



Small States Regional Cooperation: MT

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Small States Regional Cooperation – in Europe

- 1974 - : Neutral & Non-Aligned
- (**Italy**: Guarantor State / Closest State)
- 1970: Association Agreement with EEC
- 2003: EU Referendum (53% in favour)
- 2004: EU Accession
- 2017: Chair



2017 Maltese
Presidency of the Council
of the European Union



Regional Cooperation: Commonwealth (54 states)



Member of Commonwealth
Host of CHOGM: 2005, 2015

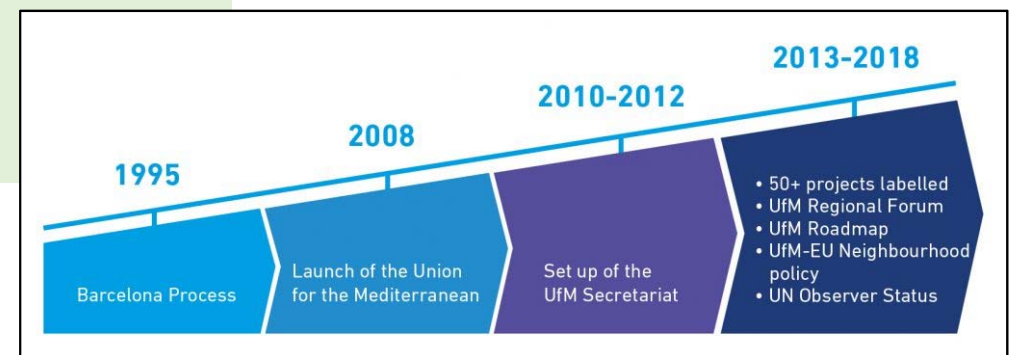


Malta's invitation to host CHOGM is partly due to the success of the 2005 summit held here - and the next Malta meeting could be the last opportunity to assure the Commonwealth's future. *Photo: Matthew Mirabelli*



Examples of Regional Cooperation: Institutions

- Euro-Mediterranean (Barcelona) Process
- To promote Malta's interests in Mediterranean and keep this area high on the EU agenda.
- Areas covered: Migration, Defence, Transport, Tourism, Education, Environment & Renewable Energy



Examples of Regional Cooperation: Policies

- **'5+5'**: Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco & Tunisia - France, Italy, Malta, Portugal & Spain
- Cooperation through political dialogue and economic cooperation. (Ministerial meetings)
- Initiative promotes dialogue and knowledge sharing, simplifies interoperability among armed forces, and builds trust and mutual understanding.



Example of Regional Cooperation: 'Ad Hoc' Burden Sharing of Undocumented Migrants

- Malta plays key role in **Common European Asylum System** (EASO was set up in 2011).
- Migration in the Mediterranean is the main focus of EASO's work but requires cooperation among affected states.
- The EU providing facilities in Turkey was a step forward; but the EU remains divided on migrant burden sharing.



Small States and Regional Cooperation: Conclusion

- **Why?**

- Targeted cooperation with neighbouring states

- **Main benefits to Malta?**

- Political stability and peace in a historically volatile region

- **Outlook?**

- Demographic changes and migration pose major threats to both political stability and peace in the region.