of switching careers. Basically, I felt that I needed a Masters' degree which could give me an edge and which would sensitize me to international affairs. Overall, I found the course at MEDAC to be very professional and challenging. Seven years after, I can say that the M.A. in Diplomatic Studies at MEDAC was an excellent preparation to analyze foreign policy issues, such as those in relation to the European Union as well as Africa and the Middle East, the United States and Russia. Other topics which I have found useful were those in relation to globalisation, the application of sanctions and a basic but solid understanding of International Law, including the International Law of the Sea as well as International and Regional Human Rights Instruments. This knowledge has proved invaluable for my current job in which I deal with European Union affairs, including EU relations with Africa and Development Cooperation.

In terms of methodology, the students were always actively involved in study groups or undertaking presentations. The latter was good training not only to learn how to face an audience but also how to confidently answer questions on a subject that you have intensely researched. Another really important aspect in the course which I appreciate was the organisation of study visits abroad to United Nations institutions, such as the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Finally, I think that the network of the MEDAC community of former alumni should be kept alive because the experience gained by them through their various work assignments can feed back into the work of MEDAC at particular points in time.



Mr. Peter Paul Muscat

Dip. Alumni from Malta

Class 2006 - 2008

I have just completed the course for Diploma in Diplomatic Studies. My two years at MEDAC has been nothing short of an eye-opening educational experience. Prior to that, I had had no formal training in international relations, law or economics. But education involves change and that's what happened to me. Now I don't open a newspaper or follow the world news with the same point of view I had two years ago.

Politics and law have gained a new meaning while economics lost its abstract qualities and now pertains to all facets of life. I feel like someone who is peering through a microscope for the first time: I have started noticing details which I had been unaware of before.

I find MEDAC as the perfect place to step into the field of international affairs. The merit goes to the excellent staff and the positive learning atmosphere they strive to maintain.



Diploma Students 2006/08 during the Farewell Dinner.

Farewell!

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Mr. Paul Alan Spiteri, England
 Ms. Dagmar Pallmar, Germany
 Mr. Aleksander Dimitrovski, Macedonia
 Ms. Annalise Aquilina, Malta
 Mr. Clint Mario Borg, Malta
 Mr. John Buttigieg, Malta
 Ms. Lavinia Cassar, Malta
 Ms. Marsim Cassar, Malta
 Mr. Mark Ciscaldi, Malta
 Ms. Francesca Dayal, Malta
 Ms. Lara Anne Fenech, Malta
 Mr. Kurt Formosa, Malta
 Ms. Suzanne Gili, Malta
 Mr. David Herrera, Malta
 Ms. Christabelle Lewis, Malta
 Ms. Stefania Mangion, Malta
 Ms. Mariella Scicluna, Malta

Master of Diplomacy

Mr. Adil Suleymanov, Azerbaijan
 Mr. Li Zhimin, China
 Ms. Yousra Ebada, Egypt
 Ms. Rania Hemaïd, Egypt
 Mr. Ivane Shamugia, Georgia
 Mr. Michael Sinan A. Yono, Iraq
 Mr. Christian Sgandurra, Malta
 Ms. Hidaya Labiioui, Morocco
 Mr. Zuhair Mohammad, Palestine
 Mr. Yusuph Mndolwa, Tanzania
 Ms. Faten Bahri, Tunisia
 Ms. Mouna Daldoul Boutara, Tunisia
 Mr. Nassim Khammassi, Tunisia
 Mr. Efe Ceylan, Turkey

Diploma in Diplomatic Studies

Mr. Darren Azzopardi, Malta

Ms. Doreen Borg Zammit, Malta
 Mr. Emanuel Zahra, Malta
 Mr. Joe Tanti, Malta
 Mr. Luciano Pace Parascandolo, Malta
 Ms. Mariella Stivala, Malta
 Ms. Mary Grace Gerada, Malta
 Mr. Peter Paul Muscat, Malta
 Mr. Robert Henry Bugeja, Malta
 Mr. Victor Aquilina, Malta



M.Dip students 2007/08 during the Farewell Dinner.

Annual Farewell Dinner

MEDAC held its annual farewell for the students graduating in the M.A., M.Dip. and Diploma Programmes. The farewell dinner, held at the Westin Dragonara Resort, in June 2008, was addressed by Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC, who extended his best wishes to all the students and encouraged them to maintain an active link with the Academy through the MEDAC Alumni Association. In addition, special thanks goes to the Diploma students, class 2006/08, who presented Prof. Calleya with a generous donation towards the MEDAC library.



Ms. Doreen Borg Zammit presenting a donation to Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC during the Farewell Dinner.

Welcome!

