

*Ceremony of Awarding of the Diplomas of
“European Masters’ in Human Rights and Democratisation”
and Opening of the 14th Master’s course*

**European Inter-University Centre
for Human Rights and Democratisation
(Venice, 24-26 September 2010)**

**Message on the part of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Franco Frattini**

I wish first of all to express the appreciation of the Italian Government, and my personal one, to the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, for the educational and promotional activity on human rights it performs since many years with dedication and professionalism.

The promotion and protection of human rights traditionally play a central role in the Italian and European external policy, since we are convinced that only an international community composed by States respecting the human rights of all individuals can fully guarantee peace, security and human development.

Governmental action would have no impact unless constantly encouraged and supported by the active participation of civil society and single citizens who can, and must contribute both at the individual and collective level, to the elaboration of valid solutions to guarantee to the most fundamental rights and freedoms.

To this extent, the efforts and resources invested in the field of education, training and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential: thanks to such efforts can awareness increase on the role that respect of human rights plays in ensuring international security.

Only by disseminating and consolidating the culture of human rights in our societies we can aim to achieve concrete respect of such rights worldwide and stabilize peace. In line with this I would like to mention the commitment of Italy in the framework of the activities promoted by the “Platform for Human Rights Education and Training”, a group of countries which within the UN Human Rights Council is working towards the adoption of a Declaration of the United Nations on the topic of human rights education.

In this context, the commitment of EIUC, in particular through the organisation of the “*European Master’s Programme on Human Rights and Democratisation*”, represents a significant contribution to the achievement of a true culture of peace: the training of young experts in human rights and future professionals to be engaged in international development cooperation is for sure a highly valuable activity.

I therefore wish to address my warmest wishes and a strong encouragement to all who, thanks to such initiatives, will participate actively in the promotion of human rights and in the building of a just world.