

## Visit and Seminar at the Library of the Chamber of Deputies *“Hanging in a balance: History and Jurisdiction”*

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2014, Global Governance students from first and second year had the pleasure to move towards the centre of the Eternal City, Rome, in order to visit the magnificent Library of the Chamber of Deputies, a place which since its foundation has consistently contributed to parliamentary work through document collection, cataloguing and spread of information thanks to which, gradually, it has become an important place for references and sources.



### *A little bit of history*

The Library was established in 1848 in Turin, though the new Library at the Palazzo del Seminario was inaugurated in 1988. Since this latter date, it has been accessible for everyone: both parliamentary and external users aged 16 and over. It is considered one of the most important and biggest parliamentary libraries in Europe.

### *Library holdings*

The assets of the Chamber's Library consists of:

- 1.4 million volumes
- 2,000 current periodicals and 5000 closed periodicals
- growing digital collections
- Italian parliamentary proceedings
- Italian and foreign laws
- collection of rare and ancient books

The books are organised on thematic areas and arranged according to their subjects. In spite of being a general library, it focuses on specific subjects (Law, Political Science, International Relations and Security, Social Sciences, History, Economy, Legislative and Parliamentary Sources). Over the past years, a significant project has been carried out, regarding the digitalization of the parliamentary proceedings that aims at recovering in digital format all the official acts of the Chamber of Deputies since its beginning in 1848 before the Unification.

Moreover, in 2007 an internal passage was opened between the Library of the Chamber and the Senate.

Afterwards, students were involved in a research experience having access to electronic resources and catalogues through re@l (“Electronic Resources Services Unit”) and IOL Online Database (“Indici online”).

Then, they had the opportunity to visit the five floors that compose the Chamber Library. The first floor, also called the Room of the Inquisition, is where the trial of Galileo Galilei was conducted on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1633.

At the end of the visit, Global students had the opportunity to participate to the seminar “Histories, Traditions and Contexts: the Constitutional Relevance of the ECHR in Domestic and European Law”, held by dott. Roberto D’Orazio, who gave a lecture on the main issues contained in his research about the relationship between the Denial of the Holocaust and the jurisprudence of the European Courts.

In a very comprehensive presentation, dott. D'Orazio, whose studies on this issue are very well known in Italy, explained the process through which the legal order of European Countries criminalize the denial of the Holocaust, and the reasoning of the Courts dealing with this kind of problem.

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