



Senato della Repubblica  
Commissione straordinaria  
per la tutela e la promozione  
dei diritti umani



Rome, 24 September 2012

Dear colleague,

I am writing to you in my capacity as both Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (the Assembly) and Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the Italian Senate.

For several months now, both committees have been focusing on the relationship between foreign policy and human rights. In July 2012, the Human Rights Committee of the Italian Senate issued a report, the introduction to which is attached herewith. Similarly, on 11 September 2012, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Assembly adopted a report on "Human Rights and Foreign Policy", which you will also find attached, with a view to a debate during the October 2012 part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The starting point in both reports is that, regrettably, too often in recent years, human rights have become part of foreign policy considerations only when situations have degenerated into humanitarian emergencies so that the dilemma is raised as to whether to use force and take military action or watch helplessly the perpetration of crimes against humanity. Can human rights become instead a structural and systematic element of foreign policy so that, without neglecting any emergency that may arise, a medium to long term approach is developed so as to pre-empt the use of force through political action? How can the recurring contradiction between principles and interests be solved? How can a more convincing balance between *Realpolitik* and values be struck?

As a follow-up to the two reports and in particular the Resolution on "Human Rights and Foreign Policy", which the Assembly is due to adopt on 3 October 2012, the Italian Senate Human Rights Committee, in cooperation with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Assembly, have decided to convene a meeting of the Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs Committees and of the Human Rights Committees of the 47 Parliaments of the Council of Europe member States, as well as the European Parliament, to address the above-mentioned questions and discuss ways to implement the recommendations included in the Resolution at the national level.

You are cordially invited to attend this conference, which will take place in Turin on Thursday 13 December 2012 from 9am to 4pm. A provisional programme, as well as practical information, are attached for your information.

I would be honoured, dear colleague, if you could confirm your participation in this conference. I thank you very much in advance and look forward to welcoming you in Turin.

Yours sincerely,

Pietro Marcenaro



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Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Turin, 13-14 December 2012**

**Conference on**

**“Human Rights and Foreign Policy”**

**13 December 2012**

**followed by a**

**Meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy  
of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

**13-14 December 2012**

**Draft programme**



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### **Wednesday 12 December 2012**

Arrival of participants

### **Thursday 13 December 2012**

**08.30**            Venue: Torino Incontra Conference Centre  
Arrival and registration

**09.00**            **Opening of the conference “Human Rights and Foreign Policy”**

Welcome by Mr Piero Fassino, Mayor of Turin

Address by:

- Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Mr Luigi Vitali, Chairperson of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly

Introductory remarks: Mr Pietro Marcenaro, Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and of the Human Rights Committee of the Italian Senate

Moderator: Mr Luigi Vitali

Guest Speakers:

- Mr Giulio Terzi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Italy
- Mr Lamberto Dini, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Senate
- Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights
- Ms Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (*tbc*)
- Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, Italian Jesuit priest and leader of the Deir Mar Mûsa monastery in Syria

**10.30**            Coffee break

**10.45**            Debate on *Human Rights and Foreign Policy* with the participation of the Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Committees of the National Parliaments of Council of Europe member States  
Moderator: Mr Pietro Marcenaro

**13.00**            Buffet lunch

**14.30-16.00**    Continuation of the debate and conclusions

**16.00-17.30**    **Meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**

**20.00**            *Boléro*, Ballet by Maurice Béjart  
*Venue: Teatro Regio, Piazza Castello, 215 1024 Turin*



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**Friday 14 December 2012**

**09.00**      *Venue: Torino Incontra Conference Centre*

**Meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (*cont'd*)**

**10.30**      Coffee break

**11.00**      Meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (*cont'd*)

**13.00**      End of the meeting



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## MEETING PLACE

Torino Incontra Conference Centre  
Address: Via Nino Costa, 8, Turin, Italy  
Tel.: + 39 011 5576800

## HOTELS

Block bookings have been made at three hotels for 2 nights, from 12 to 14 December 2012.  
All hotels are situated within a 5-10 min walk from the conference/meeting place.  
The deadline for making your reservation is the **31 October 2012**.

HOTELS	PRICE / NIGHT
<p><b>Hotel Victoria</b> Via Nino Costa, 4, 10123 Torino Tel. +39 011 5611909, fax +39 011 5611806 <a href="http://www.hotelvictoria-torino.com">http://www.hotelvictoria-torino.com</a></p> <p><b>Block booking made for 30 rooms</b></p> <p><b>Reservations:</b> Tel. +39 011 5611909 - fax +39 011 5611806 <b>mention booking code: PACE</b></p>	<p>Standard single room 120€ Deluxe single room 135€ Double room 160€ <i>including breakfast</i></p>
<p><b>Grand Hotel Sitea</b> Via Carlo Alberto 35, Piazza Castello, 10123 Torino Tel. +39 011.5170171 – fax +39 011.548090 <a href="http://www.grandhotelsitea.it">http://www.grandhotelsitea.it</a></p> <p><b>Block booking made for 50 rooms</b></p> <p><b>Reservations:</b> Tel. +39 011.5170171 - fax +39 011.548090 <b>mention booking code: PACE</b></p>	<p>Superior single room 139€ Deluxe DUS room 175€ Deluxe double room 187€ <i>including breakfast</i></p>
<p><b>Hotel Principe di Piemonte</b> Via Piero Gobetti, 15, 10123 Torino (Torino Centro) Tel. +39.011.5515826 - fax +39.011.5185870 <a href="http://www.atahotels.it">www.atahotels.it</a></p> <p><b>Block booking made for 30 rooms</b></p> <p><b>Reservations:</b> Tel. +39 06 69646964 <a href="mailto:booking@atahotels.it">booking@atahotels.it</a> <b>mention booking code: 662430 or PACE</b></p>	<p>Deluxe room 175€ Junior Suite 195€ <i>including breakfast</i></p>

## TRANSPORT BETWEEN TURIN AIRPORT AND THE CITY CENTRE

### Taxi

The taxi journey from the airport to Turin City centre takes approx. 30 min. and costs about 35 €. The taxi stations are located right outside the arrival areas of the terminals.  
More information on arrangements for transport to follow.