



**Malta:** A country where as an American you can do business the easy way and with a warm Mediterranean touch

***The American Business Forum on Europe presents***  
**Deputy Prime Minister Tonio Borg**

**September 29, 2009 – New York City --** In the midst of the diplomatic mania last week due to the General Assembly of the UN, the smallest country of the European Union raised its voice, insisting that Malta is the prime location for US companies seeking to expand European operations. In his speech to the *American Business Forum on Europe (ABFE)* at the Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal law firm in Manhattan on September 24th, the Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Malta Tonio Borg made the case that this island nation, lying between Italy and Northern Africa, should be considered a critical business hub in the region.

“Malta has always sought to be ambitious without being pretentious,” he said. And to prove the point, Mr. Borg outlined the progress that Malta has made in its five years as a member of the EU. During that time, the country adopted the Euro, helped drive the formation of the Union for the Mediterranean and forged stronger ties with Mid-Eastern as well as African countries.

Speaking to business executives interested in making transatlantic connections, Mr. Borg focused on Malta’s attributes, including its strategic location, rigid banking laws, highly skilled workforce, stable government and safe communities. He also stressed the fact that Malta’s population speaks English, quite unusual in this area of the world, with English being one of the two official national languages.

This profile makes the country very appealing for business investment, he said. “We are looking at creating a center of excellence in IT, financial services, tourism services, health services, international educational services and high value-added industry and services,” he said. Today, Malta is already a leading shipping center with a feeder network connecting to 60 ports in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

In his conclusion, Mr. Borg made the case succinctly: “Malta is a country where as an American you can do business the easy way and with a warm Mediterranean touch.”

Sven Oehme, president of the ABFE, noted that Malta's prospects for economic developments are likely to increase based on its location as a bridge head between Sicily and North Africa. In 2008 the European Union established the Mediterranean Union that will improve trade and investment relations around the Mediterranean countries. Malta will be one of the main beneficiaries of this development.

This event was initiated and coordinated by Dr. Anton Tabone, President of AmCham Malta.

The presentation last week was the first event of the 2009/2010 season for the American Business Forum on Europe (founded in 2002), an affiliate of the European-American Business Organization, Inc. The ABFE features top speakers on transatlantic business and political issues on a monthly basis. The annual membership fee is \$180. Also see the website [www.abfe.biz](http://www.abfe.biz) for further details and an overview of recent speakers and their topics.

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