

FORUM BELGRADE “A SOUL FOR EUROPE” / Душа Европе

3 – 4 OCTOBER 2008

SIV BUILDING
Palata Srbije
Bulevar Mihaila Pupina 2
11070 New Belgrade
Serbia

Forum Belgrade 2008 brings together representatives of civil society, culture, business and policy-making at the local, regional and European level, including members of the European Parliament and the European Commission to discuss the role of civil society in building democratic structures and in fostering the economic and social upswing in Europe. The aim is to develop a “culture of democracy” and to strengthen the dialogue between civil society and political decision-makers.

ORGANIZERS



Kulturni Front.Begrad.

Kulturni Front,
Belgrade



The Felix Meritis
Foundation, Amsterdam



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

"A Soul for Europe"
Initiative, Berlin



Auropolis - Association
of Multimedia Artists,
Belgrade

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

The Culture of Democracy

- ˆ Cross-sectoral dialogue between culture, civil society, business and political decision-makers
- ˆ Current situation, expectations and challenges
- ˆ Potential of civil society initiatives for development and social change
- ˆ Involvement of the civil sector in the decision-making process
- ˆ The accountability of civil society for practical implementation
- ˆ Steps to be taken by the various actors

Forum X as a model for concrete cooperation on the local, national, regional and European level

- ˆ Partnerships with local, national, regional and European authorities
- ˆ Transnational cooperation of civil society initiatives
- ˆ Examples from Belgrade, Pécs and Skopje
- ˆ Transforming Forum Belgrade into a permanent project

Concrete benefits of integrating civil society and culture into business strategies

- ˆ Corporate social and cultural responsibility
- ˆ Reciprocal benefits?
- ˆ Corporate citizenship on the Western Balkans

The role of civil society in the European integration process

- ˆ Strengthening local civil society by integrating it into the family of European civil society
- ˆ The role of local authorities in the integration process
- ˆ The role of media in developing a European public sphere

PROGRAMME

Friday, 3 October 2008

13:00 - 13:15

Welcome Speech

Zoran Alimpic, Member of the City Parliament, Belgrade

Nebojsa Bradic, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Serbia

13:15 - 13:30

Honorary Speech

Adam Michnik, Editor-in-chief of Gazeta Wyborcza, Warsaw

13:30 - 13:40

Forum Belgrade in the context of the „A Soul for Europe“ initiative

Nele Hertling, Spokesperson of the „A Soul for Europe“ Initiative, Berlin

13:40 - 15:30

**The Culture of
Democracy**

Moderator: **Michael Zeeman**, Writer and Poet, Rome/Amsterdam

Introduction: **Miklos Marschall**, Regional Director Europe and Central Asia, Transparency International, Berlin

Discussion:

Ronald J.P.M. van Dartel, Ambassador of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Serbia

Miljenko Dereta, Center for civic initiatives, Belgrade

Rigels Halili, Alex Nash Fellow in Albanian Studies, University College, London

Sepp Kusstatscher, Member of the European Parliament

Branka Prpa, Director of the Historical Archive in Belgrade

Farid Tabarki, Coolpolitics Research, Amsterdam

Debate with invited guests

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break

PROGRAMME

Friday, 3 October 2008

16:00 - 17:30

Forum X as a model for concrete cooperation on the local, national, regional and European level

Moderator: **Steve Austen**, Permanent Fellow of the Felix Meritis Foundation / „A Soul for Europe“ group of initiators, Amsterdam

Introduction: **Milena Dragicevic-Sesic**, Professor at the University of the Arts, Belgrade

Discussion:

Zoran Alimpic, Member of the City Parliament, Belgrade

Helena Drnovsek-Zorko, Head of Division for International Cultural Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

Jelko Kacin, Member of the European Parliament

Jelica Minic, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council, Belgrade

Konstantin Samofalov, Member of the Serbian Parliament, Belgrade

Marton Szuhay, Forum Pécs organizer

Aleksandar Velinovski, Forum Skopje organizer

Debate with invited guests

Followed by a reception in Palata Srbije

Saturday, 4 October 2008

10:00 - 12:00

**Concrete benefits of
integrating civil society
and culture into business
strategies**

Moderator: **Michael Zeeman**, Writer and Poet, Rome/Ams-
terdam

Introduction: **Radovan Jelasic**, Governor of the National Bank
of Serbia, Belgrade

