



Dear Colleagues,

At the beginning of October, EUNIC Brussels has submitted an application for the call for proposals of the European Parliament in order to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European Parliamentary Assembly and the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008. EUNIC Brussels has developed a Project idea which envisages the organisation of both national conferences in eight different European countries and a final conference with participants from the eight national debates. EUNIC Brussels, EUNIC Dublin, EUNIC Stockholm as well as the British Council Belfast, the Danish Cultural Institute, the Irish Cultural Institute, the Pierre Werner Institute in Luxemburg, the Adult Education Institute in Denmark and the Greek Parliament Foundation Athens participate in the project.

EUNIC Amsterdam has submitted the application for the "European Prize for Literature 2008" call recently and we are hopeful that we will receive a positive response from the European Commission in early 2008. The Goethe Institute, the British Council, the Danish Cultural Centre, the Czech Centres, the Instituto Camões, the Polish Foreign Ministry, the French Foreign Ministry, the Austrian Cultural Forum, the Italian Cultural Centre, the organisation of the "Amsterdam Weltbuchstadt" and SICA will support the project. In this respect, I would like to sincerely thank all EUNIC heads who participate in the project for their generous contributions. The broad and positive response shows that our network has already become an important tool in terms of cultural cooperation beyond national borders.

Invitations for the EUNIC Presidency Team and Cluster Heads Meeting on 2 until 3 December 2007 in Belgrade have been sent to heads of existing and future clusters. Items to be discussed will amongst others include the objectives of EUNIC cluster work, the development of EUNIC clusters, the EUNIC Standard Charter and project proposals. In this context, I am delighted that at the moment almost every day a new EUNIC cluster is being formed (cf Zagreb, Budapest, Copenhagen, Stockholm).

On EUNIC heads level, the CGRI, the French Community of Belgium, has again expressed strong interest in EUNIC and has joined EUNIC officially, which I highly appreciate.

Due to the proposal of representatives of the People's Republic of China to postpone the "EU-China Culture dialogue", supposed to take place in connection with the EU China Summit on 28 November 2007, the above mentioned "EU China Culture Dialogue" has been postponed to the second half of March 2008 in order not to endanger the substance of the meeting which is supposed to be the start of a long-term cultural cooperation process.

The recent Conference on the Northern Dimension and Culture on 8 and 9 October 2007 in Kajaani, Finland, offered the possibility to present the aim and the working structure of EUNIC, which was accepted with great interest by the audience.

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At the informal Meeting of General Directors for Culture (Foreign Ministries) on 10 until 12 October 2007 in Sintra/Portugal EUNIC activities in the priority areas of “intercultural dialogue”, “multilingualism” and “cooperation in third countries” were welcomed. Slovene preparations for a conference during their EU-presidency on “A cultural agenda in European Foreign Policy” (13 until 14 May 2008) should be supported by EUNIC. I hope to be able to provide information on the programme and envisaged participation of EUNIC before the end of 2007.

Finally I would like to recommend to all colleagues that our organisations consider common projects for the upcoming 40-years anniversary of 1968 (Paris AND Prague events of 68) as both the students’ movement in Western Europe and “Prague Spring 1968” were cultural phenomena with a European dimension.

Yours sincerely,



Ambassador Emil Brix
Director General for Foreign Cultural Politics
Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs