



REPORT

YEPP Seminar – St. Julian's, MALTA

Between the 16th and the 19th of January 2003, a YEPP seminar and Council meeting was held in St. Julian's, Malta.

The seminar was organised by Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista (MZPN) whose president, John Bonello, met the various delegations on their arrival on the 16th. In the evening of that same day, the participants were also welcomed by Victor Scerri, the President of the General Council of Partit Nazzjonalista (MZPN's mother party). Afterwards, a dinner was hosted by the Minister for Resources and Infrastructure, The Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech.

The following day, on the 17th January, the YEPP delegation was welcomed by the President of Malta, Prof. Guido De Marco at the presidential Palace in Valletta. President De Marco remarked his interest in a viable Euro-Mediterranean process and expressed his support for a dialogue between youths coming from all over Europe. Such, he noted, was positive in starting to build new friendships which was to provide important political connections. Following the President's reception, the delegation headed to Castille Palace in Valletta where it was welcomed by Prime Minister, Dr. Edward Fenech Adami, who is also head of Partit Nazzjonalista. Prime Minister Fenech Adami also expressed his support for a dialogue between youths coming from People's Parties all across Europe and also hit the headlines by announcing to the press the official date on which a referendum on EU accession was to be held. To this, YEPP President Rutger-Jan Hebben stated that YEPP followed with interest Malta's EU accession and supported Partit Nazzjonalista in its aim pass a successful referendum in favour of EU accession.

In the afternoon, the working document entitled "*The Mediterranean in an Enlarged European Union*", was introduced by Robert Camenzuli, MZPN International Secretary. The document discussed the Euro-Mediterranean process focusing on specific topics such as Human Rights, Terrorism and Culture. The discussion was then to focus on a number of Mediterranean States and addressed issues particular to each State being discussed. The document concluded by illustrating the roles of Malta and Cyprus as promulgators of a Mediterranean dimension in an enlarged European Union.

The delegation was divided into *ad hoc* working-groups, which discussed different sections of the document within various ministries. The amendments were to be adopted or rejected in the Council meeting the following day.

In the evening, after the conclusion of the working-groups, the Mayor of Valletta, Paul Borg Olivier met the delegation and accompanied all to a short tour of the city. After, a traditional maltese dinner was hosted by the Minister of Finance the Hon. John Dalli.

On the 18th of January, Prof. Salvo Ando`, a senior lecturer at the University of Malta and Prof. Giuseppe Mifsud Bonnici, ex-Chief Justice of the Republic of Malta and ex-Judge on the European Court of Human Rights, gave a short lecture on Human Rights issues.

The Council Meeting took place in the afternoon. Following amendments and approval of the document, other resolutions were adopted, amongst which YEPP's support for Malta's EU campaign, urging the Malta Labour Party to recognise the will of the majority had the population expressed its support for Malta's EU accession following a referendum on the matter.

In the evening, the YEPP delegation was invited to a dinner hosted by the Mayor of Mdina, Peter Sant Manduca. This was preceded by a short tour of the city which had been Malta's capital until the end of the 16th century.

On the 19th of January, whilst the delegations began to depart, YEPP's valid contribution to Partit Nazzjonalista's EU campaign came to an end with a joint press conference chaired by YEPP President Rutger-Jan Hebben and MZPN President John Bonello. It was here that the resolution regarding support for Malta's EU campaign was read out to the media.

Through this Council Meeting, one could conclude that not only was a topical subject as is that of the Euro-Mediterranean process discussed in a detailed manner to the benefit of the participants. YEPP had given a highly valid contribution to the political lobby in favour of Malta's EU accession.

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