Discussion:

Erhard Busek, Special Coordinator of the South East Coope-
ration Initiative

Alberto Cammarata, Head of European and Economic
Section, Delegation of the European Commission to Serbia,
Belgrade

Natasa Milojevic, Director of the production house Ideja,
Belgrade

Milica Pekic, NGO Kiosk, Belgrade

Ibrahim Spahic, Director of the international festival Sarajevs-
ka zima, Sarajevo

Debate with invited guests

12:00 - 14:00

Lunch

PROGRAMME

Saturday, 4 October 2008

14:00 - 16:00

**The role of civil society
in the European integration
process**

Moderator: **Michael Zeeman**, Writer and Poet, Rome /
Amsterdam

Introduction: **Rarita Szakats**, Executive Director, The AltArt
Foundation, Cluj

Discussion:

Dragoslav Dedovic, Director of the Heinrich Böll
Foundation's regional office in Serbia, Belgrade

Joanneke Lootsma, Deputy Director, The Felix Meritis Foun-
dation / Initiator of „The City“, European Center for Culture
and Debate in Belgrade, Amsterdam

Aleksandra Popovic, Project Coordinator, Konrad Adenauer
Foundation, Belgrade

Cveta Spasova, NVO Line Initiative and Movement, Skopje

Jan Truszczyński, Deputy Director General for Enlargement,
European Commission

Debate with invited guests

16:00 - 17:00

**Conclusions of
Forum Belgrade -
The way ahead**

Discussion:

Steve Austen, Permanent Fellow of the Felix Meritis Foundation / „A Soul for Europe“ group of initiators Amsterdam

Simon Mundy, Permanent Fellow of the Felix Meritis Foundation, London

Goran Svilanovic, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade

Dejan Ubovic, Organizer of Forum Belgrade

Michael Zeeman, Writer and Poet, Rome/Amsterdam

19:00 - 21:30

Reception in Klub Svetski Putnika (World Travellers Club)
Bul. Despota Stefana 7/-1

(Close to the Republic square, 50 meters from the top of Skadarlija - the bohemian quarter.)

OBJECTIVES

The second Forum Belgrade is building on the success and the supra-regional influence of the first Forum Belgrade held in March 2007 that visibly strengthened its position and fostered the dialogue between civil society and political decision makers. Forum Belgrade is the laboratory where the concept of the "culture of democracy" - a real interaction and co-operation between citizens, civil society and political decision makers - has been developed.

The Forum in Belgrade serves as a role model for the whole Balkan region and exemplifies the message that such an event organized by local civil society initiatives in cooperation with European partners can bring about stabilizing effects and practical change. It shows that collaboration between civil society and local authorities works and triggers a snowball effect in the region and beyond.

Meanwhile, Forum Belgrade is developing into a permanent initiative and is constituting an international advisory board including political decision-makers and personalities from culture, business and the media from Serbia and Europe. Currently, the members of the board are:

Steve Austen (Permanent Fellow of the Felix Meritis Foundation, Amsterdam), Erhard Busek (SECI, Vienna), Milena Dragicevic Sestic (University of Art, Serbia), Nele Hertling (A Soul for Europe, Berlin), Anna Jankovic (Austrian Cultural Forum, Serbia), Doris Pack (European Parliament, Germany), Goran Svilanovic (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia).

The main objectives of the Forum Belgrade initiative are:

ˆ Develop a dialogue between policy-makers and political authorities and civil society on concrete local, regional and European topics in order to foster and strengthen the “culture of democracy” and to integrate civil society as a partner in the decision-making process.

ˆ Foster corporate social and cultural responsibility by integrating civil society into business strategies.

ˆ Strengthen the social impact of regional civil society initiatives through the integration in a European context.

