

JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

JUSTICE
59 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5AQ
DX 323 Chancery Lane
(020) 7329 5100
(020) 7329 5055
admin@justice.org.uk
www.justice.org.uk

1st July 2005

Embargoed till 00.01 on Monday, 4th July

JUSTICE calls on UK Presidency to strengthen EU rights

JUSTICE today called upon the UK Presidency to secure agreement on key proposals on defence rights, data protection standards, asylum and immigration policy and a European Fundamental Rights Agency. EU justice and home affairs policy affects those who live, work and travel within the European Union daily. The UK Presidency should use its leadership to ensure that greater co-operation and exchange with out European partners does not result in breaches of fundamental rights.

JUSTICE said the UK should use its Presidency to champion:

- access to justice for all;
- key safeguards for those implicated in cross border investigations and proceedings;
- a counter terrorism policy that complies with civil liberties and fundamental rights;
- a framework of privacy and data protection standards;
- a common asylum and immigration programme rooted in humanitarian principles and fundamental rights;
- a robust Fundamental Rights Agency.

Marisa Leaf, JUSTICE's Senior Legal Officer for European Criminal Justice, said:

The EU project will not succeed without core protections for fundamental rights. The next six months will see many key safeguards negotiated and, without strong leadership from the UK, there is a real danger that basic rights will go unprotected. The UK has an historic opportunity to make real and lasting progress in this area.

Contact: Marisa Leaf - mleaf@justice.org.uk Tel: 020 7762 6413 Mobile: 07986 621 331 or
Eric Metcalfe - emetcalfe@justice.org.uk Tel: 020 7762 6415 Mobile: 07939 119 369