

Memorandum to Cabinet by the Minister of  
Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs and the Minister  
of Education, Culture and Tourism

European Convention on the Equivalence  
of Diplomas leading to admission to  
Universities, and Protocol thereto

L-Arkiw Nazzjonali ta' Malta

The European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to admission to Universities is a Council of Europe Convention signed at Paris on 11th December, 1953 and to-date ratified by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

2. The aim of this Convention is to enable students who have successfully completed their secondary education in the territory of one Member State to enter a university of their choice in the territory of other Member States.
3. To achieve this aim the Convention provides that each Contracting Party should recognise for the purpose of admission to the universities situated in its territory, admission to which is subject to State control, the equivalence of those diplomas awarded in the territory of each other Contracting Party, which constitute a requisite qualification for admission to similar institutions in the country in which these diplomas were awarded.
4. When admission to universities is outside the control of the State, Contracting Parties are only required to transmit the text of the Convention to the authorities of the universities concerned, and to encourage them to favourably consider the application of the principles involved.
5. The text of the Convention has already been referred to the Vice-Chancellor and Rector Magnificus of the Royal University of Malta who finds no objection to Malta becoming a Party to the Convention provided that, as at present, overseas students satisfy certain requirements depending on the course they intend to follow, and subject to the availability of places.

6. In respect of those institutions similar in character to universities, for which the State is the competent authority in the matters dealt with in this Convention, the Contracting Parties are required to abide by the provisions of the Convention, subject as in the case of universities, to the availability of places.

7. The Protocol extends the benefits of the Convention to holders of diplomas awarded by institutions which another Contracting Party officially sponsors outside its own territory and whose diplomas it assimilates to those awarded within its territory.

8. H.C.M. Members are requested to agree that Malta should sign the Agreement and Protocol with a view to ratification.

9. A copy of the Convention and of the Protocol is with the Secretary to Cabinet.

6th February, 1968.