ˆ Evaluate and set up guidelines to give a realistic picture on the importance of culture as one of the fundamental factors leading to a smooth reconciliation of the region and building good relations with neighbouring countries as well as stabilizing political, economic and social structures.

ˆ This dialogue will increase the interest of young people in European issues, and in turn, the potential of young people can be mobilized and used for Europe.

PANELLISTS

Zoran Alimpic: Councilor of the Assembly of the City of Belgrade since 1996 and Deputy Chairman of the City Board of the Democratic Party. Councillor of the Municipal Assembly of Cukarica from 1992 to 2004 and chairman from 1997 to 2004. Member of the National Assembly of Serbia until 2004. Studied at the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Belgrade.

Steve Austen: Permanent Fellow of the Felix Meritis Foundation, Amsterdam. Cultural entrepreneur; consultant, publicist. Member of the group of initiators of "A Soul for Europe". Active role in cultural life of the Netherlands since 1966. 1982-1988 Director of the Netherlands Theatre Institute. Co-responsible for "Amsterdam Cultural Capital of Europe 1987". Co-founded with Günter Grass the working body "Gulliver". Since 1987, President and Lecturer of the Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University.

Erhard Busek: Chairman of the Institute for Danube Region and Central Europe, Coordinator of the "South-Eastern European Cooperative Initiative", and President of the "European Forum Alpbach". Member of the Board of Trustees of "A Soul for Europe". Rector of Salzburg University of Applied Sciences since 2004. Former positions: Minister for Science, Minister for Education, Vice-Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, and Special Representative of the Austrian Government for the Enlargement of the European Union, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe until June 2008.

Alberto Cammarata: Head of the European Integration and Economic Section of the European Commission Delegation to the Republic of Serbia. In the period 2003-2007, he was political desk officer for Serbia in the European Commission services responsible for Western Balkans (DG RELEX and

subsequently DG Enlargement). Previously, he had been desk officer for Lithuania since 1998.

Ronald J.P.M. van Dartel: Ambassador of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade since 2006. Before, he was appointed as Deputy Head of the Mission of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Berlin and worked in the Ministry of Economic Affairs on different positions in the field of European integration and bilateral relations with European countries as well as in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director European Relations.

Dragoslav Dedovic: Director of the regional office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation for South Eastern Europe in Belgrade since may 2006. After his studies of journalism in Sarajevo he was working as a journalist and writer for several media and was engaged against ethnic nationalism and military violence. After leaving Bosnia and Herzegovina after the beginning of the war, he was studying in Germany. There, he was working as a journalist for Deutsche Welle. He was awarded with several prizes for his journalistic work.

Miljenko Dereta: Co-Founder of the center of civic initiatives, citizens association for democracy and civic education, in Belgrade (1996). The priority of the NGO is to motivate people in local communities to take an active role in the process of change. Lecturer on aspects of civil society and consultant with the EU, CoE, OSCE on political and civil society issues. Initiated the federation of NGOs of Serbia (FENS) in 2003. Before, his political engagement he was active in advertising and marketing as film director and creative director. Graduated at the Academy for film in Belgrade.

PANELLISTS

Milena Dragicevic-Sesic: Head of the UNESCO Chair in Interculturalism and Art Management at the University of Belgrade. Professor of Cultural Policy, Cultural Management, Cultural and Media studies. President of the Cultural Policy Research Award (ECF Amsterdam). Guest lecturer at numerous universities in Europe. Expert in cultural policy for UNESCO, CoE, Pro Helvetia, British Council. Published 14 books and more than 100 essays on arts and culture management.

Helena Drnovsek-Zorko: Ambassador and Head of the Division of the International Cultural Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. Among her other responsibilities, she is responsible for organizing the events concerning the intercultural dialogue in the field of her expertise, which is the crossover of culture and foreign relations. Before her current position she was the Slovenian Ambassador in Ireland. In 2006, she was appointed the ASEF Governor for Slovenia.

Rigels Halili: Alex Nash Fellow in Albanian Studies at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at the University College London and teacher of Albanian culture and language at the School of Eastern Studies at the University of Warsaw. Studied cultural anthropology and Polish philology as well as International Relations at the University of Warsaw. PhD on Orality and literacy. Oral epic poetry among Serbs and Albanians.

