

APPEAL
to
The British Presidency of the European Union
The European Commission, EU Member States, Associated
Countries and
the
European parliament

We the undersigned participants of the Bled Forum, organised on 28 February 1998 on “Europe and the Rule of Law in the 21st century”;

Having reviewed the significant progress made with regard to the establishment of an International Criminal Court, charged with trying crimes against humanity, which should be established through a United Nations diplomatic conference in June 1998 in Rome in Italy;

We consider it is urgently necessary to create the basic core of an impartial international justice system, mainly in order to try war crimes and crimes against humanity wherever they may be committed;

Recalling that the 50th session of the UN General Assembly formally decided in Autumn 1995 to instruct Preparatory Committee to complete the work on putting the statutes of the International Criminal Court into their definitive form with a view to enabling the UN to convene the constituent conference of the Permanent International Criminal Court;

Recognising that the Government of Italy has already stated its willingness to host the plenipotentiary diplomatic conference for the establishment of the Court in June 1998;

Considering that the positive development is due to the support of a large number of Member States of the European Union. While however, two member states of the European Union and some non-member countries still maintain certain reservation;

Recalling that ELSA is a member of the steering committee of the NGO coalition for the establishment of an International Criminal Court;

Recalling further that ELSA presented jointly with the African Law Students and Young Lawyers Association the Declaration on International Justice that was supported by the Stockholm forum on “Lawyers Impact on Society”, the Oxford conference on “Legal

Education in the 21st Century” (September 1996) and the Istanbul Council Meeting of ELSA (October 1996);

Bled Forum of Lawyers on
“Europe and the rule of law in the 21st century”

Call therefore upon the British Presidency of the European Union, the European Commission, EU Member States, Associated countries and the European Parliament to:

1. do all within their power to ensure that the European Union speaks with one voice on this important issue at the Diplomatic conference in Italy in June this year, and
2. help to bring about the establishment of the International Criminal Court and to ensure that it functions effectively as soon as possible