

→ ✓ *Stephen in Munich*  
*Forwarded* 6/7



*cc RB*  
*GC to*  
*SCAN*

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

①

6 July 1992

London SW1A 2AH

*Dear Stephen,*

**EC ENLARGEMENT: MALTA**

*copy attached*

Thank you for your letter of 24 June about the Maltese Prime Minister's letter to the Prime Minister. I enclose a draft reply. I am sorry that we have missed your deadline.

Malta is better integrated economically into the Community than some of the present member states. It would be an insignificant net recipient. Dr Fenech Adami's centre-right Government was re-elected in February on a pro-Community platform in democratic and fair elections. There is strong support within the European Peoples' Party for Malta's application. Because of our long-standing historical ties, the Maltese expect us to support their application.

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Malta's application raises difficult institutional questions about accommodating micro-states within the Community. Opening a debate on these issues now would risk a wider debate on institutional reform, focussing on the role of small states.

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For this reason we and most other member states have sought to postpone active consideration of Malta's application until after 1996, and to build up the existing Association Agreement in the meantime. The Commission report to the Lisbon European Council helpfully flagged the problems of micro-state accession.

[redacted] The Lisbon conclusions / language (enclosed) though slightly opaque, is satisfactory, and should hold the line until the Commission's Opinion on Malta's application issues, probably this autumn.

*Yours ever,  
Christopher Prentice.*

(C N R Prentice)  
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq  
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

to: Prime Minister of Malta

Thank you for your letter of 23 June about Malta's application to join the European Community.

I share your aim to see a stable Malta as part of Europe. At the Lisbon European Council there was unanimous support for developing and strengthening the Community's links with Malta, in the perspective of her membership application, by building on the Association Agreement and by developing the political dialogue. This will be one of the tasks of our Presidency. Douglas Hurd is looking forward to discussing how best to take things forward when Mr de Marco visits London on 13 July.

me  
b/7

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EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN LISBON  
26/27 JUNE 1992

~~CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY~~

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## 2. *Enlargement*

- A.           The Treaty on European Union provides that any European state whose system of government is founded on the principle of democracy may apply to become a member of the Union. The principle of a Union open to European States that aspire to full participation and who fulfil the conditions for membership is a fundamental element of the European construction.

The European Council in Maastricht agreed that negotiations on accession to the Union on the basis of the Treaty agreed in Maastricht can start as soon as the Community has terminated its negotiations on Own Resources and related issues in 1992.

- B.           The European Council considers that the EEA-agreement has paved the way for opening enlargement negotiations with a view to an early conclusion with EFTA countries seeking membership of the European Union. It invites the institutions to speed up preparatory work needed to ensure rapid progress including the

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preparation before the European Council in Edinburgh of the Union's general negotiation framework. The official negotiation will be opened immediately after the Treaty on European Union is ratified and the agreement has been achieved on the DELORS-II package.

Negotiations with the candidate countries will, to the extent possible, be conducted in parallel, while dealing with each candidature on its own merit.

The European Council agrees that this enlargement is possible on the basis of the institutional provisions contained in the Treaty on the Union and attached declarations.

- C. The European Council considers that if the challenges of a European Union composed of a larger number of Member States are to be met successfully, parallel progress is needed as regards the internal development of the Union and in preparation for membership of other countries.

In this context the European Council discussed the applications which have been submitted by Turkey, Cyprus and Malta. The European Council agrees that each of these applications must be considered on its merits.

With regard to Turkey the European Council underlines that the Turkish role in the present European political situation is of the greatest importance and that there is every reason to intensify cooperation and develop relations with Turkey in line with the prospect laid down in

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the Association Agreement of 1964 including a political dialogue at the highest level. The European Council asks the Commission and the Council to work on this basis in the coming months.

Relations with Cyprus and Malta will be developed and strengthened by building on the association agreements and their application for membership and by developing the political dialogue.

As regards relations with Central and Eastern Europe, the European Council reaffirms the Community's will to develop its partnership with these countries within the framework of the Euro-agreements in their efforts to restructure their economies and institutions. The political dialogue will be intensified and extended to include meetings at the highest political level. Cooperation will be focused systematically on assisting their efforts to prepare the accession to the Union which they seek. The Commission will evaluate progress made in this respect and report to the European Council in Edinburgh suggesting further steps as appropriate.

The Commission presented its report "Europe and the challenge of enlargement". This report is added to the conclusions of the European Council.



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

24 June 1992

EC ENLARGEMENT: MALTA

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister of Malta about the Maltese claim to EC membership.

Sir James Spicer telephoned me this afternoon to say that the Maltese Foreign Minister would be here in July and might be seeing the Anglo-Maltese Parliamentary Friendship Group. The Maltese could be expected to make a strong pitch for membership and some MPs might well take up the cudgels on their behalf. He understood the difficulties for us and was not trying to make waves but he thought we ought to be aware of this pressure.

This issue is already under consideration in the context of the Lisbon European Council. I suggest that we reply to Fenech-Adami's letter once the European Council is over. I should be grateful for a draft reply by Wednesday 1 July.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

J S WALL

Christopher Prentice Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office