

The **European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC)**, identified by the *Regulation (EC) N° 1889/2006 of The European Parliament and the Council establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide*, is one of the main European academic institutions supported by the European Union to pursue 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:



The **European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA)** is EIUC's main teaching programme. It is an intensive one-year advanced master's programme to educate 90 professionals annually in the field of human rights and democratisation. It is an inter-disciplinary programme that reflects the indivisible links between human rights, democracy, peace and development.

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 11th century and transformed into a Renaissance cloister in the 16th 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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for Human Rights and Democratisation

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European Inter - University Centre
for Human Rights and Democratisation

DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

The 2011 Review of the Human Rights Council

17 July 2010

Monastery of San Nicolò
Venice - Lido

EIUC is supported by



EUROPEAN UNION



REGION
OF VENETO



MUNICIPALITY
OF VENICE



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION



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HUMAN RIGHTS



DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
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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 2010 Diplomatic Conference will discuss the first four years of life of the Human Rights Council and the upcoming review of its status, work and functioning. This review should take the Human Rights Council mandate as basis and shall comprise two different but complementary processes to be conducted in New York and Geneva. Whilst the HRC status will be reviewed by the General Assembly, its work and functioning will be examined by the Council itself.

The aim of the conference is to examine the impact of the Human Rights Council institutional status on the implementation of its mandate. On the other hand, it will tackle some challenges relating to the review of the HRC work. Special attention will be given to the review of the Universal Periodic Review, as an innovative HRC instrument for the protection of human rights, and to the analysis of the several proposals made to improve the functioning of the system of Special Procedures.

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.

Friday, 16 July 2010

Venue: Nicelli Airport, Venice – Lido

20.00 Welcome *apéritif* at Restaurant Nicely, Nicelli Airport

20.30 Dinner at Restaurant Nicely, Nicelli Airport

Keynote speech: CHRISTIAN WENAWESER, Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

Saturday, 17 July 2010

Venue: Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice - Lido
(closed event)

9.30 Welcome address

HORST FISCHER, EIUC President

MICHEL TILEMANS, Director, Human Rights Department, Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

10.00 Opening address

Human Rights Council as the central UN human rights body

MARCIA KRAN, Director, Research and Right to Development Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

10.30 Does the Human Rights Council defend human rights?

GUY HAARSCHER, Université Libre de Bruxelles

10.50 State of the Art

Human Rights Council: a EU/Government perspective

ENGELBERT THEUERMANN, Director, Human Rights Department, Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

11.20 Coffee break

11.40 *Human Rights Council and Special Procedures: an academic perspective*
MANFRED NOWAK, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, University of Vienna

12.00 Open discussion

13.30 Toast in the cloister of the Monastery of San Nicolò and awarding of diplomas to the participants of the Venice Academy of Human Rights

14.00 Lunch in the cloister of the Monastery of San Nicolò

15.00 Which future for the Council and its review?

Human Rights Council: hopes, reality, perspectives

ANDREW CLAPHAM, Director, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

15.30 General discussion

17.00 End of Conference

19.30 Dinner at Restaurant Nicely, Nicelli Airport

22.30 Redentore Festival - Fireworks night

