



Europa eine Seele geben
A Soul for Europe
Une âme pour l'Europe

Berlin Conference "A Soul for Europe" 17.-19. November 2006

A Overview

12 October 2006

Opening	Friday, 17 November Afternoon
Richard von Weizsäcker, former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Vice-Chancellor Franz Müntefering (to be confirmed) President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso George Soros, Chairman Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network	
Part 1 "A Soul for Europe" – The Concept and its Implementation	Friday, 17 Nov. Evening, Saturday, 18 Nov. Morning
1.1 Harnessing Culture for the Unification Process 1.2 Harnessing Culture for the European economy 1.3 Model of a Civic Initiative 1.4 Outcome and Prospects 1.5 The Alliance A Soul for Europe 1.6 Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 Consequences and Practical Steps for Part 1	
<u>Contributions by</u> Paul Achleitner, Chief financial officer, Allianz group Kurt Biedenkopf, former Prime Minister of Saxony (to be confirmed) Michel Delebarre, President of the Committee of the Regions Nikos Efthymiadis, President of Redestos Efthymiadis Agrotechnology Ján Figel, EU Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism Manfred Gentz, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zurich Financial Services Meglana Kuneva, Bulgarian Minister for European Affairs - and other ministers for European affairs Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag - and speakers of EU member states parliaments Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, President of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz Bernd Neumann, Minister of State for Cultural Affairs - and ministers of culture from EU member states Hans-Gert Pötering MEP (Steering Committee of the initiative "A Soul for Europe") Ernest-Antoine Seillière, president of UNICE (to be confirmed) Anne-Marie Sigmund, former President of the European Economic and Social Committee Jacques Toubon MEP (Steering Committee of the initiative "A Soul for Europe") Johanna Wanka, Vice-President of the Kultusministerkonferenz Matthias Wissmann, Chairman of the European Committee of the German Bundestag - and chairmen of European committees from other national parliaments Young decision makers from European countries, People Network	

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Private foundations in the Board of Trustees of the initiative "A Soul for Europe"

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Foundations, associations, cultural institutions and networks:

Allianz-Kulturstiftung, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb), Deutscher Kulturrat, ECUMEST Bucharest, Europa Nostra, Europa-Union, European Cultural Foundation (ECF), European Cultural Parliament (ECP), European Festival Association (EFA), European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH), European Movement, The Felix Meritis Foundation, Goethe-Institut, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa), Körber-Stiftung, Notre Europe, Open Society Institute & Soros Foundations Network, Redhouse Sofia, Relais Culture Europe, Società Europea di Cultura.

Part 2 Cultural Aspects in the Strategies of European Policy

Saturday, 18 November

Chairman: President of the European Movement Pat Cox

2.1 What is Europe? Why Europe?

Introduction: Richard von Weizsäcker
Margot Wallström, EU Commission Vice President and Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy
Contributions by Hedy d'Ancona, former Dutch Minister of Culture, Jérôme Clément, President of Arte G.E.I.E., Norbert Lammert MdB, Jo Leinen MEP, Alojz Peterle MEP, Hans-Gert Pöttering MEP, Wolfgang Thierse MdB, Wim Wenders, director

2.2 Europe in the World

Introduction: Hans-Dietrich Genscher
Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy
Contributions by Bazon Brock, Prof. em. for Art and Aesthetics, University of Wuppertal, Elmar Brok MEP, Lord Anthony Giddens (to be confirmed), John C. Kornblum, Meglena Kuneva, Catherine Lalumière, President of Relais Culture Europe, Paris, Traugott Schöffthaler, Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, Alexandria

2.3 Internal and Social Peace

Introduction: Bronislaw Geremek MEP
Vladimír Špidla, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Contributions by Erhard Busek, Katrin Göring-Eckardt MdB, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges MEP, Erazim Kohák, philosopher (to be confirmed), Christian Schwarz-Schilling, Hannes Swoboda MEP

Consequences and Practical Steps for Part 2



Part 3 Open Europe	Sunday, 19 November Morning
3.1 The Jewish-Islamic Dimension of Europe 3.2 The ALEPH project	
<u>Contributions by</u> Ulrich Beck, Professor of Sociology, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich / London School of Economics and Political Science Abbas Beydoun, writer, Lebanon Almut Sh. Bruckstein, Professor for Jewish Philosophy, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt a. M. and chairwoman of ha'atelier - werkstatt für philosophie und kunst, Berlin Nilüfer Göle, Professor of Sociology, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris Navid Kermani, writer and orientalist Wolfgang Schäuble, Minister of the Interior	
Consequences and Practical Steps for Part 3	



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Part 1 "A Soul for Europe" – The Concept and its Implementation

1.1 Harnessing Culture for the Unification Process

The initiative "A Soul for Europe" seeks to influence Europe's development with a clear basic idea: in all areas of European policy the power of culture must be strategically harnessed to promote the process of European unification.

In a much-heeded programmatic address he gave to open the 2004 Berlin Conference, Commission President Barroso strongly underlined this idea:

"The European Union has reached a stage of its history where its cultural dimension can no longer be ignored."

