

News release, 10 December 2007:



## International Human Rights Day 2007 :

### Access Info launches "Recognise My Right" Campaign

International Human Rights Day (10 December) sees the launch of a pan-European campaign that is calling on governments and the Council of Europe to give full recognition to the right of access to information.



The central message of the "Recognise My Right" campaign is that, given that access to information is now established in international law as a human right, national governments should also give the right full recognition. To do this, the right must apply to all information held by all government bodies and all branches of power.

The "Recognise My Right" campaign is calling for national access to information laws and the future "European Convention on Access to Official Documents" to specify that all information held by all public bodies is in principle covered by the right of access, subject to only limited exceptions. Currently the draft Convention only applies to "official documents" and is optional for information held by the legislative and judicial branches.

Launching the campaign in Madrid, Helen Darbishire, Director of Access Info, said "It is time for European governments to recognise access to information as a full human right. Imagine if it were argued that rights such as freedom of expression, non-discrimination or even the right to life, had to be respected by the administration but not by parliaments and courts – denying a right of access to legislative and judicial information equates to giving parliaments unrestricted powers of censorship or letting courts discriminate with impunity. In other words, limited application of a right is something which democratic societies should find completely unacceptable."

The Recognise My Right campaign aims to build mass support for the right of access to information. The core message of the campaign is simple:

- **We all have a Right of access to information!**
- **The Right applies to all branches of government!**
- **The Council of Europe Convention should recognise a full Right of Access to Information!**

The website [www.RecogniseMyRight.info](http://www.RecogniseMyRight.info) will be used to collect signatures for a petition to be submitted to European governments on 15 March 2008, 10 days before the next meeting of the Council of Europe to discuss the draft treaty. Those supporting the campaign are also asked to send in photos and/or short videos with the words "Recognise My Right!" in national languages. A sample of the first photos can be found on the Access Info home page.

More information will be posted shortly on the new website : [www.RecogniseMyRight.info](http://www.RecogniseMyRight.info).

Send your photos to [recognise@access-info.org](mailto:recognise@access-info.org)

**For more information, please contact**

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