

formed by 41 universities from all European Union Member States. It is founded on a commitment to the realisation of the values enshrined in the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, the promotion of high-level inter-disciplinary human rights education, research, training and culture, and a shared global understanding of human rights and democracy.

Supported by the European Union and advised by major intergovernmental, non-governmental, regional and local strategic partners EIUC's activities include:

- Providing high level action-oriented and interdisciplinary education for students worldwide;
- Developing advanced training with a view to meeting operational requirements for senior officials of international organisations, field personnel, and other human rights professionals;
- Identifying processes and means of transferring academic and institutional expertise into the public sphere, e.g. through the visual arts and mass media;
- Creating a fertile environment for research and research cooperation and the transformation of results into realistic policies;
- Representing a network of more than 900 graduates of the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation now working for governments, major international organisations, and non-governmental organisations in and outside Europe.

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Joint International Seminar on

Transitions and Transformation Processes: Constitutional Design

This special event is organised by the
**European Master's Programme in
Human Rights and Democratisation
(E.MA)** in the framework of the
**United Nations International Year of
Human Rights Learning 2009**

Friday, 6 November 2009

Cà Foscari University of Venice
Auditorium Santa Margherita
Dorsoduro 3689
Venice

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Transitions and Transformation Processes: Constitutional Design

Aim of the seminar

Contemporary democracies face a number of challenges and paradoxes in a rapidly changing world. Although, democracy, both as an ideal and as a set of political institutions and processes, has prevailed in most countries of the world, there has been a general downward trend in electoral interest and participation. Also, while the substance of politics has rapidly globalised in key areas such as security, economy, trade, environment etc., the process of politics has not. Principal stakeholders remain firmly rooted at the national or even local level. Democratisation as an open-ended process consist of transitions and transformation processes, whose outcome is crucial for world peace and for people's well-being. The European Inter University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation has invited two eminent specialists to discuss this topic: Professor **Vital Moreira**, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on International Trade, and Justice **Albie Sachs**, from the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

By organising this special event the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) aims at promoting a better understanding of human rights issues and actively supporting the United Nations' International Year of Human Rights Learning, 2009. In addition a series of lecturers in Venice will be co-sponsored with the Cà Foscari University of Venice within the common area of interest of international relations.

Programme

10.00 Welcome addresses

Prof. Carlo Carraro,
Rector,
Cà Foscari University of Venice

Prof. Horst Fischer,
EIUC President

Prof. Fabrizio Marrella,
E.MA Programme Director

Moderator:
Prof. Kalliope Agapiou-Josephides,
University of Cyprus

10.40 *Prof. Vital Moreira,*
President International Trade
Committee of the European
Parliament

11.00 *Justice Albie Sachs,*
Constitutional Court of
South Africa

11.30 Discussion