

EU FOREIGN POLICY

The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy is based on the principles of the United Nations Charter. In line with this Charter, the EU seeks to promote security, peace, international co-operation, democracy, rule of law and human rights. Malta agrees with the objectives of the EU's foreign policy.

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

As part of its accession process, in June 1999, Malta entered into a political dialogue with the EU and is regularly co-ordinating foreign policy initiatives with EU Member States. Co-ordination is particularly active at the level of the United Nations and the Organisation for Co-operation and Security in Europe (OSCE).

DUAL-USE GOODS

The EU requires strict controls over goods which may have a military use. Malta's laws already provide for this with regard to chemical weapons and these laws are now being extended to cover other areas such as missile technology. As a country that does not allow the export of arms, Malta has no difficulties in accepting the EU's Code of Conduct on Arms Export.

SECURITY, DEFENCE AND NEUTRALITY

The EU is currently developing a European Security and Defence Identity to enable it to participate effectively in crisis management, humanitarian and peace-keeping missions. Participation in missions is voluntary. These EU developments do not prejudice the position of the four EU Member States that have a status of neutrality. Equally, Malta and the EU consider that these developments do not affect Malta's neutrality.

A Declaration on neutrality will be attached to the Treaty, confirming that Malta's neutrality is not affected by membership. This states:

"Malta affirms its commitment to the common foreign and security policy of the European Union as set out in the Treaty on European Union. Malta confirms that its participation in the European Union's common foreign and security policy does not prejudice its neutrality. The Treaty on European Union specifies that any decision by the Union to move to a common defence would have to be taken by unanimous decision of the European Council adopted by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements."

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES

The EU has a network of commercial and trade agreements with some 100 countries around the world. These include countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. Upon membership, Malta will automatically become a party to these commercial agreements. Malta will also become part of the European Economic Area (EEA) which includes Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Malta's current international agreements are not incompatible with those of the EU.

EURO-MED FREE TRADE AREA

As a participating country in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Malta is already due to become part of the Free Trade Area that the EU will establish with its partner Mediterranean countries by 2010. However, upon membership, Malta will automatically become a party to the free trade agreements that the EU has concluded with individual neighbouring Southern Mediterranean countries.

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)

Like EU member states, Malta is founding member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Upon membership, within the framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Malta will co-ordinate its policy with the EU and will renounce its developing status.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Upon membership, Malta will also participate in the European Development Fund in providing assistance to developing countries and will adopt the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Scheme which is given by the EU to developing countries.