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**Press Conference and Workshop - Calling Notice**

**LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN CIVIL LIBERTIES NETWORK (ECLN)**

**Wednesday, 19 October 2005**

**International Press Centre (Passage Room), Residence Palace Bloc C, Rue de la Loi 155, B-1040, Brussels**

**10.30 am Press Conference**

Tony Bunyan, joint ECLN coordinator  
Aidan White, Secretary-General European Federation of Journalists  
Deirdre Curtin, Professor, Utrecht University  
Courtenay Griffith QC, Garden Court Chambers  
Brigitte Alfter, Bruxelles correspondent, Danish daily Information  
Jay Stanley, American Civil Liberties Union

The launch will include: Publication of "Essays for civil liberties and democratic standards in Europe" and a presentation by Ben Hayes (joint ECLN coordinator) of the ECLN website and Noticeboard

**11.30 - 12.00 Coffee/tea**

**12.00 - 1.30 Workshop for NGOs and researchers (all welcome from 10.30 am)**

Open discussion with those at the press conference and others on the issues and challenges and the role of ECLN could play

**Please let us know if you are intending to come to the Press Conference and/or the Workshop by sending an e-mail to: [info@ecln.org](mailto:info@ecln.org)**

**If you would like to receive the Press Release by e-mail please send us an e-mail to: [info@ecln.org](mailto:info@ecln.org)**

## **Launch statement**

*"We are living at a moment in history when civil liberties and democracy are under attack as never before and the need for a collective response to counter these threats has never been greater.*

*We share common objectives of seeking to create a European society based on freedom and equality, of fundamental civil liberties and personal and political freedoms, of free movement and freedom of information, and equal rights for minorities. This entails defending, extending and deepening the democratic culture – a concept not limited to political parties and elections but embracing wider values of pluralism, diversity and tolerance. And we share too a common opposition to racism, fascism, sexism and homophobia.*

*The defence of civil liberties and democracy also requires that positive demands are placed on the agenda. For example, respect and rights for all people, cultures and their histories, for the presumption of innocence and freedom from surveillance and the freedom to protest and demonstrate.*

*To these ends the European Civil Liberties Network (ECLN) has been established."*

## **ecln website**

You can take a look at the website (which is still under construction). The Essays on "Civil Liberties and democratic standards in Europe" will go online on Monday 17 October (embargoed until 11.30 am Wednesday, 19 October 2005:

<http://www.ecln.org>

## **The founding groups**

Statewatch, was founded in 1990, and will be responsible for running the ECLN. Statewatch is launching the ECLN in collaboration with a number long-term partners:

European Race Audit, Institute of Race Relations (founded in 1956)

CILIP which covers civil liberties and policing and is based at the Free University of Berlin (founded in 1975)

Mugak deals with immigration, racism and xenophobia, it is based in the Basque country in Spain

Komitee gegen Schnueffelstaat, Bern, Switzerland works on democracy and civil liberties

Hellenic League for Human Rights, Greece, was founded in 1953

Access to Information Programme in Sofia was launched in 1996 by journalists, lawyers and academics working on human rights

VD AMOK, Netherlands, is a anti-militarist and conscientious objectors organization that works closely together with peace movements and peace organisations

Komitee für Grundrechte und Demokratie, (Committee for fundamental rights and democracy), Germany

### **Founding individuals**

Thomas Mathiesen, Professor Sociology of Law, Oslo, Norway; Liz Fekete, IRR European Race Audit, Mads Pedersen, co-editor "Salt", Copenhagen, Aidan White, Secretary-General European Federation of Journalists, Brussels, Professor Wolf Dieter-Narr, Berlin, Gareth Peirce, lawyer, London, Heiner Busch, CILIP, Berlin, Germany, Lorenzo Trucco, Turin, Italy, Deirdre Curtin, Professor and Chair of School of Governance, University of Utrecht, Netherlands, Tony Bunyan, director Statewatch, Professor Steve Peers, University of Essex, UK, Ann Singleton, University of Bristol, Gus Hosein, Privacy International, A.Sivanandan, Director of the Institute of Race Relations, Helmut Dietrich, Forschungsgesellschaft Flucht und Migration - FFM, Berlin, Paddy Hillyard, Professor, Queens University, Belfast.

**The ECLN launch is being supported by:**



### **Contact:**

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