The importance of culture outside the cultural sector and cultural affairs departments should be explored in areas such as external relations and security, employment and social affairs, regional policy, economic and financial affairs, etc.

The conference is designed to provide a sense of continuity and sustainability. Efforts are to be made to win the support of policy-makers so as to maintain the conference's momentum. The idea is for policy-makers to agree on concrete steps as to how effective and sustainable use can be made of culture for the benefit of Europe. This applies not only to European Union institutions but also to the cities, the regions and the member states.

1.2 Harnessing Culture for the European Economy

There is a growing conviction in all quarters that cultural factors will in future determine which societies are most successful in economic, political and social terms. In the coming decades, economic power alone will not be the main factor affecting the realignment of influence within an enlarged Europe and deciding what role this Europe will play in the world; the continent's cultural forces will be just as important. They offer innovation potential for the development of society at all levels.

1.3 Model of a Civic Initiative

Another important feature of "A Soul for Europe" is that it is the spontaneous mission of a group of individuals without any institutional form of organization, drawing its legitimation and its approach to work from civil society.



“A Soul for Europe” sees itself as a novel, future-oriented model for cooperation between civil society and policy-makers. This model is characterized by two important principles: the private initiative’s sovereignty and the willingness of parliamentarians and political decision-makers to act as intermediaries providing access to the “realm of power”.

In 2005, the negative results of two referendums on the European Constitution demonstrated the limitations of traditional top-down methods in European unification policy. The process of creating “a soul for Europe” can only gain momentum if it is a “bottom-up” process, i.e. driven by the cultural dynamism that exists in the various countries of Europe.

At the conference, a key role will be played by the young generation. As in 2004, the 2006 Berlin Conference will be attended by prominent young decision-makers from many countries and a wide variety of professions. They will be carefully selected and invited through “The People Network” of the Felix Meritis Foundation (Amsterdam). This procedure proved highly successful for the 2004 Berlin Conference and had a lasting multiplier effect.

In this first part of the conference, a key function will be assumed by the members of the initiative’s parliamentary Steering Committee – chaired by Hans-Gert Pöttering (EPP-ED) and under the patronage of EP President Josep Borrell (PSE) – which constitutes the principal link between the initiative’s work and European policy-makers. The people actually talking to the parliamentarians about the initiative’s work are the representatives of private foundations that have joined the initiative and representatives of the European business community.

Other European organizations, associations, initiatives and networks that share the initiative’s aims will make their own specific contributions based on the conclusions drawn from the concept “A Soul for Europe”.

1.4 Outcome and Prospects

The content and form of the initiative’s work are illustrated by six subtopics:

- Berlin Conference (biennial)
- Discourses on Europe, designed to intensify the exchange between leading EU policy-makers and European intellectuals on fundamental issues affecting Europe’s future
- Culture for Structural Development as exemplified by South Eastern Europe
- The project Open Europe – The Jewish-Islamic Dimension of Europe (‘ALEPH’)
- Cities and Regions as European Players
- Film as a Means of Communicating European Experience

Part 1 of the conference assesses the initiative’s activities so far in relation to these subtopics and the methods it uses for implementing its goals.



1.5 The Alliance A Soul for Europe

The initiative invites other partners pursuing the same objectives to share the idea. They are being invited to join the Alliance “A Soul for Europe” and to follow joint paths. At the Berlin Conference, some of these partners are going to exemplify their way of implementing the concept A Soul for Europe through selected projects and activities.

1.6 Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008

The EU Commission has designated 2008 as the Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The Berlin Conference will offer Commissioner Ján Figel a suitable platform for presenting the planned programme.

The 2006 Berlin Conference and the work of the initiative "A Soul for Europe" will be used to further develop the structures and programmes for the Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 – thus also highlighting the dialogue between Europe's different cultures and the different cultures within individual countries.

Consequences and Practical Steps for Part 1

The Berlin Conference seeks to bring about changes rather than just talking about them. That is why its achievements should not be confined to debates and declarations. Its ultimate aim is to get the conference participants, in particular policy-makers, to come to an understanding on how to implement their ideas. This, in turn, is intended to revitalize and consolidate the process set in motion by the 2004 Berlin Conference.

Through its efforts to reach an understanding on what practical steps to take, “A Soul for Europe” seeks to exert influence on European development by strengthening the cultural dimension of European policy-making and making better use of Europe's cultural potential.



Part 2 Culture as a Strategic Element of European Policy

EU Commission members are invited to explain how they use the potential of culture in terms of the political strategies of their respective policy areas – viewing culture not as one sector of policy among others but rather as a ubiquitous aspect and dimension of policy-making. What is the current situation? What are the experiences in this respect? What are the strategies for the future?

These issues and their consequences will be dealt with in three topic sectors:

- 2.1 What is Europe? Why Europe?
- 2.2 Internal and Social Peace
- 2.3 Europe in the World

These three topic areas will be addressed following the same approach:

- First, a prominent European speaker will present some introductory ideas on the topic. This role should in most cases be assumed by a member of the initiative's Board of Trustees.
- Then, an EU Commission member will make a presentation, which will form the central section of the respective topic area.
- Finally, this contribution will be discussed by the introductory speakers, members of the European Parliament and a small group of prominent intellectuals and experts in terms of its practical consequences. This discussion process will also involve members of the Steering Committee.

