

# **Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)**

## **Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco**



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**Med Agenda — Special Issue**

MEDAC Publications in Mediterranean IR and Diplomacy

# Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco

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## Table of Contents

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4. **AN INTERNATIONAL STATESMAN AND A PERFECT GENTLEMAN**  
by Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director, MEDAC
  8. **Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco**  
by Dr. Joe Borg, Chairman, MEDAC, University of Malta
  12. **My Country “EGYPT” and the Arab Region Enjoyed de Marco’s True Friendship**  
by Ambassador Dr. Magdy A. Hefny  
Director of the Regional Center for Research and Studies of Water Ethics,  
Cairo, Egypt
  19. **TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PROFESSOR GUIDO DE MARCO**  
by Dr. Nick Hopkinson  
former Director, Wilton Park, Steyning, West Sussex, UK
  24. **Paying tribute to Professor Guido de Marco**  
by Dr. Bichara Khader  
Director, Arab Study and Research Centre, Catholic University of Louvain,  
Belgium
  31. **Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco**  
by Mr. Tom McGrath (Ireland)  
Administrator, European Commission, External Relations DG, Brussels
  34. **PHOTO INSET**
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Med Agenda — Special Issue  
MEDAC Series in Mediterranean IR and Diplomacy

On the cover: the portrait of the President of Malta, Professor Guido de Marco  
by Lawrence Buttigieg, 2001, President’s Palace.

Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)  
University of Malta  
Msida MSD 2080, MALTA

Tel: (+356) 2340 2821 Fax: (+356) 2148 3091  
e-mail: medac@um.edu.mt

Website: [www.med-academy.org](http://www.med-academy.org)  
[www.um.edu.mt/medac](http://www.um.edu.mt/medac)

# P R E F A C E

Since their launching in October 1996, Professor Guido de Marco was a stalwart champion of the Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars. As an advocate of co-operative Euro-Mediterranean relations Professor de Marco always emphasised the importance of people to people interaction through confidence building measures such as the Euro-Mediterranean Seminars for Diplomats, also known as the Malta Seminars.

During the 30<sup>th</sup> Information and Training Seminar for Euro-Mediterranean diplomats in May 2011 a Feature Session was held to pay tribute to Professor Guido de Marco and his legacy of promoting peaceful and prosperous Euro-Mediterranean relations.

The panel of distinguished speakers at this tribute consisted of the following:

*Dr. Joe Borg*, Chairman, MEDAC, Univ. of Malta;

*Dr. Bichara Khader*, Director, Arab Study and Research Centre at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium;

*Amb. Magdy Hefny*, Director of the Regional Center for Research and Studies of Water Ethics, Cairo, Egypt;

*Dr. Nick Hopkinson*, former Director, Wilton Park, UK;

*Prof. Stephen Calleya*, Director, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC), Malta and

*Mr. Tom McGrath* (Ireland), Administrator, European Commission, External Relations DG, Brussels.

In addition to the Tribute being attended by the Euro-Mediterranean Seminar participants, members of the Diplomatic Corps in Malta, and representatives of the University of Malta, MEDAC was also honoured by the presence of the entire de Marco family.

Throughout his sterling international career Professor Guido de Marco relentlessly sought to bring the different peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean area closer together. As a signatory of the Barcelona Declaration, Professor de Marco sought to create a more conducive environment within which Euro-Mediterranean cooperative initiatives could be nurtured. The Euro-Mediterranean Information Seminars in Malta is one such mechanism that has brought together more than one thousand eight hundred participants together from across the Euro-Mediterranean area and allowed them to foster a culture of dialogue and cooperation.

As Chairman of MEDAC, Professor de Marco continuously supported the Euro-Med Seminars on every occasion possible by sharing the unique sense of wisdom he had obtained during decades as an exceptional statesman, politician and academic.

This publication is a memento of presentations and talks delivered by the above mentioned Feature Panel — Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco.

Tribute to Professor Guido de Marco

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## AN INTERNATIONAL STATESMAN AND A PERFECT GENTLEMAN

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by **Prof. Stephen Calleya**

Director, MEDAC

*Mrs de Marco, de Marco Family members, Excellencies, delegates, colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is both an honour and a pleasure to welcome you to this tribute to the late Professor Guido de Marco, President Emeritus of Malta.

**T**hroughout his illustrious career as an international statesman, Prof. de Marco will always be remembered for his **extraordinary devotion and conviction** when it came to **Championing Issues pertaining to the Mediterranean.**

**As, President of the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, a Signator of the Barcelona Declaration in November 1995 and President of Malta,** Prof de Marco relentlessly highlighted the importance of prioritizing the link between European politics and Mediterranean relations, a Euro-Mediterranean relationship that should be built on three essential commonalities, common interest, common concerns, and common heritage.

At one of the first Euro-Mediterranean Seminars Prof. de Marco captured the essence of why such Seminars are so important when he articulated the following:

**“May I remind you that these sessions constitute one of the few successful partnership building measures in operation. I firmly believe that by having people meet regularly, getting to know each other and perhaps building personal relationships - by creating a culture of dialogue and developing its structures - one would be gradually creating the right background and providing a more congenial atmosphere within which specific issues could be tackled and dealt with more effectively.**

**Pursuing peace in a sea in turmoil is our shared responsibility. Building a Pax Mediterranea is the challenge which we Ministers and diplomats, parliamentarians and educators are facing.” A challenge and a trust which we face and hold for future generations.”**

**I believe implementing such an Agenda of Wisdom is essential in our times of such historic change in the Mediterranean.**

In recent years all of us were extremely fortunate to be able to work very closely with Professor de Marco in his capacity as Chairman of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) at the University of Malta. His **wisdom, vision and charisma were the heart and soul of all our activities.** All staff, students and friends at MEDAC were enlightened by his relentless devotion to working towards a better tomorrow. Professor Guido de Marco’s **legacy of promoting a more peaceful tomorrow will live forever through MEDAC’s endeavours.**

In December 2009 MEDAC celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary: I would like to share a brief excerpt of Prof. de Marco's keynote address on this occasion in which he highlighted several of the challenges referred to earlier. *(the transcript of the video footage follows)*



“Deputy Prime Minister, President Emeritus, Excellencies, Dr. Vella, Ladies and Gentlemen, what a pleasure it is for me to welcome you all on behalf of MEDAC to this commemorative Conference, what a pleasure it is for me to have next to me former Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, Mr. Besmertynk, a man of great intellectual calibre, Mr. Sununu, former head of staff of President George Bush. It is a pleasure to welcome you here on a 20th anniversary of an event which changed in actual fact the geopolitics of the world.

“The Malta summit – the first since the new American President and his administration had taken office could be regarded as symbolic in many respects – we met at the junction of three continents, the crossroads of the world, and the meeting point of manifold interests. The talks were to take place on warships, the symbols of the military might behind the Soviet and the American leaders. The world was on the threshold of a new era “. The result was, in spite of the difficulties of going on the battleships and transferring, on the advice of the sailors, to the Maxim Gorky, a very good result. As Shevardnadze wrote “The Malta Summit had drawn the curtain on the cold war, although we still have to live with its difficult legacy “. The German unification problem was part of this difficult legacy, it required ten more months to solve. And again as said by Shevardnadze, in Malta, in a stormy weather of the Mediterranean we buried the cold war. We are living today, the obvious signs of this burying of the Cold War. Certainly the Cold War was buried.

Another minor anniversary, our anniversary, MEDAC's anniversary, we are also twenty years old. Perhaps emerging ourselves to, from this wonderful event,

a wonderful event indeed for us all at MEDAC through the joint efforts of Switzerland and Malta, which we acknowledge and we have managed to get to Malta hundreds of students in diplomacy coming from so many different parts of the world and it is a pleasure to lecture to them and to ensure that these new diplomats are being molded in a frame of mind which upholds the nature of their own history in their own country but also is approaching the new world which was made in Malta twenty years ago today. Thank you for coming on behalf of the Swiss delegation and on behalf of Switzerland which has contributed to MEDAC for these 20 years.

A last word on the Mediterranean. Just a few months after the Malta summit I went to Brussels to present on behalf of the Malta Government, the application of Malta to join the European Community. And in Liberation, Jacques Delors had this to say about Malta. He said "Let us not forget that in the year 2000 we shall be more 12, maybe a little more than 20. There is a country one forgets, but which is very important as a symbol, Malta. We must not displace Europe too much to the north by forgetting the south since we could risk losing our sensitivity to the Mediterranean world which is our world but which at present has dangers for the future of all of us". How right was the government of Malta in 1975 when it linked the security in Europe with security in the Mediterranean. And I think the problems of the Middle East are perhaps one of those problems which have not been solved by the Malta summit. Thank you so much for hearing me out but I wanted to indulge with you the relevance of this anniversary."

