

# IMLI<sup>e</sup>-News

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## MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF MALTA VISITS IMLI

The Institute had the pleasure of welcoming recently, the Honourable Mr. Carmelo Abela (Minister for Home Affairs and National Security of Malta). During his visit, Mr. Abela met with the Director, who introduced him to the students of the Class of 2014/2015.



*R-L Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), the Honourable Mr. Carmelo Abela (Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, Malta) and Professor Dr. Marko Pavliha (Head of the Law Department at the Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, University of Ljubljana) with the students of the IMLI Class of 2014/2015*

Professor Attard stated that he was pleased to welcome the Honourable Minister, who he considers a longstanding friend of the Institute. Professor Attard recalled that in fact, the Honourable Minister has attended the Institute's annual graduation ceremonies, long before assuming his present office. Professor Attard stated further that he hoped this friendship will continue, not only in his personal capacity but also in his official capacity, as every year, his Ministry has sent at least

one of its senior officers to be trained at the Institute. The Director thanked the Minister for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the Institute.

In his address to the students, the Honourable Minister expressed his pleasure to visit IMLI, not only because of the tremendous respect he has for the Director but also because IMLI, as a training institution, is worth visiting, especially in his new capacity. He stated that the issue of security is of utmost importance in any country but especially so to Malta in light of the current political situation of its immediate neighbours.

The Honourable Minister outlined some of the duties he has under his portfolio which apart from security, include overseeing the police and the armed forces, the security services, the prison, civil protection and immigration. He declared that immigration poses a lot of concerns for Malta and stated that quite recently they had to deal with the issue of migrant crossing (a thousand in number) from northern Africa into Malta. He said that as such the situation is contemplated to worsen as the year progresses into summer, resulting thus in a cause for higher concern not only for his government, but the European Union as a whole.

When wishing the students success in their studies, the Honourable Minister stated that he has no doubt that under the tutorship of the able Director and the other lecturers at the Institute, they would be very well trained and become valuable assets, not only to their individual countries, but to the world at large. He recommended that it is important that, regardless of where they are from, they should work together. At this stage, he commended the work of the Institute in bringing together people, both students and professors, from all over the world to work together towards the same goal.

He concluded by saying to the students “I look forward to seeing you all at the graduation ceremony with huge smiles of success on your faces.”

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