2.1 What is Europe? Why Europe?

The EU's 2004 enlargement has not in itself helped to bring about the desired sense of community. As the uncertain fate of the European Constitution shows, treaties between countries are no guarantee that all Europeans take the same view of the opportunities offered by the unification process and its goals. There is still too little awareness of the potential for Europe created by the political changes in Eastern Europe in 1989.

The EU's enlargement calls for greater attention to be paid to the value of Europe's multicultural composition. Well-known elements and resources, as well as what has been overlooked or forgotten, must be made more easily accessible across national boundaries – beginning with Europe's languages. The loss of cultural substance may be one of the consequences of war, persecution and expulsion, of political and military confrontation, of the marginalization of minorities and the current trend towards monolingualism (dominance of English).

Below the level of political institutions the „real“ Europe is emerging 'bottom up' from within civil society. The initiative 'A Soul for Europe' is practicing a model of cooperation between independent individuals and the world of politics (through the Steering Committee in the European Parliament).



2.2 Europe in the World

If Europe is to exploit its opportunities and perform its mission in the world convincingly, it needs to make better use of its cultural resources. At its cultural core European unification means deriving the strength and the practical know-how for constructive co-existence and international reconciliation from Europe's experience of centuries of war and conflict. This cultural dimension will bring lasting benefit, among others, also to global trade relations.

2.3 Internal and Social Peace

Cultural factors are of great importance in establishing and maintaining internal and social peace in Europe, in coping with migration processes and in ensuring cohesion in a Europe that is still seeking to determine its future shape. This is all the more true given the serious social, economic and political conflicts – sometimes even culminating in bloody military clashes – that continue to threaten Europe up to the present day and are closely tied up with cultural issues (e.g. ethnic or national identity). The topic impinges on many areas of policy-making, from the legal system to regional policy.

Consequences and Practical Steps for Part 2



Part 3 Open Europe

3.1 The Jewish-Islamic Dimension of Europe

With discussion partners from Europe and the Middle East, the writer and orientalist Navid Kermani will present a project, the essential features of which he already outlined at the first Berlin Conference in November 2004. The project is an ideal prototype for the institutionalization of intercultural dialogue at international and European level. The focus here is on the exchange of ideas between Christian, Jewish and Islamic cultures.

To introduce the discussion, Navid Kermani writes:

Europe is in a state of crisis. There is less and less talk about the potential, prospects and visions of the European project, and more and more talk about its limitations. But what are these limitations? Should they be defined in geographical, religious or cultural terms?

Europe's fundamental values – a product of the French Revolution and the West European Enlightenment – are not tied to any particular background or religion. They are essentially transferable, but more than that: one of their specific characteristics is that they can – unlike the values of a religious community or those of the old European nation-states – be shared by people of different ethnicities, countries and cultures. Taking these values seriously means not excluding others from them, but instead supporting their dissemination. Europe's borders cannot be drawn as a country's borders can. Europe is not a country; it is an idea. In this sense, Europe is the geographical expression of the universal idea of the Enlightenment.

The most determined advocates of European unification have always included those who felt themselves to be outsiders in terms of ethnic and religious identity. It is no coincidence that a good many of the champions of the European idea were Jews. Because there was no place for them in Europe's nationalist structures, they aspired to a transnational humanity united by values rather than by ethnicity, language or religion. And even today, the greatest enthusiasm for Europe is to be found in places where being a part of Europe is not taken for granted: in Eastern Europe, in the Balkans or in Turkey. As they charged towards the guns of the Securitate secret police force during the Christmas period of 1989, Romanian students chanted: "Europe is with us! Europe is with us!" The Orange Revolution in Ukraine was a movement with a professed orientation towards Europe. And there are no more radical and credible champions of the European ideals than those Turkish intellectuals who are still being persecuted by their country's nationalistic judiciary because of their commitment to freedom of speech and the rule of law. Europe is betraying itself if it betrays its greatest advocates.



3.2 The ALEPH project

It is planned to set up an Agency for European and Middle Eastern Cultures (ALEPH) at a European location, to be run jointly by Islamic and Jewish scholars. The idea is not just for the agency to offer Europe's comments on the global dialogue of cultures, but to ensure its close involvement in this process and thus map out the role Europe sees for itself in this dialogue.

With this project, the EU will stake out its position in the "dialogue of cultures", demonstrating its competence to engage in this dialogue and its willingness to make a significant contribution to it. The project is concerned with Europe's specific challenge within the overall topic complex "dialogue of cultures". The 2006 Berlin Conference will work out the necessary steps for implementing this project.

Consequences and Practical Steps for Part 3

We wish to thank our conference partners:

Allianz AG, Bundesministerium für Kultur und Medien, Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Compagnia di San Paolo, Dresdner Bank AG, European Cultural Foundation, The Felix Meritis Foundation, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Hauptstadtkulturfonds, King Baudoin Foundation, Körber-Stiftung, Plato Kommunikation, Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond