

BAR EUROPEAN GROUP

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BEG CONFERENCE 29-30 May 2004 - MALTA

After the warm welcome but unseasonably chilly surroundings of Stockholm and the Baltic Sea last year, we would like to entice you to the warmth of the Mediterranean and the island of Malta for the Bar European Group's 2004 Conference. Malta is one of the accession states and is therefore a particularly appropriate venue in 2004. The formal part of proceedings – the meeting itself - will start on the morning of Saturday 29th May and finish at lunchtime on Sunday, 30th May; and will be held at the Le Meridien Phoenicia Hotel on the outskirts of Valletta.

Theme

We will be discussing two themes: *"European Citizenship: Rights without Duties?"* and *"Extending the Frontiers on Non-Discrimination?"*. We expect that the final list of speakers and chairmen will include both new faces and BEG stalwarts. The conference attracts 10.5 CPD hours.

Registration

All participants are asked to register. The registration fee is set at £185 (7 years and over) and £90 (students, Bar students and barristers under 7 years call: limited places only available at this rate). The registration fee covers attendance at the conference, lunches and other refreshments on both days, and an excursion for conference delegates on Sunday afternoon. Dinners are not included.

Accompanying Persons

We very much encourage you to bring along your spouse, partner, friend or family. A number of schools will be on half term and perhaps you would like to stay on for a few days. A separate timetable sets out what we are planning for accompanying persons for the Saturday. Because we rather assume that accompanying persons will naturally also take part in the Sunday afternoon excursion, the cost for the accompanying persons' programme (£195) covers both days.

Dinner

Plans are afoot to dine on Saturday evening overlooking the bay of Spinola at The Barracuda Restaurant which was an early 18th century residential villa. The menu promises traditional Mediterranean fish and shellfish specialities and fine wines. Dinner will cost £65.

Hotel

A group rate has been negotiated with Le Meridien Phoenicia Hotel. This is a 5 star hotel, just outside the capital city of Valletta. There are only 135 rooms, and we have a block booking at a very competitive price of Maltese Lira 45 for a single (£73), Maltese Lira 52 for a double (£84), which includes breakfast and all taxes. Children can share parents' rooms. To see more go to www.limeridien.com. Please complete the attached registration form and return it direct to the hotel.

If you prefer to find an alternative hotel close to the Phoenicia, we suggest you check out www.visitmalta.com – the Castelle is within walking distance.

Travel

Malta is a tourist destination and May marks the start of the main tourist season. Holborn Travel has negotiated a price of £261.30 to fly with Air Malta from Heathrow. The airline will accommodate a certain number of children under the age of 12 at a cost of £184.30 inclusive of taxes. These will be on a first come, first served basis.

Friday, 28 May 2004	Heathrow 10.50 arriving Malta 15.10
Monday, 31 May 2004	Malta 16.45 arriving Heathrow 19.25

To book your flight, please contact Roy Rushent at Holborn Travel. If you would like to travel out on the "BEG" flight but return later in the week at the same price, please discuss this with Roy. Air Malta will need the names of those taking up seats on the "BEG" flights at least 6 weeks prior to the departure date. **We cannot emphasise enough that these flights do need to be booked as soon as possible.** There are only a limited number of flights to and from the island (a very different situation to getting to Stockholm at the last minute). Roy's number is 020 7405 7056. E:mail holborn@dial.pipex.com.

Registration for the Meeting

Please fill in the attached registration form and return it, together with your cheque made payable to the Bar European Group, to Clare Jest at Hailsham Chambers.

We really do hope you can come and join us for the 2004 conference. The professional programme promises, we hope, to be both interesting and lively. The extra-mural activities should live up to the high standard set by previous BEG conferences. Malta offers truly diverse historical sightseeing, stunning clear water for swimming, snorkelling and scuba-diving, and a charming, friendly English-speaking people who are likely to be less cynical than some BEG members perhaps are about the unqualified benefits of EU membership. Come and enjoy your first summer holiday of the year while catching up with old friends and painlessly notching up those CPD points.

With best wishes

Eleanor Sharpston QC
Chairman of BEG

BEG CONFERENCE
May 29-31 2004
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E: mail: _____

Years Call: _____

Probable Arrival Date: _____ Probable Departure Date: _____

ACCOMPANYING PERSON(s) (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Name: _____

Particular requirements / additional relevant information: _____

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

	Number	Total Cost (£)
Conference delegate (over 7 years call) @ £185	_____	_____
Conference delegate (student, Bar student, barrister under 7 years call: limited places) @ £90	_____	_____
Accompanying person(s) @ £195	_____	_____
Conference dinner @ £65 per person	_____	_____
Total amount for which cheque enclosed:		_____

Please make all cheques payable to **BAR EUROPEAN GROUP** and send registration form and cheque to: Clare Jest, Hailsham Chambers,
4 Paper Buildings, Temple, London EC4Y 7EX, DX 1036 London

BEG CONFERENCE

May 29-31 2004

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

Le Meridien Phoenicia Hotel is Malta's most prestigious hotel. Set in 7 acres of mature gardens, close to the walls of Valletta, it has a heated swimming pool, fitness room, whirlpool and children's play area. The 24-hour front desk and concierge desk will be able to help with assistance on car hire, water skiing locations and where to go scuba diving.