Nele Hertling: Spokesperson of the “A Soul for Europe” Initiative since 2003. Degree in German Philology and Theatre. 1963-1988 Research Associate at the Academy of Arts in Berlin (West). Artistic director of “Berlin – European Cultural Capital 1988”. 1989-2003 Director of the Hebbel Theatre in Berlin. Artistic director of the “Theater der Welt” Festival 1999.

2003-2007 Head of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin programme.
Since 2006, Vice-President of the Academy of the Arts.

Radovan Jelasic: Governor of the National Bank of Serbia since 2004. Before, he held the position of Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Yugoslavia/Serbia during which time he was in charge of the development and implementation of the banking sector restructuring, reform of the banking supervision process, negotiations with the IMF, World Bank and EU on programmes related to the financial sector. He began his banking career with the Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, where he worked for four years as a Regional Manager for Central and Eastern Europe.

Jelko Kacin: Member of the European Parliament as a representative of the Liberal Democracy of Slovenia. Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Vice-Chairman of the Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and Substitute Member of the Delegations to the EU – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Delegation for relations with Iran, with the Korean Peninsula and with the countries of South-Eastern Europe.

Sepp Kusstatscher: Member of the European Parliament since 2004. Member of the Delegation to the EU – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee; substitute in the Delegation for relations with the countries of South-Eastern Europe; Member of the committee on transport and tourism. Engaged in enhancing cooperation between different ethnic groups and developing participatory civil society in order to improve political stability. Studied Theology, Philosophy and Education.

PANELLISTS

Joanneke Lootsma: Joanneke Lootsma is Deputy Director International Programmes of Felix Meritis, European Centre for Arts, Culture and Science in Amsterdam; Director of The Amsterdam - Maastricht Summer University; Project leader of Kuhnya, Centre for Independent Thinking in Novosibirsk as well as Project leader of The City, Centre for Culture & Debate in Belgrade.

Miklos Marschall: Europe & Central Asia Regional Director of Transparency International, a global NGO fighting against corruption. Between 1994 and 1998, he was the founding CEO of CIVICUS: a global network of NGOs and foundations to promote civil society. 1991 to 1994, he served as deputy mayor of Budapest, Hungary responsible for culture and education. He serves on the boards of several international and Hungarian NGOs: He is the chair of the Hungarian Nonprofit Information and Training Center (NIOK) and an Advisory Council member of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), furthermore, he is on the board of GuideStar International as well as the chair of the Board of the Budapest Festival Orchestra.

Adam Michnik: Editor-in-chief of Gazeta Wyborcza, the biggest daily newspaper in Poland. Historian, co-founder of KOR (Committee for the Defense of Workers) 1976, detained many times during 1965-1980, a prominent „Solidarity“ activist during the ,80ties, spent a total of six years in Polish prisons for activities opposing the communist regime, member of the Round Table Talks 1989, member of the first non-communist parliament 1989-1991. Laureat of many prizes and titles, among them the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, The Erasmus Prize, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.

Natasa Milojevic: Co-owner and project manager at the company IDEJA, film producer and author and co-author of many political campaigns. Member of the Serbian Parliament (Democratic Opposition of Serbia - Social Democratic Party) from 2001 until 2005. President of the Parliamentary group and member of the Committee on Culture and International Economic Relations. From 1987 until 1993 she was deputy director and editor in chief of Belgrade Youth Cultural Centre.

Jelica Minic: Head of the RCC Expert Pool, also acting as the RCC Secretary General Deputy, from June 2008. She has more than 30 years of experience in the research and policy making in the European integration affairs and regional cooperation gained by developing and managing projects of national and international significance. She started her career in the Internal politics department, of TV Belgrade, and continued in the Institute for International Politics and Economy, Centre for Strategic Studies as Chief of Economic Department. She was first Vice-President, then Secretary-General and Senior Adviser of the European Movement in Serbia, Science Adviser at the Institute of Economic Sciences, and Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia.

