



**UNION OF THE ISTRINIANS
FREE PROVINCE OF ISTRIA IN EXILE**

**1st INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF EXILES AND EXPELLED PEOPLE IN EUROPE**

The Union of the Istrians – Free Province of Istria in Exile is planning to organize in Trieste on the forthcoming 29th, 30th and 31st of March 2007 the 1st International Congress of Exiles and Expelled people in Europe, with the purpose of identifying new forms of aggregation and development at European level for the Associations of Exiles and Expelled people aiming at debating and solving the persistent issues within the most authoritative seats of the European Institutions, as well as those of national States affected by persecution and deportation of entire peoples, which resulted in their genocide.

The 1st International Congress wishes therefore to start a new dialogue as well as an original working method shared by each Association, emphasizing in the first place **the legitimate expectations of all exiles and expelled people**, so that a common ground can be built on which to found the major claims of solving the outstanding problems:

- **Acknowledgement on the part of the European Union, of the Member States of the European Union and of the United Nations of the crime of Genocide towards our peoples who were expelled or forced into exile**, which is enshrined in the Declaration of 9 December 1948, granted to us under the clauses II e III of the Convention on the Prevention of the crime of Genocide (General Assembly Resolution 260 A (III) – New York, 9 December 1948) and punishable under the clauses IV, VI and VIII of the above-mentioned Convention;

- **Acknowledgement of the right for expelled people and exiles and their succeeding generations to return to their home country**, by means of adopting all the measures which most appropriately and suitably can contribute to their reintegration into the territories by them previously and for centuries inhabited, both as a remedy against violations of human rights caused by illegal transfers and deportations, and as a way of reversing the effects of the 'ethnic cleansing' in the territories of origin. These measures must include, for the sake of argument and not exhaustively, **the restitution of real estate properties illegally confiscated and then nationalized** and, if not applicable (e.g. due to property destruction), an equitable compensation which can secure the purchase of another real estate property;

- **The disclosure and dissemination of exodus and expulsions tragedies throughout the European continent**, by means of the establishment, through a European directive absorbed by the Governments of all the EU Member States, of a **Day of Remembrance in commemoration of the 18 million exiles and expelled people in the European continent in the 20th century**, to be solemnly celebrated every year. In line with the Day of Remembrance, community regulations must be implemented and absorbed by all Member States, aiming at the diffusion in every education institute of the knowledge **of exodus and deportations caused by the communist regimes of the former Block of Eastern Europe and by Turkey**.

Furthermore, on the occasion of the 1st international Congress it is suggested, in order to improve further claims coming from the Associations of Exiles and Expelled people in Europe taking part in the initiative, **to jointly consider and approve** a draft statute which may at a later stage lead to the Establishment of the **EUROPEAN UNION OF EXILES AND EXPELLED PEOPLE**, a new federal organization, an institution with "patronage" features, **with the task of promoting, adapting and presenting the respective claims of the federate Associations with a single voice**.

The Union of the Istrians identify itself profoundly with this project which can represent for everyone, united under an independent cross-party political and legal action, and therefore no longer dependent under any aspect from any party organization, the keystone for an incisive and resolute action towards the European Union and the United Nations, where the claims to justice and respect for the truth must be submitted.

The creation of the **EUROPEAN UNION OF EXILES AND EXPELLED PEOPLE** will come into being through a unanimous agreement of all the associations taking part in the 1st International Congress, where, besides the draft statute and deed of partnership, the organizational structure of the new institution will also be outlined. The priority objectives that will have to be discussed include the pressing need to accredit by the respective National Governments and above all by the EU and the European Court of Human Rights the new Body for Exiles and Expelled People, so that it can be made official and thus allowed to intervene in every debate and question relating to the issues of the member associations, both on a national and international scale. In so doing, the authoritativeness and the incisiveness of the new **EUROPEAN UNION OF EXILES AND EXPELLED PEOPLE** will gradually have the possibility of legitimately entering the European stage, since this institution does not just represent a few people but rather **well over five million European citizens**.

The Union of the Istrians strongly believes in the force and in the negotiating power of the new **EUROPEAN UNION OF EXILES AND EXPELLED PEOPLE**, which could also play a leading role towards the Governments of the EU Member States which used to be part of the former People's Socialist Block - Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary and Slovenia – and the States of former Yugoslavia in their way towards EU membership.

During the proceedings of the 1st International Congress in Trieste, the operational rules of the new Organization will also need to be discussed: development in the territory where the member associations are established, creation of operational bases and representatives in Europe, **creation of effective operational regulations**, unanimous identification and investiture of the offices and responsibilities to the individuals appointed to represent the new European structure, gathering of the financial resources necessary to support the activities of the Institution, individuation of professionals, advisors and legal representatives in support of the political and legal actions of the Institution.

The 1st International Congress in Trieste will take place as described in the following provisional programme:

THURSDAY 29 MARCH 2007

H 15.00 – Chamber of Commerce Main room - preliminary meeting with the delegates of all the Associations of Exiles;
H 16.00 – Starting of the proceedings (only for participants) - presentation of issues on the agenda and starting of the debate;
H 18.30 – end of session and back to the hotel;
H 20.00 – Dinner at the restaurant (offered by the organization).

FRIDAY 30 MARCH 2007

H 09.00 – Chamber of Commerce Main room – resuming the issues on the agenda of the delegates representing all the Associations of Exiles (only for participants and previously invited consultants);
H 12.00 – suspension of the proceedings – on site lunch;
H 14.00 – resuming of the activities and signing of a joint official document to be addressed to the European Union, the United Nations, the Governments of the EU Member States and the European Court of Human Rights;
H 18.30 – end of proceedings;
H 20.00 – Dinner at the restaurant (offered by the organization).

SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2007

H 09.00 – Bartoli Room – Union of the Istrians – final discussion on the draft statute and adoption of the deed of partnership establishing the European Union of Exiles and Expelled People (only for participants and previously invited consultants);
H 11.30 – Press conference (open to the public).

During the proceedings, city and regional authorities will be received as well as the diplomatic representatives based in Trieste or territorially competent (Austria, Germany, Finland, Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Slovak Republic, Poland, Turkey).

Each participating association will be allowed to appoint a maximum of 5 delegates who will have the power to cast their decisional vote on behalf of their association during the proceedings of the 1st International Congress.

Their names must be notified no later than January 31st 2007 to the Technical Secretariat of the Union of the Istrians (segreteria@unioneistriani.it).

The delegates will be hosted by the Union of the Istrians, which will provide for the costs of their overnight stay (max. of 3 nights each at the Hotel ***/****, breakfast included).

All the details concerning the definitive programme will be sent and communicated to the European Associations that will participate in the initiative by November 30th 2006, by post and e-mail.