80 hotel rooms are currently being held for the Bar European Group. The conference itself will be held in the Ballroom. The Phoenicia has given BEG a special group rate of Maltese Lira 45 for a single room (approximately £74) and Maltese Lira 52 (£84) for a double room. This covers bed and breakfast and all taxes.

These rooms are only being held for a limited period, so please make your reservations as soon as possible. In order to book your room at the special rate, please liaise with Mark Muscat at the hotel (direct line: 00356 2291 1023) and do not contact the main hotel reservations desk.

We look forward to seeing you at the Phoenicia!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E: mail: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Additional guests: _____

All reservations must be guaranteed with a non-refundable, one night deposit.

Single Room: Maltese Lira 45 _____ Double Room: Maltese Lira 52 _____

Please fax the reservation form to 00 356 2123 5254. Reservations may be cancelled up to one week prior to arrival, subject to loss of the non-refundable deposit. The terms of any later cancellation are by negotiation with the hotel.

Name on Card: _____ Credit Card No: _____

Type of Card: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Amount: Lira _____

Le Meridien Phoenicia
The Mall

Floriana VLT 16 Malta www.lemeridien.com

Le **MERIDIEN**
PHOENICIA

'UN PEU D'HISTOIRE' – A BRIEF HISTORY

The Maltese archipelago consists of 3 islands: Malta, Gozo and Comino. Malta, the largest island, is 237 sq. kms in area; Gozo is 68 sq. kms and Comino a mere 2 sq. kms.

The population is around 370,000, most of whom live on Malta itself. About 28,000 live in Gozo, while Comino is inhabited only by a few farmers. Because of their strategic position in the Mediterranean, Malta and Gozo have been inhabited for the past 7,000 years. The islands have a long and varied prehistoric period. Neolithic, Copper and Bronze age civilisations lasted more than 4,000 years; and one can still admire vestiges of those remote times in the form of impressive stone temples, a unique hypogeum and artefacts bearing witness to skilful handicrafts.

The first known people to settle in Malta were the Phoenicians, who reached the islands in the course of their trading ventures in the 9th century BC. They were succeeded by their Punic kinsmen, the Carthaginians, who were eventually conquered by the Romans in the 3rd century BC. The Romans governed the islands until the division of the Roman Empire in the 4th century AD.

Arabs from North Africa occupied the Islands from the 9th to the 13th century. When the last Arab rulers were driven out in the year 1249, they left behind notable imprints of their culture on the language of the Maltese people.

After the Norman overlords, Swabian and Angevin dynasties ruled for brief periods. At the beginning of the 14th century, the Islands fell under Aragonese domination. In 1530, the King of Spain, Emperor Charles V, granted the Islands on fief to the international Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. The Knights administered the Islands for 268 years until 1798, when Napoleon Bonaparte drove them out and occupied the Islands in the name of the French Republic.

The French occupation was brief. After two years of land and sea blockade by combined British and Maltese forces, the French were forced to surrender and in 1800 Malta became a part of the British Empire. British it remained until 1964, when Malta attained its independence. Ten years later, Malta was declared a Republic within the Commonwealth.

Until the 1960s, the Maltese economy depended heavily on the British armed services and the Royal Naval Dockyard. After independence, industry and tourism expanded rapidly; and Malta and Gozo now have a good industrial base and flourishing tourist enterprises.

Our trip on Sunday will take the following form:

- 14.00 Leave Hotel with guides and travel to Mdina, known as the Silent City, dating back to 400 BC and founded during the Arab occupation. Walk round this small medieval town, learning about its history from our guides and visit the bastions, with their panoramic view of Malta
- 16.00 Coach to the East of the island and board a local schooner.
- 16.30 Cruise round Marsamxett Harbour and the Grand Harbour whilst enjoying an early evening drink.
- 17.45 Return to Sliema Jetty and coach back to hotel

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES:
PROGRAMME FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS,
SATURDAY 29 MAY

- 10.00 Leave on foot with a guide to the centre of Valletta. Guided tour through the bustling streets to see the Barracca Gardens, then on to see St John's Cathedral, dating back to the times of the Knights of Malta. Visit to the Grand Master's Palace where we shall see the staterooms
- 12.30 Coach to the south of the island and the fishing village of Marsaxlokk. Visit local shops and market
- 13.00 2 course lunch at local restaurant, including wine, water and coffee
- 14.30 Visit by boat to the Blue Grotto for photos
- 16.00 Return to hotel

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES:
PROGRAMME FOR DELEGATES AND
ACCOMPANYING PERSONS, SUNDAY 29 MAY

- 14.00 Leave Hotel with guides and travel to Mdina, known as the Silent City, dating back to 400 BC and founded during the Arab occupation. Walk round this small medieval town, learning about its history from our guides and visiting the bastions, with their panoramic view of Malta
- 16.00 Coach to the East of the island and board a local schooner
- 16.30 Cruise round Marsamxett Harbour and the Grand Harbour whilst enjoying an early evening drink
- 17.45 Return to Sliema Jetty and coach back to hotel