Simon Mundy: Senior Associate Fellow in the Conflict, Security and Development Group at King's College London. Permanent Fellow at Felix Meritis, Amsterdam. He has worked as an adviser for the Council of Europe and many other international organisations on cultural policy. He is also a poet and novelist, and was the founding President of the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage.

PANELLISTS

Milica Pekic: Cofounder of NGO KIOSK - platform for contemporary art. KIOSK aim is to initiate and create exhibitions, publications and research projects that generate understanding about social problems, the theory and practice of contemporary art, and the role of art in mainstream culture. From 2004-07 she worked as project coordinator and curator in O3ONE gallery in Belgrade managing and curating exhibitions and lectures with local and international artists. Publishes articles, papers and essays in numerous magazines, publications and catalogs.

Aleksandra Popovic: Working as project coordinator at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation since 2001. Before, she worked at the Representative Office of Robert Bosch Ltd, at the Goethe Institute in Belgrade as well as interpreter. She studied Slavic Languages and Literature and Linguistics at the Philipps-University in Marburg, Germany. Member of the South East Europe Association.

Branka Prpa: Head of the Historical Archive of Belgrade. Before, she was a cultural editor of the news magazine "European" and worked in the Institute for Recent History of Serbia. Research on history of ideas in Yugoslavia and Serbian intellectuals. Hold a PhD in History from the University of Belgrade.

Konstantin Samofalov: He is a graduated lawyer and Member of the Serbian Parliament. He is also member of the Committee on Defence and Security, Legislative Committee and member of the Serbian Parliament delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He was a President of Belgrade Democratic Youth as well as its spokesman and is a member of the Democratic Party since June 2000. From 2004 to 2008 he was a member of the Belgrade City Council.

Ibrahim Spahic: President of the International Sarajevo Winter Festival and president of the International Peace Center. Active in politics as Parliament Member in the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia & Herzegovina (1998-2000) as well as in the House of Peoples (2000-02). Initiator and author of many laws and resolutions on peace-keeping, minority rights, and social and economic policy that were adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of B&H. Author of numerous articles about foreign policy and human rights, culture and art.

Cveta Spasova: She is the founder of the NGO Line initiative and movement where she currently works as cultural manager. Previously, she has worked on a variety of cultural projects in Macedonia and in the region. BA in art history and archaeology, and continues with academic upgrade on a master course for Cultural management and cultural politics at the Balkans at the University of Arts in Belgrade. Her academic interests are focussed on the regional cultural cooperation of the Western Balkans.

Goran Svilanovic: Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro (2000-04), 2004-07 Chair of the Working Table on Human Rights and Democracy with the Stability Pact for South East Europe, from 2004-06 Member of the Parliament of Serbia, 1999-2004 President of the Civic Alliance of Serbia. Currently working at the Belgrade center for human rights.

Rarita Szakáts: Executive Director of the AltArt Foundation in Cluj, Romania. Graduated from the University of Arts and Design in Cluj and holds a degree in journalism from Babes Bolyai University Cluj. 1997-2006 worked for AltArt Foundation,

PANELLISTS

Ethnocultural Diversity Resource Center and Soros Foundation for an Open Society Romania. Works as arts manager and consultant. Member of Team Europe Romania. Has coordinated the cultural strategy of the city of Cluj.

Marton Szuhay: Forum Pécs organizer and project coordinator with Mediator.

Farid Tabarki: Researcher; writer; presenter and entrepreneur. The last couple of years Farid worked as editor-in-chief and researcher for Coolpolitics, the Open Society Institute and the University of Amsterdam. In 2006 and 2007 he presented MTV Coolpolitics which was broadcasted LIVE on MTV Netherlands. As the founder and director of Coolpolitics Research he is currently launching the project: „in search of: THE HEART AND MIND OF EUROPE'S TWENTYSOMETHINGS”.

Jan Truszczyński: Deputy director-general for DG Enlargement in the European Commission since January 2007. Before, he was deputy head of the Polish Mission to the EC (1989-1993) in Brussels, then Poland's ambassador to the European Union (1996-2001). From October 2001, he led the Polish accession negotiations as deputy minister of Foreign Affairs and stayed on in the Foreign Ministry with the overall responsibility for foreign policy, institutional and economic aspects of Poland's EU membership. Having left the government at the end of October 2005, he joined the Warsaw-based Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation as its executive director.

