

**National and International Responses to Serious International Crimes:
Fostering an EU approach to Serious International Crimes
Tentative programme:**

DAY I – 20 November 2006:

14.00-14.15 Registration

14.15-14.30 Welcoming Address (Baroness Sarah Ludford, LIBE Committee)

14.30 – 14.45 Presentation of Project and conference background paper (Antoine Bernard, Executive Director, FIDH/Carla Ferstman, Director, REDRESS)

PANEL I: Implementing international law obligations 14.45-15.30

Chair: Margus Kurm (Prosecutor, Estonia) (to be confirmed)

- Status of implementation of international law obligations by 25 Member States (Jürgen Schurr, FIDH/REDRESS)
- Obstacles to the implementation of international law obligations: the example of Poland (Beata Ziorkiewicz, Ministry of Justice, Poland)

Panel II: Components of a regular enforcement of international criminal justice 15:30-16:30

Chair: Jan Wouters, University of Brussels

- The complementarity principle of the International Criminal Court (Hakan Friman, Judge, Sweden)
- Establishing universal jurisdiction as a key mechanism to ensure global accountability (Christopher Hall, Senior Legal Advisor, Amnesty International)
- Impediments to the collaboration with International Tribunals (Siri Frigaard, Head of International Crimes Office, Oslo)

Coffee Break 16:30-16:45

Panel III: Jurisdiction and admissibility 16.45-18:15

Chair: Judge Van Den Wyngaert, Judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

- The presence requirement and consequences in practice (Jeanne Sulzer, lawyer and coordination of the FIDH legal action group, Paris)
- The application of Prosecutorial Discretion in the context of International Criminal Law – (Alberto Fabbri, Federal Attorney, Switzerland)
- The principle of subsidiarity in the context of International Criminal Law (Salvatore Zappala, Associate Professor of International and EU Law, University of Florence)
- Immunities in civil cases (Lorna McGregor, International Bar Association)

18:15-19:00 Reception

Day II - 21 November 2006 :

09:00-11:00 Hearing in the Sub-Committee for Human Rights (DROI)- The International Criminal Court and International Justice

- Introductory Remarks (Helene Flautre, Chairwoman, DROI)
- Functioning and Challenges of the ICC (Office of the prosecutor/ Registry)
- Victims' participation at the ICC (Carla Ferstman, Director, REDRESS)
- Victims of International Crimes and their access to justice (Patrick Baudouin, Lawyer and Coordinator of the Legal Action Group, FIDH, Paris)
- The role of the EU in supporting and promoting the ICC (Luisa Mascia, CICC)

Coffee Break 11:00-11:30

PANEL I: Investigation of Serious International Crimes 11:30-12.45

Chair: Chantal Joubert (Legal Counsel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands)

- EU Member States leading the way: establishing expertise in the investigation and prosecution of Serious International Crimes (Geraldine Mattioli, Advocate, HRW)
- The role of victims, their legal representatives and NGOS (Jeanne Sulzer, lawyer and coordination of the FIDH legal action group, Paris, & Carla Ferstman, Director, REDRESS)
- Challenges of an investigation of international crimes committed abroad (Martijn van de Beek, Investigator and Head of War Crimes Unit, Netherlands)
- Requests for mutual legal assistance from third states in universal jurisdiction cases (Juan Garces, Lawyer, Spain)

Panel II: Prosecuting and defending alleged perpetrators of international crimes 12:45-13:30

Chair: Philip Grant (President, TRIAL, Switzerland)

- Trying perpetrators by Jury (Paul Taylor, Barrister, UK)
- Fair trial issues arising in cases involving universal jurisdiction (Michiel Pestman, Lawyer, Netherlands)

Lunch 13:30-14:30

Panel III National and EU cooperation 14:30 – 16:00

Chair: Hans Nilsson, Head of Judicial Cooperation, Council Secretariat (to be confirmed)

- The EU Network of Contact Points in respect of persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes: ensuring EU assistance in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes (Birgitte Vestberg, Prosecutor and Head of Special International Crimes Office, Denmark)
- Europol, Eurojust and the European Judicial Network and their potential to contribute to a successful investigation and prosecution (Serge de Biolley, Belgian Ministry of Justice)
- Complementing EU cooperation: the Interpol working group for Serious International Crimes (INTERPOL)

Coffee Break 16:00-16:15

PANEL IV Unified European Framework 16:15-17:30

Chair: Lorenzo Salazar, European Commission, Cabinet Frattini, DG Justice, Freedom and Security

- Putting International Humanitarian law into practice: the implementation of the ‘EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with International Humanitarian Law’ (Stephane Kolanowski, ICRC)
- The Cooperation and Assistance Agreement between the EU and the ICC (tbc)
- Complementing external efforts to ensure accountability for Serious International Crimes within the EU (tbc)

17:30 Concluding Remarks

Closing the impunity gap in the European Union (FIDH & REDRESS)



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