



EJDM Europäische Vereinigung von Juristinnen und Juristen für Demokratie und Menschenrechte in der Welt e.V.

EALDH European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights

AEJDH Asociacion Europea de los Juristas por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos en el Mundo

AEJDH Association Européenne des Juristes pour la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme dans le Monde

AEGDU Associazione Europea delle Giuriste e dei Giuristi per la Democrazia e i Diritti dell'Uomo nel Mondo

Prof. Monique CHEMILLIER- GENDREAU (Paris), Présidente d'honneur
Rudolf SCHALLER, avocat (Genève), Président
Thomas SCHMIDT, Rechtsanwalt (Duesseldorf), Secrétaire Général

EALDH Statement:

A shame for Europe

- The presidency of Berlusconi in the Council of the European Union

For the second half of 2003 the Council of the of the European Union is under the presidency of Italy, whose Prime Minister is Silvio Berlusconi. His behaviour in Italy as well as his attitude towards the institutions of the European Union is a severe danger to the esteem in which the European Union is held, and to its fundamental principles.

For more than two years Silvio Berlusconi has been the head of the Italian Government. His policy is characterised by frequent violations of the principles of liberty, democracy, human rights, as well as fundamental and citizens rights. These important principles of the constitutional state, which are also based in Art. 6 Par. 1 of the Treaty of the European Union, are rejected by Berlusconi.

In this context the following incidents may be recalled

- The continuous attacks on the independence of judges, because of their legal proceedings against Berlusconi for alleged crimes which were committed in the time before he became Prime Minister. In this context he abuses his monopoly in the private media sector together with his influence on the public media sector to extend his power position by manipulating public opinion.
- The brutal impact of the security forces – without the agreement of the Government or the Parliament - during the G8-Summit in Genoa, with the consequence of very severe accidents, among them the killing of the young Carlo Giuliani, and the injuries suffered by hundreds of demonstrators who became victims of unjustified police violence as well as of torture
- Support for the aggressive war of G.W. Bush against Iraq as well as the recently taken decision to send troops into Iraq without the mandate of the United Nations
- The severe challenge to justice in Italy and in Europe
- Several racist declarations, as well as the discriminatory treatment of immigrants, the refusal to ratify European directives concerning the right of asylum and against racial discrimination, the incredible insult to the Jewish victims of the holocaust and to the German people as well as their political represents in the European Parliament.
- The minimising of the crimes of Mussolini

Under these circumstances it must be stated that the Italian Presidency of the European Union, led by Berlusconi is especially dangerous in the present situation, when the European Union is about to elaborate its common future and its constitution.

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