Dejan Ubovic: Journalist and cultural manager. Director of the NGO Cultural Front. Initiator and organizer of the Forum Belgrade – “A Soul for Europe”. Founder of the Balkan-based „Cross Radio Network” - weekly radio programme in 14

cities; Festival Refract with parallel programme in seven Serbian cities; initiator of the first Regional Music Information Center Cross MIC. Studied anthropology and project management in Belgrade.

Aleksandar Velinovski: One of the organizers of Forum Skopje 2008. Since 2003 he has founded the Foundation Cultural Aid in Utrecht, the Netherlands. His working activities are focused on cultural exchange between the Balkan countries and the Netherlands. From 2007 he has become a director of the private initiative Promo CENTER - Public Room in Skopje. Public room is a business oriented none profit organization operating in the cultural sector.

Michael Zeeman: Working as an independent writer and journalist in Rome, Italy. He is a published poet and essayist in the Netherlands, writing nowadays mainly on European literature and the performing arts, and the rise of culture as a predominant theme in discussions on European integration. His weekly columns, reviews and essays are published in de Volkskrant (Amsterdam) and some other European newspapers.

ORGANIZERS



Kulturni Front Beograd.

Kulturni Front /The Cultural Front has been founded in December 2000 as an independent organization. The Cultural Front (CF) develops artistic and cultural programs, exchanges and co-production on regional and European level, introducing different civil society organizations, artists, art managers from abroad to the cultural scene in Belgrade and Serbia. In order to extend its reach in Serbia, the CF has opened branch-offices in Zrenjanin and Prijepolje in beginning of 2003 developing cooperation between local organizations. Since 2002, the CF established a long run co-operation with organisations from the Nordic countries and founded "The Top of Europe" held on a yearly base; CF initiated "The Others", a documentary film festival in Belgrade; CF produces theatre performances (The Hats Theatre), radio programs (Cross Radio, a network of 14 radios / cities from 6 countries, broadcasting weekly from 2000); Refract festival (Regional festival of alternative culture, parallel in 5 Serbian cities, on yearly base); art programs in the Belgrade central prison (on an yearly basis, including the public exhibition of prisoners); Forum Belgrade as a process of constructive development of different parts of the society. In 2008, CF set up „The City“, a European Center for Culture and Debate in Belgrade in cooperation with the Felix Meritis Foundation Amsterdam and supported by the MATRA programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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The European Public Space in Amsterdam

For over two hundred years the Felix Meritis Foundation has been a symbol of debate and cultural engagement. It is a place for inspiration, contemporary expression and education. It is a necessary public space for Europe that connects the worlds of creativity, politics, intellectual debate, politics and business. It focuses on linking (young) people from throughout Europe and engaging them with the finest minds in European life.

As European Centre for Arts, Culture and Science, Felix Meritis is a permanent home for education, the humanities and European networks. It hosts many organisations and projects in the forefront of making Europe's civil society a reality. The Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University has become one of the finest institutions for extending the knowledge of young professionals (www.amsu.edu). Gulliver Connect is an international work placement programme which matches the demand of cultural institutions for imaginative young professionals with some of the brightest emerging talent. (www.gulliverconnect.org). Dare2Connect, a programme developed in co-operation with SICA (Service Centre for International Cultural Activities) bringing the best practices of international cultural policy practice to the public. (www.dare2connect.nl). The People Network, a project mapping the personal stories of contemporary citizens in Europe for the purpose of developing various transnational activities. Forum Amsterdam, which brings together business, creative industry, politicians from the Netherlands and young opinion formers from Europe, to discuss the most challenging issues of contemporary society. The next edition will take place in December 2008.

