

Michaela Muscat Spaak PhD

Dr Michaela Muscat Spaak is Malta's alternate Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization, the UN agency responsible for regulating international shipping.

She was responsible for coordinating the EU's external maritime policy during Malta's Presidency of the Council of the EU and in 2019 spearheaded resolution A.1147(31), aimed at 'Achieving a Barrier-Free Working Environment for Women in the Maritime Sector', which was approved unanimously during the 31st session of the IMO's General Assembly.

She is one of the cofounders and coordinators of the IMOGENDER network, aimed at promoting gender mainstreaming at the IMO, through initiatives such as the IMLI mentoring programme, the expert database of women in maritime and an online knowledge depository for women and girls interested in maritime diplomacy.

Between 2017 and 2020 she was a member of the Malta - UK Business taskforce, tasked with advising the Government of Malta on its Brexit foreign direct investment strategy. Since 2020, she has served as Programme Adviser at the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council which co-hosts the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) Business Forum with the incoming Chair-in-Office.

Michaela is active in the international human rights field as an ally, coordinating initiatives such as Commissioner Helena Dalli's #PrideNotPrejudice and as a trustee of the board of UK-registered human rights charity GiveOut.

She obtained her MSc in Political Sociology and PhD in Sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she was awarded the joint LSE-Commonwealth doctoral scholarship in 2011. Since 2021, she has been an associate of the foreign policy think tank, LSE IDEAS.

Selected Experience

Government of Malta / IMO Deputy Permanent Representative

MAY 2016 -PRESENT, LONDON

Commonwealth Business Forum / Programmes Adviser

JANUARY 2020 - JUNE 2021, LONDON/KIGALI

Government of Malta / Member of BREXIT Taskforce

AUGUST 2017 -2020, LONDON/MALTA

London School of Economics / Assistant Lecturer

AUGUST 2012 - APRIL 2014, LONDON

MaltaToday / Journalist

AUGUST 2004 - APRIL 2008, LONDON

Education

London School of Economics / PhD in Sociology

OCTOBER 2010 - JANUARY 2015, LONDON

London School of Economics / MSc Political Sociology

OCTOBER 2008 - OCTOBER 2009, LONDON

University of Malta /BA International Relations & Communications (First Class)

OCTOBER 2005 - JULY 2008, MALTA

Honours & Appointments

LSE IDEAS / Associate

FEBRUARY 2020 - PRESENT, LONDON

IMOGENDER Network / Co-founder & Coordinator

SEPTEMBER 2020 - PRESENT, LONDON

GiveOut / Trustee of the Board

JANUARY 2019 - PRESENT, LONDON

IMLI/ Member of Director Selection Board

JUNE 2019 -DECEMBER 2019, LONDON

LSE-Commonwealth Scholarship / Doctoral Scholarship

2011, LONDON