

## Nota de Prensa

### **European Human Rights Commissioner ignores Spanish families**

Madrid, June 10, 2013 - Last week the European Human Rights Commissioner was in Spain where he met with government authorities, the People's Defender and other unspecified associations. Family Forum President Benigno Blanco was refused an interview, prompting him to comment, "It is surprising that a European Council authority, in charge of a matter as sensitive as human rights, would fail to extend the same sensitivity to Spanish families, who are the real subjects and objects of those Human Rights."

The Commissioner later made statements expressing his concern over the removal of the subject of Education for Citizenship from the school curriculum and the "danger of its contents being diluted". Nils Muiznieks seems unaware of the fact that the removal was motivated by the enormous amount of conflict produced in education on its introduction by the former administration. Said subject amounted to an illegitimate interference with the parental right to educate their children in accordance with their own convictions, and brought about a movement for conscientious objection backed by thousands of families.

***In the words of Family Forum Director General Ignacio Garcia Juliá, "it is unfortunate that the Commissioner is unaware of Article 2 of the additional protocol to the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties Accord, which protects parents' right to 'educate their children according to their religious and philosophical convictions'. Not wanting to meet with family associations shows a lack of interest in finding out the true causes of the conflict and the means of solving it. Spanish society and families overall need responsible politicians, both inside and outside our borders, capable of protecting them from ideological whims that cause tensions amongst people and from the failure we are currently experiencing of the educational system."***

***In the absence of truly neutral education curriculums, a requirement for academic excellence that motivates teachers, the freedom of families to educate their children and a reliable means of measuring the competence of our schools, it is impossible to achieve an educational system that is the motor of progress such as society demands "***

Family Forum hopes that in his next visit Mr. Muiznieks will show greater receptivity and respect for Spanish families, in particular for the parents, who are the main actors in this conflict.

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