Felix Meritis co-produces numerous Forums across Europe (e.g.: Amsterdam, Skopje, Porto, Pécs, Tbilisi, Belgrade and Lyon)

ORGANIZERS

and various projects abroad such as: Kuhnya, the first independent, public centre for international cooperation, expertise and discussion in Novosibirsk, Siberia (www.kuhnya.nsk.ru); The City, European Centre for Debate and Culture, soon to be opened in Belgrade.

Under its motto: "Connecting Cultures" Felix Meritis strives to be the creative accelerator for Europe.

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The civil-society project „A Soul for Europe“ aims at using the power of culture to impact the development of Europe and EU policies. For the initiative, this involves taking advantage of culture in the interest of better social and political development in Europe by permeating the non-cultural sectors of politics and society with culture - from foreign policy to economics to social affairs. Impact is sought across all political levels, from the level of communities and regions, to national and European level.

To this aim the initiative „A Soul for Europe“ is building an international network in the world of culture, business and politics. „A Soul for Europe“ developed a new and, at the same time, very effective form of engagement of these sectors that brings together committed citizens of Europe as well as policy makers primarily at the parliamentary level to the service of bringing about European unification.

A Steering Committee, which is chaired by the President of the European Parliament, Prof. Hans-Gert Pöttering, and includes the EU Commissioner for Culture, Ján Figel , as well as influential members of the European Parliament, provides the link to the European institutions together with a newly established Intergroup in the European Parliament. The Intergroup „A Soul for Europe - for a new European agenda for culture“ has the mission to actively integrate culture into parliamentary work as an essential element of the European project.

The initiative has also entered into alliances and cooperative agreements with more than 100 civil-society partners in all of the member states and accession countries.

The Forum X is just one of the projects developed by the initiative to influence realities in Europe to the concrete invol-

ORGANIZERS

vement of European citizens and decision makers in debating Europe. The next Forum will take place in Lyon on 10-11 October 2008 in cooperation with Image Aiguë Compagnie Christiane Véricel.

On 14-15 November 2008 the third Berlin Conference - „A Soul for Europe“ will bring together high-ranking European politicians and business people as well as representatives of the world of culture and the arts to debate the idea of giving the external economic and political framework a cultural core that is rooted in Europe's civil society. As in 2004 and 2006, EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso will be among the active participants in the conference along with the President of the European Parliament Hans-Gert Pöttering, EU Commissioner Ján Figel' and Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag.

To further its impact the initiative „A Soul for Europe“ will undergo internal restructuring as of 2009 involving decentralisation and extension across Europe. This is accompanied by a process of rejuvenation that enables young people rooted in the European civil society to take responsibility for the initiative and its goals.

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Association of Multimedia Artists AUROPOLIS is a non government and non profit association with the aims of presenting the interests of its members, supporting independent culture and promoting progressive multimedia concept to wider public.

Production and organization of projects in the fields of

- performing arts
- visual arts and visual communications
- applied arts
- integration of art and science
- conceptual arts
- poetry
- research
- cultural politics
- networking and communication development between international multimedia centres/organisations
- educational programs/workshops.

Website:

www.auropolis.org

PARTNERS



City of Belgrade,
Secretariat for culture



Ministry of Culture,
Republic of Serbia



The Balkan Trust for
Democracy



Royal Netherlands
Embassy, Belgrade



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,
Belgrade



Goethe Institut, Belgrade

HOTELS

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VENUE

SIV Building
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Reception on Saturday, 4 October:
Klub Svetskih Putnika / World Travellers Club
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TEAM

Ivana Djokic-Saunderson, Project Manager
Forum Belgrade - „A Soul for Europe“, Belgrade

Luise Heidenreich, Project Manager
Forum Belgrade - „A Soul for Europe“, Berlin

Branko Komatina, Project Manager
Forum Belgrade - „A Soul for Europe“, Belgrade

Ruggero Lala, International Programme Officer
The Felix Meritis Foundation, Amsterdam

Sven Neumann, Senior Project Manager
A Soul for Europe, Berlin

Manja Ristic, President
Auropolis - Association of Multimedia Artists, Belgrade

Dejan Ubovic, President of Cultural Front and Coordinator
of Forum Belgrade - „A Soul for Europe“, Belgrade

CONTACT

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