



Daily Message by the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Hon. Evarist Bartolo

08th August 2020

Malta's international relations – looking after ourselves

In our relations with other countries it is our duty to defend the interests and the good of our country.

There are 193 states in the United Nations. When I am asked who do you side with from among all these states? I answer: with one - Malta.

We don't wish to harm any other country. And we will not let our country be used by one country against the other.

Time and time again we have shown how kind and generous we are, helping others in need. We will continue to do so. Always within the limits of our resources.

We are neutral.

We will obey international laws and operate within the obligations as members of the United Nations.

As European Union members we observe the behaviour of the large states and see that the EU does not have a common foreign policy. They look after their own interests.

We talk to everyone and we are ready to put in a good word for the benefit of and give our contribution – however small – for peace between disputing countries. But we refuse to be crushed by someone else's disputes.

We are prepared to work with anyone ready to help us in practice and not only in words.

Although we are small, we respect ourselves and we expect other countries, whoever they are, to treat us with dignity and respect.

We don't like countries bullying us.

We don't have delusions of grandeur but nor do we accept that we are worthless because we are small. We will not put ourselves down.

We look after ourselves. Otherwise, who else will?

Evarist Bartolo

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Malta