

Since its accession to the European Union on the 1st May 2004, Malta has proactively participated in the formulation of EU legislation, policy and decisions. It is therefore important that Malta continues to ensure that important matters of national interest are raised high on the EU Agenda.

In this context the Forum Malta fl-Ewropa (FME), first set up in 2005, acts as a leading reference point on EU-related affairs. The Forum's terms of reference are explained in detail in the Strategic Objectives that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published in February 8, 2006:

"... Forum Malta fl-Ewropa will act as a point of reference on EU-Malta relations for civil society and for citizens, serving also as government's consultative mechanism with civil society on EU-related issues and a platform to discuss new ideas and initiatives with the aim of bringing the European Union closer to its citizens on the national level. The Forum will also offer support to civil society and citizens in relation to access to EU funding mechanisms and programmes seeking a wider tapping of these new resources."

The Forum's three main areas of competence are therefore:

- *The Dissemination of Information on EU-related Issues*
- *The Facilitation of Consultation with Stakeholders on pipeline acquis*
- *Support and Awareness with Regard to EU Funding Opportunities*

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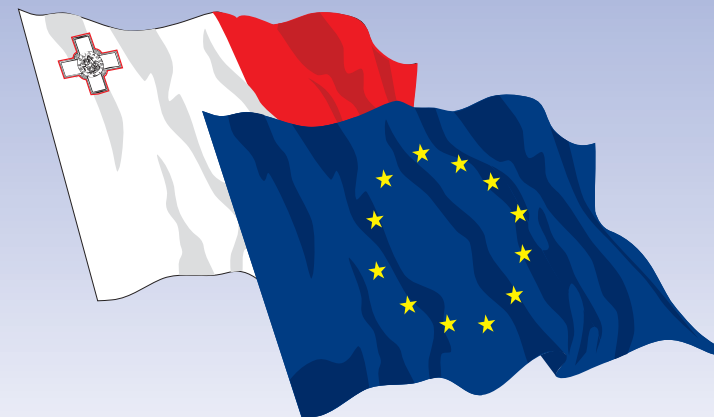
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

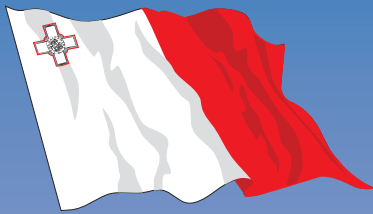
REFLECTING ON THE FUTURE OF THE EU:

Understanding the Implications of the Reform Treaty



13 February 2008

CORINTHIA SAN GORG HOTEL, ST JULIANS



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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P R O G R A M M E

8.30	Registration	12.50	Lunch
9.00	Welcome & Opening Remarks <i>Dr Gabriella Pace</i> <i>CEO - Forum Malta fl-Ewropa</i>	14.00	The Reform Treaty's Implications for the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice <i>Dr Wolfgang Heusel</i> <i>Director of Academy of European Law, Trier</i>
9.15	Opening Address <i>The Hon Michael Frendo MP</i> <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs</i>	14.30	Coffee Break
9.40	From Laeken to Lisbon - a historical overview <i>Elmar Brok MEP</i> <i>Member of the EPP-ED political bureau and EP representative at the Intergovernmental Conference for the Treaty of Lisbon</i>	15.00	Panel Discussion: What Direction for Europe? <i>Moderator: Lawrence Grech, Former Editor - The Sunday Times</i> <i>Panel: Dr Julian Vassallo (Head - European Parliament Information Office, Malta), Dr Joanna Drake (Head - European Commission Representation, Malta), Professor Klemens H. Fischer, Prof. Peter G. Xuereb (Professor of European & Comparative Law and Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Law and European Integration), Louis Grech MEP</i>
10.10	The Treaty of Lisbon: A new setting for the European Union <i>adj. Professor Dr. Klemens H. Fischer</i> <i>Minister plenipotentiary, Head of Department, Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union</i>	16.00	Address <i>The Hon. Alfred Sant</i> <i>Leader of the Opposition</i>
10.45	Coffee Break	16.15	Closing Address <i>The Hon. Lawrence Gonzi</i> <i>Prime Minister of Malta</i>
11.15	The Implications of the Treaty on the Interinstitutional Balance <i>Dr. rer. soc. Andreas Maurer</i> <i>Head of European Integration Unit</i> <i>The German Institute for International and Security Affairs</i>		
11.50	Panel Discussion: Democratic Legitimacy and Organised Civil Society Participation <i>Moderator: Daphne Cassar, Journalist - Public Broadcasting Services</i> <i>Panel: Dr George Vella (Shadow speaker on European Affairs), Dr Andreas Maurer, Edwin Calleja (Member European Economic and Social Committee), Michael Cohen (Member Committee of the Regions), Elmar Brok MEP</i>		