

DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE  
TRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

# EIUC

HUMAN RIGHTS VILLAGE



EUROPEAN  
UNION



MUNICIPALITY  
OF VENICE



REGION  
OF VENETO



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organisation



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

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Systems Development  
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Cooperation (GIZ) GmbH

13 July 2013, Venice

# Diplomatic Conference, 13 July 2013

## Morning

### plenary session

- 9.30** **Welcome addresses**  
Horst Fischer, EIUC President  
Engelbert Theuermann, President of the CoHom
- 10.00** **The 'acquis' of the EU in the field of Trade and Human Rights: the role of the European Parliament**  
Vital Moreira, European Parliament, President of INTA
- 10.20** **The EU external policy in the field of Foreign Direct Investment**  
Frank Hoffmeister, Deputy Head of Cabinet, EU Commissioner for Trade
- 10.40** **General discussion**
- 11.00** *Coffee break*
- 11.20** **Challenges faced by the World Trade Organization: What role for the EU?**  
Arancha Gonzalez, Chief of Staff, World Trade Organization
- 11.40** **Challenges faced by the UN Committee of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**  
Dzidek Kedzia, Chairperson of the UN Committee of Economic Social and Cultural Rights; Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan
- 12.00** **General discussion**
- 12.45** **Presentation of the European Yearbook on Human Rights 2013**
- 13.00** *Lunch at the Nicely Restaurant by the Nicelli Airport*

“The common commercial policy shall be conducted in the context of the principles and objectives of the Union's external action”

# Trade and Human Rights

Afternoon

**Making Trade work in a way that helps Human Rights**

14.30

## working groups

- 1. Using FTAs to encourage the promotion and protection of human rights, including core labour standards (e.g. sustainability assessments, sustainable development chapters, political dialogues) and application of the strengthened GSP + monitoring mechanism**

Keynote speakers:

**Francis Maupain**, International Labour Organization

**Franz Ebert**, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law

Moderator: **Wolfgang Benedek**, University of Graz

- 2. Ensuring that EU investment policy takes into account the principles and objectives of the Union's external action, including on Human Rights**

Keynote speaker:

**Frank Hoffmeister**, Deputy Head of Cabinet, EU Commissioner for Trade

Moderator: **Fabrizio Marrella**, Dean of the EUUC Human Rights Village; Ca' Foscari University of Venice

## plenary session

### General discussion and recommendations

16.30

Moderator: **Engelbert Theuermann**, President of the CoHom

### End of conference

17.30

### Boat excursion in the Venetian Lagoon

18.00

*Dinner at the Restaurant of Hotel Villa Mabapa*

20.15

# Synopsis

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The **EIUC Diplomatic Conference** on **Trade and Human Rights** addresses the relationship between human rights and international trade from a unique and important interdisciplinary perspective.

Many of the world's most important trading economies have introduced human rights language into their international trade and investment agreements. Economic growth through free trade can increase the resources available for the realization of human rights. However, economic growth does not automatically lead to greater promotion and protection of human rights, thus even development policies have to solve new and complex issues.

The challenges for human rights are fundamental, and key questions have up to now received no definitive answers. Is it possible to promote simultaneously human rights and economic growth through international trade? What if economic globalisation has an adverse impact on local living conditions? Is it really feasible to link trade policy objectives with human rights in times of global economic crisis?

The aim of this year's EIUC Diplomatic Conference is to convene top policy makers and scholars in order to assess how trade and human rights are today understood as key elements of successful policies.

Amongst the topics to be explored, speakers will debate about the respective role of the WTO, the UN (with particular reference to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the ILO) and the EU, highlighting lessons learned and possible approaches to regulate economic globalisation while mainstreaming human rights.

**EIUC** European Inter-University Centre  
for Human Rights and Democratization

## **HUMAN RIGHTS VILLAGE**

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