

The **European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC)** is one of the main European academic institutions, supported by the European Union, aimed at pursuing the continued promotion of human rights and democratisation through education, specialised training, research cooperation, and an expanding range of other activities. EIUC is committed to fostering a community of leaders with professional competence, problem-solving capacities and creativity to improve human rights implementation worldwide. EIUC is an interdisciplinary Centre formed by the following 41 European universities:



In the framework of the **Human Rights Village** project jointly launched with the City of Venice, EIUC offers different teaching programmes and research activities such as:

- European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA)
- GIZ/EIUC Académie d'été sur "La gouvernance de la transition au Maghreb"
- Venice School of Human Rights
- Venice Academy of Human Rights
- Regional Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation
- Professional training seminars.

## Venue

The venue of E.MA and EIUC is the graceful Benedictine **Monastery of San Nicolò**, situated on the laguna side of the Lido di Venezia.

The monastery was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and transformed into a Renaissance cloister in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. After the suppression of the Benedictine order in 1770, the monastery was re-opened by Franciscan monks for educational purposes.

In 1998, the City of Venice generously conceded use of this architectural and historical monument as the seat of EIUC.



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## DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

### Comparative Approaches to Democratic Transitions

16 July 2011

Monastery of San Nicolò  
Venice - Lido

EIUC is supported by



EUROPEAN UNION



REGION OF VENETO



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION



OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

### Background note

The EIUC Diplomatic Conference is every year devoted to an exploration of topical issues in the area of human rights and democratisation.

It brings together academics and experts from the EIUC participating universities and associated organisations, EIUC Advisory Board members, members of the EU COHOM group, and human rights and democratisation experts from the EU institutions.

The 2011 Diplomatic Conference on **Comparative Approaches to Democratic Transitions** aims at comparing periods of democratic transition from the experiences of Spain and Portugal, the central and Eastern Europe countries and the actual situation of Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, etc.

The conference coincides with the day of the Redentore Festival in Venice and will conclude with a viewing of the spectacular fireworks over the Venice lagoon.



### Programme

#### 9.30 Welcome address

HORST FISCHER, EIUC President

#### Part I

Moderator: JEAN-PAUL JACQUÉ,  
University of Strasbourg

#### Introduction

VERONIQUE ARNAULT, Director for Human Rights and Democracy, European External Action Service

#### 10.00 European experiences

*The Hungarian experience* - GABOR HALMAI,  
Professor, Eötvös Loránd University

*The Polish experience* - MIROSLAW  
WYRZYKOWSKI, Professor,  
Warsaw University

10.30 Coffee break

#### 11.00 Democratic transition in Arabic countries

MOHSEN MARZOUK, Secretary General,  
Arab Democracy Foundation

#### 11.20 The role of social networks

ASMAA ALY ZAKI, blogger of Tafassel and  
the People's Committees for the Defense of  
the Egyptian Revolution

11.30 General discussion

12.15 Awarding of diplomas to the participants of  
the Venice Academy of Human Rights and  
toast in the cloister of the Monastery of San  
Nicolò

13.00 Lunch at Restaurant Nicely by the Nicelli  
Airport

#### 14.30 Part II

Moderator: KALLIOPE AGAPIOU-  
JOSEPHIDES, EIUC Vice-President

#### Introduction

ARISTOTELIS BOURATSIS, Director  
of DEVCO.D "Human and Society  
Development", European Union

#### Case studies

*Tunisia* - MOHSEN MARZOUK, Secretary  
General, Arab Democracy Foundation

*Libya* - MOHAMMED ZAHY MOGHERBI,  
Professor, Garyounis University, Benghazi

*Egypt* - MAHA ABDEL-RAHMAN, Associate  
Professor, University of Cambridge

*Algeria* - MOSTEFA BOUCHACHI,  
President, Algerian League for the  
Defence of Human Rights

15.30 General discussion

15.45 Coffee break

#### 16.15 Council of Europe policies towards democratic transition

PETER PACZOLAY,  
Vice-President, Venice Commission

#### 16.30 Which EU Policy?

ENGELBERT THEUERMANN,  
COHOM Chair, European External Action  
Service

16.45 End of conference

20.45 Dinner at Restaurant Nicely, Nicelli Airport

22.45 Redentore Festival - Fireworks night