



Formation of a European Community for de-listing the PMOI.

September 18, 2008

Tuesday, 16 September 2008 - Brussels: In a Conference attended by dozens of parliamentarians from the European Parliament and delegations from national parliaments of Member States including France, Britain and Italy, as well several pre-eminent European jurists, the Vice President of the European Parliament, Mr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras announced the formation of a European Committee to challenge the Council of the European Union decision to maintain the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran on the EU terrorist list.

The Committee launched its campaign by organising the all-day conference in conjunction with the Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group at the European Parliament.

Mr. Struan Stevenson, the Vice-President of the EPP/ED said in the conference "In Search for Justice – The European Committee for De-listing PMOI" (ISJ-ECDP) is supported by 2000 members of parliament from various Member States. He said if what the PMOI is doing constitutes terrorism then the EU Presidency should also include parliamentarians on the list because we support PMOI's conduct. Paulo Casaca, Co-Chairman of the Friends of a Free Iran said the goal is for justice to prevail.

The Committee declared that it will engage in a political and legal campaign to remove the PMOI from the EU terrorist list and restore the rule of law which has been disregarded by the Council in the PMOI case.

In the first session of the conference pre-eminent jurists, including Lord Slynn of Hadley, former judge at the European Court of Justice; Professor Antonio Cassese, former President of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia; Professor Herni Labayle, Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Pau; Professor Bill Bowring, President of the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights; Sir Geoffrey Bindman, Visiting Professor of law at the University College London presented their legal opinion about the Council decision in July to maintain the PMOI on the list.

In their legal opinion, the jurists demonstrated the illegality of the Council's decision to maintain the PMOI on the list. They concluded that the Council has disregarded the rule of law and as such has abused its powers.

The conference also discussed the recent developments regarding the situation of PMOI members residing in Ashraf in Iraq. Recalling two resolutions adopted by the European Parliament on 12 July 2007 and 4 September 2008, they emphasized that the PMOI members in Ashraf are political refugees and protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention and as such they are protected by the principle of non-refoulement, International Humanitarian law, International Law and enjoy juridical security. They emphasized that US should continue protecting Ashraf and transferring the protection of the resident of Ashraf would lead to a disaster.

Alejo Vidal-Quadras
President of "In Search of Justice, European Committee for De-listing the PMOI"