

FINAL DECLARATION

FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION OF EUROPEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN JUDICIARIES

We, the Full Members of the Joint Commission of European and Latin American Judiciaries and its Executive Secretary, assembled in the city of Madrid on the 6th, 7th and 8th of May of 2009, on occasion of our first meeting are

CONVINCED of the need to strengthen the democratic rule of law and the need to have a common cultural identity, as well as deep bonds of friendship between our peoples,

HONOURED by the responsibility conferred upon us by the General Assemblies of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary and the Ibero-American Judicial Summit

AWARE of the importance of the Joint Commission of European and Latin American Judiciaries for the strengthening of relations between the justice systems in both regions, as well as for the exchange of information and experiences and best practices between them, with the ultimate aim of contributing to mutual enrichment and to improving the services that the justice system provides our citizens,

and

HOPEFUL that in the future it will be possible to reach the right conditions for the Network of Presidents of High Courts of Justice of the European Union to decide to join this Commission.

WE HEREBY

ASSUME the challenge of faithfully fulfilling all the obligations we have been assigned, on the basis of the advantages afforded by the analogies existing between the aims and work methods of our respective networks,

CONGRATULATE the President of the High Court of Justice of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. Cesar Asfor Rocha, elected first President of the Commission, as well as Mr. Hussein Ali Kalout, elected its Executive Secretary,

ASSUME and take as a starting point the heritage developed by our respective networks, and we specifically underline the importance of the principle of judicial independence as a tool for guaranteeing the protection of fundamental rights, as well as transparency and efficacy in the operation of justice, in order to obtain the trust of citizens,

COMMIT to collaborating actively in the development of common or shared initiatives that may be useful for consolidating an independent and effective justice system both in Europe and in Latin America in order for the results obtained to be useful for each of the countries integrating our networks,

UNDERSTAND that achieving our aims requires time and concentration of efforts, as well as periodic monitoring of the results with the aim of implementing any necessary corrections,

HAVE DECIDED to promote as from this moment the plan of action approved in this first meeting, based around five main areas (information, shared work, financing, institutional relations, organic structure), and we propose to promote the different projects that have been approved in this meeting.

CONGRATULATE ourselves for the presence in this first meeting of Mr. Orlando Viegas Martins Afonso, representing the Consultative Council of European Judges, and also thank this institution for all the facilities it has provided for this to take place

and

THANK the High Court, the General Council of the Judiciary of the Kingdom of Spain and the EUROsocial Justice Project for all the collaboration provided in order to celebrate this first meeting.

City of Madrid, 8th of May, 2009

Cesar Asfor Rocha
President
High Court of Justice
Brazil

<p>Mariano Candiotti National Council of the Magistracy Argentina</p>	<p>David Gonzalo Cabezas Flores National Council of the Judiciary El Salvador</p>
<p>Miguel Carmona Ruano General Council of the Judiciary Spain</p>	<p>Gracieuse Lacoste High Council of the Magistracy France</p>
<p>Mauro Volpi High Council of the Magistracy Italy</p>	<p>José Manuel Duro Mateus Cardoso High Council of the Magistracy Portugal</p>

Hussein Ali Kalout
Executive Secretary

Con la cofinanciación de:

