

Monsieur le Président Jean-Paul Costa
Cour européenne des Droits de l'Homme
Conseil de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

RE: Lautsi v. Italy Request for Third Party Intervention
Application No. 30814/06

Dear Mr. President:

The below named Members of European Parliament, representing 11 different Member States, consider that the judgment of 3 November 2009, delivered by the Second Section of the Court in the case of Lautsi v. Italy (Case No. 30814/06) is defective for a variety of reasons. It raises important questions with regard to subsidiarity, protection of cultural sovereignty, judicial overreaching by the European Court affecting areas not within the legal competency of this Court, and fundamentally misinterprets Protocol 1, Article 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights. The case therefore creates conflict with existing precedent.

With regard to the named Members of European Parliament, the Lautsi v. Italy decision raises particular questions of institutional importance in light of the recent ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and consequent European Union dialogue regarding adopting the European Convention of Human Rights. Furthermore, as democratically elected representatives of Member States directly or indirectly affected by the scope of the Grand Chamber decision, it is imperative that the voice of the people of their respective constituencies be heard by the court through their third party intervention.

In the interests of the proper administration of justice, the below named Members of European Parliament hereby request leave of this Court to submit written comments and to take part in the Grand Chamber oral hearing in the above mentioned case according to the rules on Third Party Intervention as set out in Article 36(2) of the Convention and Rule 44 of the Rules of the Court.

Respectfully submitted,



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19 May 2010

Date

On Behalf of:

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5. Antonio Cancian (Italy)
6. Marek Jozef Grobarczyk (Poland)
7. Jacek Wlosowicz (Poland)
8. Boguslaw Sonik (Poland)
9. Jacek Protasiewicz (Poland)
10. Konrad Szymanski (Poland)
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