

## MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALTA HOSTS THE IMLI CLASS OF 2015-2016

During the scholastic year of 2015-2016, the IMLI Class of 2015-2016, together with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and the Academic Staff of the Institute, visited the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Palazzo Parisio, Valletta, on 25 May 2016. They were warmly welcomed and addressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta, the Honourable Dr. George Vella.



*The Honourable Dr. George Vella (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Malta) addressing the IMLI Students of 2015-2016 in the presence of Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI)*

In his address, the Honorable Dr. Vella gave the historical development of foreign policy of Malta from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century until its independence from British Rule. He also recalled important milestones in the history and development of the Maltese foreign policy. Further, he explained the steps towards Malta membership to the European Union and the effect of this on Malta as a state.

During this discussion, the Honorable Minister also noted the the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) rotates among the EU Member States every six months, and Malta for the first time is assuming this task from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017 taking it over from Slovakia and afterwards handing over the reins of the Presidency to the UK.

After his discussion, the Honorable Minister was gracious enough to accommodate questions from the students of the IMLI Class of 2015-2016. At the conclusion of the Q & A session, Professor

David Attard express his gratitude to the Honourable Minister and his office for hosting the students and particularly to the Minister for sharing such a wealth of knowledge of Malta and its foreign policy over the decades with the students.



*The Honourable Dr. George Vella (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Malta), Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), and Professor Norman Martinez (Associate Professor, IMLI) with the IMLI Class of 2015-2016*

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