

LAY JUDGE FORUM 2011



London Declaration of Lay Judges in Europe

The participants of the Third Lay Judge Forum taking place on 22 - 24 July 2011 in London representing organisations from the following European countries:

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
England/Wales
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Italy
Portugal
Scotland
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland

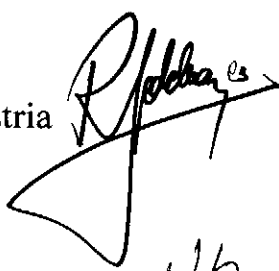
have agreed the following declaration as a result of their meeting:

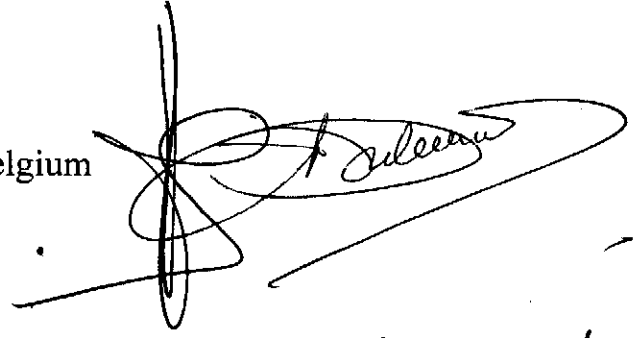
1. The participation of lay judges¹ is an essential element of any justice system which wishes to be transparent and comprehensible.
2. In many countries the participation of lay judges is founded in a tradition going back hundreds of years. In a world which is becoming more and more differentiated and specialised, the continued involvement of lay judges will ensure that the justice system is accessible and understandable by the people and always responds to changes in society.
3. Lay judges are an essential element of Civil Society. And therefore this Lay Judge Forum explicitly opposes the efforts of any individual European government and parliament to reduce or abolish participation of lay judges.
4. The Third Lay Judge Forum decided that the national organisations of lay judges will cooperate even closer by publishing a "European Charter of Lay Judges" and


¹ The term lay judge covers several types of involvement in the delivering of justice and there a number of roles undertaken by the lay judge such as: lay magistrates, justices of the peace, arbitrators, judges in criminal and civil courts, lay assessors in criminals, expert judges as in juvenile, commercial or agricultural matters.

founding a "European Organisation of Lay Judges". Its purpose will be to promote the participation of citizens in justice systems.

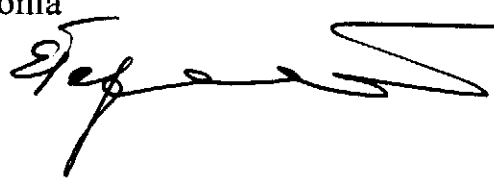
5. The Third Lay Judge Forum in London is grateful to the European Commission for supporting this valuable exchange of ideas and knowledge.

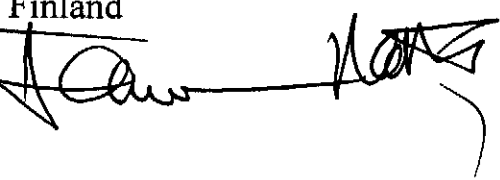
Austria 


Belgium 

Bulgaria 

England/Wales 

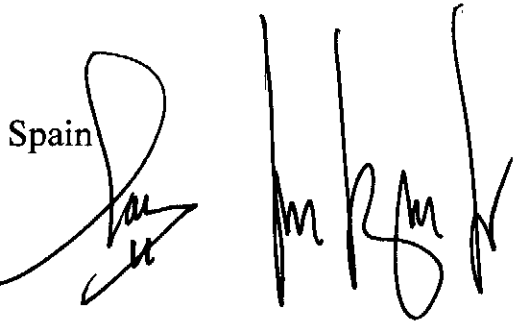
Estonia 

Finland 

France 

Germany 

Italy
Kare Foddi Uide
Joseph Royseu

Portugal
Spain 

Scotland
Schilwood.

Sweden
Lief Ubergren

Switzerland
