



The electronic version (PDF) of this article was scanned by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Library & Archives Service.

Journal Title: ITU News

Journal Issue: no. 4, 1998

Article Title: The Pearl of the Mediterranean gives the world new development strategies: the Valletta Declaration, the Valletta Action Plan, and the Strategic Plan for the Development Sector

Page number(s): pp. 36-38

The Pearl of the Mediterranean gives the world new development strategies

The Valletta Declaration, the Valletta Action Plan, and the Strategic Plan for the Development Sector

The second World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-98) held in Valletta from 23 March to 1 April 1998, ended with the adoption of the Valletta Declaration, the Valletta Action Plan and the Strategic Plan for the Development Sector.

Around 875 policy makers, regulators, and government representatives from 143 countries, as well as representatives from international organizations attended this global event, which was officially opened

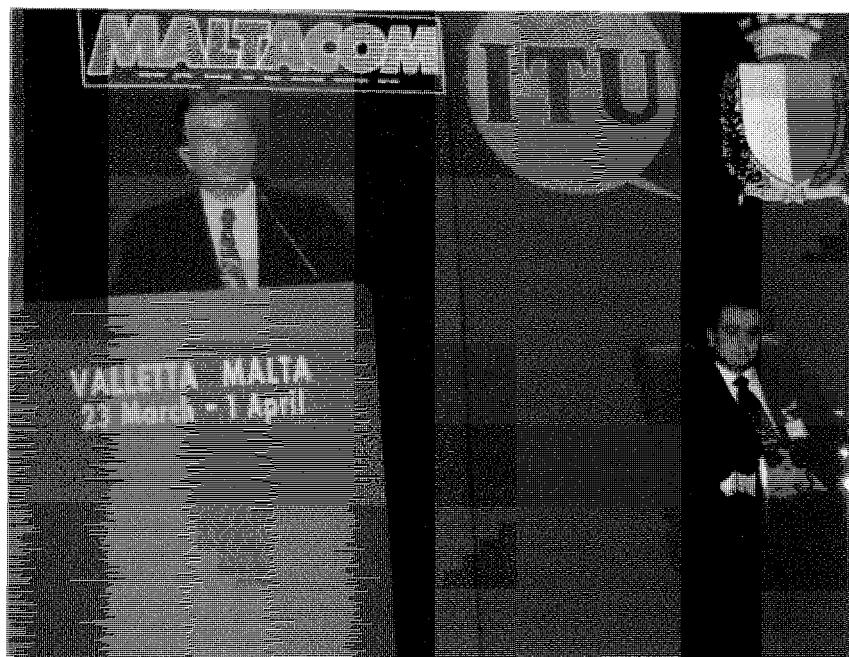
at the Mediterranean Conference Centre by Malta's Prime Minister, Alfred Sant.

Addressing a full room, Prime Minister Sant told participants that tele-education, telemedicine, telecommunication and information technologies could help countries cope more effectively with problems arising from social inequalities, demographic imbalances, prejudices, misgivings and lack of trust. "We can provide effective tools to combat terrorism, illegal migration, illicit trade in drugs and armaments and money laundering, and above all to strengthen international efforts to eradicate poverty".

Extracts from Keynote speakers at the opening ceremony

"The importance of the information society raises questions about the international division of labour, about the structure of corporations, the future of work, the nature of human society, the individual's sense of identity, systems of governance and the meaning of sovereignty in an interdependent, interconnected world. But it is a curious fact that, at the political level throughout the world, there has been a marked reluctance to address these issues. The process of liberalization on accounting rate systems could inadvertently prejudice revenue flows and, in consequence, the prospects for investment in developing countries."

(Sir Donald Maitland, former Chairman of the Independent Commission for World-Wide



Messrs A. Sant, Malta's Prime Minister (left) and T. Mejlal, Chairman of Maltacom plc (right), at the opening ceremony

(ITU 950057)

Telecommunications Development, which came up with the famous report, The missing link, published in 1985)

"Very positive results have indeed been achieved since the publication of *The missing link* report. In 1984, there were 3 billion people who lived in areas with a teledensity of less than 1%. Today, that number

has dropped to less than 800 million. We have done well but much remains to be done."

