



INVITATION
to the
Alert Day for Independence of Justice in Europe
May 23, 2013

Congress Hall of the House of MPs
21 rue de Louvain 1000 Brussels
Thursday, May 23 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Independent Justice that Fosters Democracy and Freedom
as a Response to the Crisis**

Montesquieu had explained just how important separation of powers is for democracy and the guarantee of freedom. How far has Europe come in its observance of this democratic principal as its core value?

The independence of justice, the quintessential principle of democracy, is today threatened in many European countries, both externally and internally, as the result of lack of effective protection of its independence, despite the proclamation of the ruling principle.

MEDEL, the organization of European magistrates, which since its foundation in 1985 has been concerned with the effectiveness of independence of justice, could not remain silent in the face of such an alarming observation and used the commemoration of the assassination of Judge Falcone as an opportunity to initiate this unprecedented event.

Thanks to the testimonies of MEDEL members from various countries, members or candidates for membership in the European Union, light will be shed on the nature and extent of threats to the independence of justice. These testimonies come from, among others, Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Serbia...

Present and involved in the event will be :

Paul MARTENS, president emeritus of the Constitutional Court of Belgium,
Françoise TULKENS, former Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights, as great witnesses of this event.

Carsten SCHÜTZ (Germany) judge Doctor of Laws,

Manuela CADELLI (Belgium) présidente de l'Association Syndicale des Magistrats,

Antonio CLUNY (Portugal), president of MEDEL, who will present a memorandum of the NGO to European institutions with respect to the independence of judicial power,

Simone GABORIAU (France), commissioner of this event, who will moderate the debates.

with contributions by magistrates from various countries.

