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(N.B. *Signed articles in this journal do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board or the Malta Council of the European Movement*)

# Editorial

*A glance at the title and contents should make the aims and policy of this review sufficiently clear.*

*Pride of place is rightly given to an article by Professor Hallstein, President of the European Movement and formerly of the EEC Commission: his views may well be considered as our manifesto. As a matter of fact we believe that political unity is the only way to ensure permanent peace, prosperity and independence for our Continent. The foundations of a politically united Europe were laid with the institution of the European Economic Community which is indeed a historic achievement and, despite setbacks, is doing tolerably well. The recent and present crises, due to the problems of internal development and geographical expansion, should not overshadow other important achievements, such as the merger of the three Communities under a single Commission in July 1967, and the adoption of a customs union and the Kennedy Round in July this year. European unity is, if gradually, in the making. To rejoice over this is not being visionaries or utopians: to pooh-pooh the idea of European unity in the name of realism is being defeatists or – as Hallstein says – stupid.*

*The article which follows, by Professor S. Busuttil, President of the Malta Council of the European Movement and holder of the Chair of Applied Economics at the University of Malta, is equally significant, so far as the relations between Malta and Europe are concerned. We share the view that there is a case for Malta's entry into the Common Market without further delay. As a matter of fact, it is hardly necessary to insist on the benefits that would accrue to our country by joining the world's largest trading bloc, provided the letter and the spirit of the Treaty of Rome are adhered to by the signatories, so that our developing economy be boosted up to partake of the common achievement. On the other hand, a small country like ours, with a population of 320,000, would certainly not alter the balance of power in the Community, or interfere in any*

*way with what has been achieved so far with considerable effort by the member countries.*

*On September 7, 1967 – three years after the attainment of Independence – Malta applied to join the European Community 'in such form and manner as may be considered appropriate.' While addressing the European Atlantic Group in London on February 1, 1968, the Maltese Prime Minister, Dr. G. Borg Olivier, said: 'The proximity of Malta to European markets, the possibility that Malta should become a container port and a centre of distribution of containerized cargo, the vulnerability of an economy dependent heavily on one major market, are all factors strongly indicative that Malta should seek a wider and more stable market within Europe. The choice is only too obvious ... The relationship at present envisaged would lead to a Free Trade area between Malta and the Common Market without excluding further progress to eventual full membership ... Indeed we hope that the European Communities will recognise the urgent and dire need of new markets and will give early consideration to our application. I feel I can never stress enough the importance we in Malta attach to the request we have asked our friendly neighbours to accept.'*

*It has now transpired that the EEC Commission, authorized by the Council of Ministers to study Malta's application, has pointed out a number of difficulties, and has requested the Malta Government to supply more information with regard to Malta's trade relations which are still, as we all know, mainly directed towards Britain. We do hope that such difficulties will be overcome in a reasonably short time. Eventually nothing short of full membership of the European Community should satisfy the Government of a European Island like ours.*

*If we are striving for admission into the European Community, then the Government should take steps to bring about a spiritual transformation, an internal shift in attitudes, in all sectors of our public life. Our culture, our attitude as a nation should bear the seal of a European policy. Our educational system in particular should be reviewed and geared in that direction, so that the rising generation should be on a par with their counterpart in Europe. Our adult generation should be so enlightened as to shed any feeling of inferiority, isolation, prejudice or other residue of our colonial past, and develop a European outlook.*

*Our European Movement has been doing its best in this connection, since its inception in 1965. It has contributed to foster a deep interest in European affairs and a widespread awareness of the present trend towards European integration, by holding symposia and public lectures, by stimulating articles in the local press and by holding social activities. And, last but not least, by undertaking the publication of this journal, to show that our dear, little Island is playing its part in the construction of a great Europe and a better World.*

**THE EDITOR**