

AHRI-COST Annual Conference: The right(s) moment is now!
COST Action IS0702: The Role of the EU in UN Human Rights Reform
25-27 September 2011 - Venice, Italy

- **Sunday, 25 September**

14:20 / 14:30: *Boat-transfer from Venice-Lido to Scuola Grande di San Rocco, Venice*

Venue: Scuola Grande di San Rocco, Venice

16:00 – 19:00: *E.MA Graduation and Inauguration Ceremony*

19:00: *Toast at Scuola Grande di San Rocco*

20:00: *Dinner at Trattoria San Tomà*

23:00: *Boat-transfer from Venice to Venice-Lido*

- **Monday, 26 September**

Venue: Aereoporto Nicelli, Venice-Lido

9:00 – 10:00: *Registration*

10:00 – 11:00 *Welcome and Introduction*

Horst Fischer, President, European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC);
Director of the Brussels Office of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Monica Dietl, COST Director: Introduction of the COST Office

Nils A. Butenschøn, Chair, Association of Human Rights Institutes; Director, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

Manfred Nowak, Chair, COST Action IS0702; Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights

11:00 – 13:30: *Panel 1: The right(s) moment is now!*

Felipe Gomez, Professor of Public International Law at the Institute of Human Rights of the University of Deusto (Bilbao), National E.MA Director (Chair)

Kyung-wha Kang, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights:

“Is the UN human rights system in need of reform?”

Charles-Michel Geurts, Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) of the European Union;
European External Action Service:

“EU Perspectives on UN Human Rights Reform”

Manfred Nowak, former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

“Academic Perspectives on the United Nations Human Rights Reform”

13:30 - 14:30: Lunch buffet

14:30 – 17:00: *Panel 2: Beyond human rights reform*

Wolfgang Benedek, Director, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
(Chair)

Jean-François Lebrun (tbc), European Commission, Head of Unit C/2 DG EMPL Employment, Social Affairs
and Inclusion:

“Human Rights and Partnerships: EU policies to internalise UN developments on business and human
rights”

Nicola Harrington-Buhay, Deputy Director, UN/UNDP Brussels Office:
“Development architecture reform and human rights”

Plenary discussion

17:00 – 17:15: *Wrap-up of day*

Venue: Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice-Lido

17:30 – 18:45: *AHRI board meeting (AHRI members only)*

Chaired by Nils A. Butenschøn

18:45-20:15: *COST Management Committee Meeting (COST MC members only)*

Chaired by *Manfred Nowak*

20:15: Dinner served in the Cloister of the Monastery

- **Tuesday, 27 September**

Venue: Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice-Lido

9:00 – 12:00: *Working Groups Sessions*

WG1: Reform of UN Human Rights Mechanisms, facilitated by *Manfred Nowak*

WG2: Strengthening Systems for Human Rights Based Development, facilitated by *Arne Tostensen* and
Koen de Feyter; with expert

Nicola Harrington-Buhay, Deputy Director, UN/UNDP Brussels Office

WG3: New Perspectives on Human Rights Partnerships, facilitated by *Wolfgang Benedek* and *Karin
Buhmann*



12:00 – 13:00: Lunch buffet at Nicelli Airport / Nordic Network meeting (*Network members only*)

13:00: Boat-transfer to Ca' Foscari University, Venice

14:00 – 15:00: *Joint WG2 and WG3 meeting* on development cooperation partnerships

15:00 – 16:00: *Joint WG2 and WG3 meeting* on discussion of selection of papers

16:00 – 17:00: *Working Groups' reports*

17:00 – 17:30: *Closing remarks* by

Nils A. Butenschøn, Chair, Association of Human Rights Institutes; Director, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

Manfred Nowak, Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights; member of AHRI Management Board; former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

Fabrizio Marrella, Professor of International Law at Ca' Foscari University

Carlo Carraro, Rector of the Ca' Foscari University

17:30: Closing cocktail at Ca' Foscari University