

# Malta's Foreign Policy

## Guiding Principles

Malta's Foreign Policy is to focus on and consolidate its vocation and commitment in the search for international peace and security, political dialogue and cooperation. Malta will continue to participate actively in the work and activities of the European Union as well as those of international and regional organisations and institutions. At the same time, Malta will seek to enhance established political and economic relationships, strengthen others and promote new ones. Malta intends to give special attention to the Mediterranean dimension in its contribution to stability, peace and security in the region.

Specifically, these Guiding Principles will seek to:

### European Union

- **Maximise** the full benefits of EU Membership through the effective use of Malta's facilities and resources and by ensuring that such benefits are evenly distributed among society in general.
- **Endeavour** to strengthen Malta's active role within the European Union with the aim of bringing the European project closer to the people.
- **Contribute** effectively towards Europe's political, economic, social and environmental pillars underlining the basic concept of solidarity in all aspects.
- **Focus** on the challenges leading to Malta's EU Presidency in 2017 so that such a historic event is truly lived by all in a spirit of national and European unity.

### Bilateral Relations

- **Promote** Malta's strategic geographic position in the Mediterranean as a regional and international hub for investment, commerce, education, health, tourism and culture.
- **Enhance and promote further** Malta's bilateral relations at the political, economic and cultural levels with countries in Malta's neighbourhood and beyond.
- **Intensify** Malta's bilateral relations with its partners in the European Union and at the same time enhance existing relationships and promote closer ties with major and newly emerging economies.
- **Support** neighbouring countries in their endeavours to establish functioning democracies based on the principles of justice, freedom and the rule of law.

- **Embark** on the notions of cultural and economic diplomacy as prime objectives towards an export-driven economy and the attraction of foreign direct investment to Malta.

### **Multilateral Affairs**

- **Participate** actively and contribute effectively, with European Union partners and other Member States, in the activities of International and Regional Organisations, including in particular the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Commonwealth, among others.
- **Reaffirm** Malta's strong commitment towards: the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; the fight against the continuing gross violations of international humanitarian law; the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities; and the promotion of the rule of law as an effective contribution to the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflict through democratic mechanisms including mediation.
- **Contribute** in the search for more stringent measures against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery as well as the spread of conventional arms.
- **Ensure** continued and unwavering support to all efforts in the on-going attempts to re-launch the Peace Process between the Israelis and Palestinians with a view to achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace settlement including the two-State solution.
- **Resolve** to closely co-operate and collaborate with other countries in efforts to prevent and combat terrorism by supporting initiatives and mechanisms for counterterrorism defences incorporating appropriate respect for human rights and the rule of law with importance being given also to the concerns of victims of terrorist acts.
- **Strengthen**, as a maritime State, active involvement in and support of national, regional and international mechanisms and institutions that focus their primary role on maritime affairs, including the conservation and sustainable use of the marine resources.
- **Take** a more participatory role in the field of humanitarian and development assistance in efforts by the international community to eradicate poverty and sustain development in developing countries with a view to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and beyond. In this context, Malta will continue its Overseas Development Assistance programme and humanitarian aid.
- **Give** particular attention to the serious challenges being faced by the continued influx of irregular migrants in the context of the Mediterranean and its serious effects on Malta.
- **Support** for international and regional institutions hosted by Malta as well as the attraction of similar organisations to Malta.

- **Address** holistically other global issues.

### **The Mediterranean**

- **Reaffirm** Malta's vocation and determination to work towards the strengthening of peace and security in the Mediterranean which is directly linked to peace and security in Europe.
- **Maintain** Malta's commitment to support all efforts in the protection of the environment and marine resources of the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Participate** actively in all international and regional fora to transform the Mediterranean into an area of dialogue, peace, cooperation, stability and prosperity.

### **Maltese Living Abroad**

- **Ensure** regular and closer consultation with Maltese communities abroad.
- **Promote** stronger political and economic relations with the countries of Maltese migration.
- **Encourage** the involvement of the Maltese Living Abroad in complementing efforts to promote Malta, particularly its commercial and business facilities in the respective countries of Maltese migration.
- **Support** and facilitate the work and activities of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad.

### **Maltese Representation Overseas**

- **Increase** the involvement of Maltese Embassies and Consular Offices in the promotion of Malta's art, history and culture with special focus on Valletta as the European Capital of Culture 2018.
- **Strengthen** efforts in the search for new trade and investment opportunities.
- **Invest** in the training of Maltese officials to be better equipped in the promotion of Maltese exports and the attraction of foreign direct investment to Malta.
- **Support and assist** Maltese nationals abroad through strengthened and efficient consular services.
- **Expand** trade relations with other EU Member States as well as with the principal world and newly emerging economies.