

PRESS RELEASE OF MAURIZIO TURCO, ITALIAN RADICAL MP OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, FORMER RADICAL MEP OF THE BONINO LIST:

WITH THE JUDGMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE ON THE CASE "MAURIZIO TURCO AND SWEDEN AGAINST THE COUNCIL OF THE EU" THE RADICAL CAMPAIGN FOR TRANSPARENCY IN ITALY AND IN EUROPE IS STRENGTHENED

Declaration of Maurizio Turco, Italian Radical MP, former MEP of the Bonino List, author of the case "Maurizio Turco versus Council of the European Union", whose positive judgment has been released today by the European Court of Justice:

"After a legal battle that started in 2002, the European Court of Justice has today finally reaffirmed, by today's judgment on the case I had brought to its attention together with Sweden, the fundamental right of citizens to transparency, openness of the decision-making process, access to information and documents detained by public bodies and institutions, publicity of the discussions and the decisions taken.

Democracy and the Rule of Law are based on publicity of the laws and of the decision-making process, hereby including all acts (proposals, amendments, discussions, votes, legal opinions, reports, etc) that are examined and contribute to the determination of a decision having effects on citizens. The EU, as well as Italy, has to guarantee these fundamental principles that allow for citizens to get closer to institutions and to participate in public life, following the principle that it is necessary to have the possibility "to know in order to deliberate". This judgment further strengthens the Radicals' campaign for transparency in Italy and in Europe, which we are leading to create in Italy a register of elected representatives (MPs, MEPs, local councillors, etc) and in Europe by promoting the review of the current EU rules.

I thank Sweden, Finland and Denmark for having supported the reasons of transparency, opposed by the Commission and the UK, and I also thank the lawyer Onno Brouwer that with exceptional capacities has supported the case in front of the Court of Justice.

It is now necessary to ensure that the laws on transparency take into full account the principles stated in this judgment, in the framework of the revision of Regulation 1049/2001 on access to documents currently underway at EU level".