



Climate Change and the Mediterranean

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It has now become more obvious than ever that the changing nature of climate patterns is resulting in a completely different outlook when it comes to future prospects. In recent years, references to heat waves in the Mediterranean have become normal, so much so that all countries across the Mediterranean region are finding it difficult to cope with this new reality.

The theoretical debate which has dominated climate change discourse has now evolved into a real time humanitarian crisis being experienced by everyone. Extreme temperatures on an on-going basis have resulted in an undermining of traditional political and economic planning methodologies and now require an innovative and urgent strategic approach.

If our Mediterranean is to avoid a literal catastrophic human and economic meltdown, urgent measures need to be introduced to combat this new reality. In July 2023, the Mediterranean Sea reached its highest ever recorded temperature at over 28.71 Degrees Celsius. It is already apparent that the arrival of such extreme weather patterns in the Mediterranean is undermining all sectors of society including those related to tourism, agriculture, healthcare and infrastructure in general.

In fact, climate change forces us to reconsider what comprises as a security threat. Should the

international community fail to act promptly on this urgent matter, climate change could exacerbate the existing conflicts in the Mediterranean region, as well as increase the levels of unemployment, income inequality and irregular migration.

As a current member of the United Nations Security Council, Malta together with others must persuade the international community to adopt a concerted action plan that provides both better civil protection contingencies and maps out an immediate plan to mitigate against the consequences of extreme weather.

It is crystal clear that failure to implement a comprehensive climate change policy framework in our Mediterranean will result in our region becoming a more vulnerable zone to live in. As stated in our country's Foreign Policy Objectives, Malta believes that the climate crisis is a matter which should be addressed urgently at a global level. The promotion of a collective climate security framework which includes urgent measures to reduce worsening climate conditions is essential if our Mediterranean is to continue to be a region where our quality of life is sustainable.

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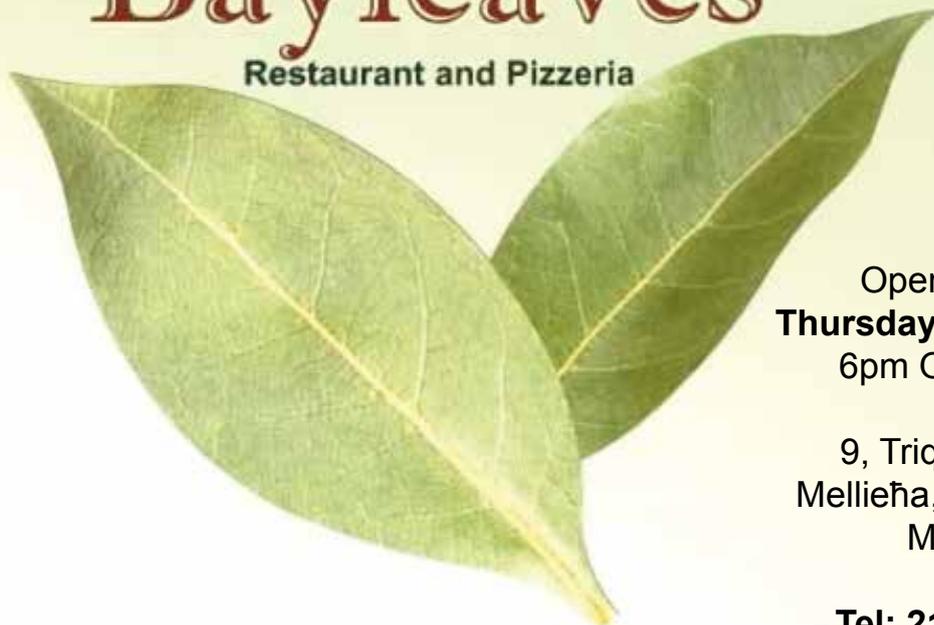
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