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Ms Ivana Sterbova – Czech Republic
 Mr Ashraf Sallam – Egypt
 Ms Alice Steinbruck – Germany
 Mr Georgis Engelbrecht – Germany
 Mr Bartolomeo Lamona – Italy
 Ms Federica Aquilina - Malta
 Mr Jean Claude Cachia – Malta
 Mr Andrew Caruana Galizia – Malta
 Mr Stephen Staines – Malta
 Mr Anthony Attard – Malta
 Mr Andrew Valencia - Malta
 Ms Carmen Borg - Malta
 Ms Ruth Vella – Malta
 Mr Peter Paul Muscat – Malta
 Ms Lourdes Pullicino – Malta
 Ms Lorna Buttigieg - Malta
 Mr Gabriel Camenzuli - Malta
 Mr Abraham Cassar - Malta
 Ms Angie Farrugia - Malta

Ms Marilyn Formosa - Malta

Mr Nikol Sammut - Malta

Ms Pierina Mercieca - Malta

Ms Nadine Abu Swai - Palestine

Mr Milos Radakovic – Serbia

Mr Romuald Bolliger - Switzerland

Master of Arts in Diplomacy

Mr Sokol Beja – Albania

Ms Lorena Gjani – Albania

Mr Han Yang – China

Mr Omar Mahmoud – Egypt

Ms Sami Youssef Osman - Egypt

Ms Natia Sekhniashvili – Georgia

Mr Ahmed Luzan – Iraq

Ms Rama Halasheh – Jordan

Ms Gerald Farrugia – Malta

Ms Salima Lyoussoufi – Morocco

Mr Elshiekh Abdelmutalab - Sudan

Ms Mona Mahecha – Tanzania

Mr Rejeb Mondher – Tunisia

Mr Sihem El Hamdi - Tunisia

Mr Tutku Inam - Turkey

Diploma in Diplomatic Studies

Ms Gabrielle Bugeja Kaufmann - Germany

Mr Michael Quinton - Malta

Ms Graziella Bugeja - Malta

Ms Peter Paul Borg - Malta

Ms Mary Puli - Malta

Mr Graham Schiberras - Malta

Ms Margaret Richards - Malta

Ms Julie Lowell - Malta

Ms Mary Zammit - Malta

Mr Mark Anthony Bezzina - Malta

Mr Ian Ruggier - Malta

Mr Christian Abela - Malta

Mr Anthony D'Amato - Malta

Ms Katerina Younes – Poland



A Libyan Perspective on Irregular Immigration

By Dr. Bachir Al-Kut
Al-Fateh University, Tripoli

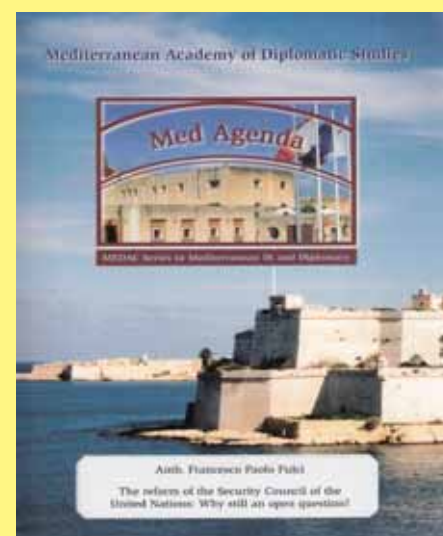
Libya has, over recent years, been confronted with a steep rise in irregular immigration from sub-Saharan African countries. According to estimates of the Libyan government, between 75,000 and 100,000 irregular migrants enter Libya each year, and there are currently between 750,000 and 1.2 million undocumented foreigners in Libya. Given Libya's high levels of unemployment (around 25%), it has at times been difficult to absorb these immigrants. There is also rather wide-spread prejudice among Libyans against migrants from certain African countries such as Nigeria or Ghana, because many of them have committed crimes, and they often earn money not by regular work but by illegal activities. Libya has, however, not only become a destination but also a transit country. According to existing data, there has been a sharp increase in irregular migration through Libya and the Sicily Channel towards the EU. There are a number of factors which have contributed to the growth of illegal immigration into Libya. These include the country's highly permeable southern borders, its high level of economic development compared to other African countries, Libya's traditional open door policy towards sub-Saharan African states, and the lack of a global strategy on migration and border management in Libya.

Libya's immigration policy has in the past not always been entirely consistent, and there has been a certain contradiction between its open door policy vis-à-vis other African countries a policy which was also a response to the embargo imposed by the West on Libya, and the need to control illegal immigration. Nevertheless, Libya has, over recent years, adopted a number of measures and policies to more effectively combat irregular migration, such as laws regulating stay and work in Libya. Libya has also stepped up its efforts to deport undocumented immigrants back to their home countries. Between 2003 and 2005, some 145,000 irregular migrants were repatriated from Libya to their countries of origin.

From Libya's perspective, the role of the EU is key in preventing irregular migration from the African continent. We consider that Europe, given its colonial past and high levels of development, not only has a historic responsibility to eradicate poverty in Africa and thus to curb the root causes of migration, but also to assist transit countries such

as Libya in confronting the migration issue. Bilateral cooperation thus far exists primarily with Italy and Malta, and between Libya and Italy in particular collaboration in immigration control has intensified considerably in recent years. However, while it is true that Libya itself has been reluctant to engage in some forms of cooperation with the EU, as they are considered too intrusive into the country's internal affairs, the assistance Libya has thus far received from the EU has not been sufficient to effectively prevent irregular immigration. Ultimately, it is only through close collaboration between Libya, the other Maghreb countries, the EU and sub-Saharan African states, that the challenge of irregular migration from the African continent towards Libya and the EU can be addressed in a sustainable manner.

MEDAC publishes the second edition of *Med Agenda*



The second issue of the *Med Agenda*, entitled 'The Reform of the Security Council of the United Nations: Why Still an Open Question?' was written by Amb. Francesco Fulci, Former Ambassador of Italy to the United Nations. 'The *Med Agenda*' Series in Mediterranean IR and Diplomacy, is aimed at publishing and preserving distinguished studies, speeches and articles dealing with international relations, diplomacy and security in the Mediterranean region.