



26th October 2009

MEP on visit to Iceland to discuss EU Membership

MEP Simon Busuttil and Professor Roderick Pace from the University of Malta are in Iceland this week following an invitation by the Centre for Small States of the University of Iceland.

The visit is being organised under the theme "**Malta and the EU: Expectations and Experience**" and will serve as an opportunity for Malta to share its experience of EU membership with Iceland, an aspiring Member State of the Union.

Although Iceland has been a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) since 1994 it was only after the recent financial crisis severely hit its economy, that the country started working towards full membership of the European Union.

In July this year Iceland submitted its formal application to join the European Union and is currently waiting for the accession negotiations to commence.

Busuttil will be delivering a public lecture on "*The influence of small new EU Member State*" whereas Prof Pace will be delivering a lecture entitled "*Adapting to the EU: The Case of Malta*".

They will also be meeting officials in the Icelandic Government and Icelandic parliamentarians to share their insights on EU membership.

Dr Busuttil was a member of Malta's negotiating team and responsible for the public information campaign in Malta prior to EU membership. Prof Pace specialises in European Studies and Small States Studies

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