(Ahmed Laouyane, Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT))

"As much as any country, Malta has shown the world the power of telecommunications to help

Structure of the Conference

Chairman of the Conference:

Joe Mizzi (Malta)

Vice-Chairmen of the Conference:

Ezan Akele (Côte d'Ivoire), Abdul Monem Youssef (Lebanon), Zhou Deqiang (China), Ralph Everett (United States) and Valery Timofeev (Russia)

Committee A

Chairman: Alberto Gabrielli (Argentina)
Vice-Chairmen: Emamgholi Behdad (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Pape Gorgui Touré (Senegal)
Secretary: Honoré Vignon

Committee B

Chairman: Ridha Guellouz (Tunisia)
Vice-Chairmen: Wyn Lucas (United Kingdom) and Toru Arizono (Japan)
Secretary: Peter Kurakov

Budget Committee

Chairman: Ulrich Mohr (Germany)
Vice-Chairman: Krastju Mirski (Bulgaria)
Secretary: Abdelkhalek Tazi-Riffi

Editorial Committee

Chairman: Lucien Bourgeat (France)
Vice-Chairmen: Malcolm Johnson (United Kingdom) and Vicente Rubio Carretón (Spain)
Secretary: Michael Minges

Working Group on Least Developed Countries (LDC)

Chairman: Tiemoko Maiga (Mali)
Rapporteur: Abdul Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
Secretary: Joseph Elotu

Working Group on Valletta Action Plan

Chairman: Nabil Kisrawi (Syria)
Rapporteur: Roderick Sanatan (Caribbean Telecommunications Union — CTU)
Secretary: Petko Kantchev

Working Group on the private sector

Chairman: Ronald Davidson (Final Analysis)
Rapporteur: Dag Norrby (Telia)
Secretary: Mrs Allyn Enderlyn

Conference Secretariat

Secretary of the Conference: Pekka Tarjanne
Executive Secretary: Hans Pieterse
Administrative Secretary: Mrs Hanne T. Laugesen
Secretary of the Plenary Meetings and Steering Committee: Hans Pieterse

people transcend the apparent limitations imposed by the physical realities of space and time. With will, imagination, enterprise, and intelligence, small nations can become world telecommunication leaders, as you have done [referring to Malta].

The real challenge we face is to project a future which moves the world of telecommunications to an even higher level of development — a future which adds human value to these trends — a future which once again transforms how the world views the telecommunications industry — and how the telecommunications industry views the world."

(Pekka Tarjanne, ITU Secretary-General)

"New technologies that are simpler to use at a fraction of the cost hold out the possibility of a new truly global information society. The communications revolution is probably one of the most important phenomena of the end of this century conducive to the improvement of the well-being of the people. The proposal of the ITU Secretary-

General to all United Nations programmes and agencies to start to promote 'the right to communicate' as a fundamental human right is an outstanding and timely strategic initiative which demands a coordinated approach from the international community."

(Vladimir Petrovsky, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva)

The Conference reviewed the results of global telecommunications since the last World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Buenos Aires in 1994 as well as current major policy issues, and examined technologies for the future. It also considered financing and innovative forms of cooperation and defined and established a common vision and strategies for achieving balanced telecommunication development now and into the next century.

The results of the Valletta Conference will be published in the next issue of *ITU News*. ■

The following missions have recently been undertaken by ITU experts

• Barbados (Bridgetown)

Prince J. (Trinidad and Tobago)
Consultant in cost analysis and tariff
(1.2.98–31.7.98)

• Central African Republic (Bangui)

Toumi M. (Tunisia)
Consultant in rural telecommunications
(2.2.98–22.2.98)

• Colombia (Santafé de Bogotá)

Leijon K. (Sweden)
Consultant in network planning in competitive environments
(1.2.98–9.3.98)
Murcia Celis M. (Colombia)
National consultant in legal aspects
(16.2.98–15.8.98)
Brown L. (Mexico)
Consultant in technical aspects of FM sound broadcasting
(19.2.98–22.3.98)

• Guinea (Conakry)

Arlandis J. (France)
Consultant in network inter-connection
(14.2.98–21.2.98)

• Honduras (Tegucigalpa)

Rojas L. (Honduras)
National consultant in wide area networks (WAN)
(5.2.98–23.3.98)

• India (Ghaziabad)

Valkovic M. (Croatia)
Consultant in network planning
(22.2.98–1.3.98)

• Mali (Bamako)

Neu A. (Germany)
Senior expert in radiomonitoring
(16.2.98–6.3.98)

• Tunisia (Tunis)

Beaughon G. (France)
Consultant in methods and procedures for technical acceptance of GSM network switching equipment
(15.2.98–28.2.98)

• Yemen (Sana'a)

Erlevant A. (Turkey)
General consultant in frequency management and monitoring in broadcasting sound
(12.2.98–4.4.98)

• Zimbabwe (Harare)

Pimienta D. (France)
Senior expert in telecommunications regulatory framework (Internet)
(28.2.98–31.3.98)