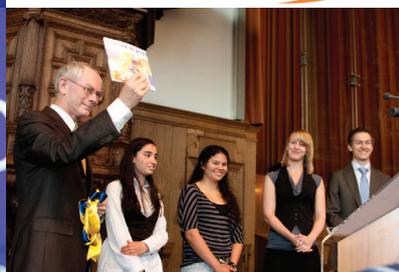




The 2011 International Conference on Cultural Diplomacy in the EU

*"Crisis, Conflict, and Culture: The Role of Cultural Diplomacy
in the European Project"*

(Brussels, International Conference, December 6th - 9th, 2011)





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“Crisis, Conflict, and Culture: The Role of Cultural Diplomacy in the European Project”

Event Introduction

The EU & Cultural Diplomacy Conference is the first of a series of three conferences dedicated to enhancing awareness and understanding of international governing institutions and their role in promoting cultural diplomacy across the world. The conference, focused on the European Union, is an international conference organized by the ICD and other leading organizations in the home base of the EU—Brussels, Belgium.

The goal of this year’s conference is to facilitate exploration of the unique challenges currently facing Europe from the debt crisis, to crippling military engagements to the debate over increased political and economic union—funneled through a thorough understanding of the historical and theoretical foundations of the “European Project.”

Conference Participants

The conference is open to applications from governmental and diplomatic officials, civil society practitioners, young professionals, students and scholars, private sector representatives, journalists, and other interested stakeholders from across the world.

Certificate of Attendance

All participants will be awarded an official certificate of attendance upon completion of the program, which provides details about the speakers and topics at the conference. Each certificate will be signed by members of the ICD’s Advisory Board.

Conference Locations

Based primarily in Brussels, the conference will be hosted at a number of important political, historic, and cultural locations across the city.

Conference Speakers

Speakers during the conference will include leading figures and experts from civil society, international politics, academia, diplomacy, and the private sector from around the world. These speakers will include a number of individuals from the ICD Advisory Board.

Participant Papers

The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy encourages research and progressive thought on the fields of cul-



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ture, globalization and international relations, and welcomes conference participants to submit relevant papers addressing topics within these fields particular to their interests and passions. Participants can submit papers written in the past for other purposes or ongoing research, or written specifically for the conference. Groups of students are also allowed to submit collaborative pieces of work.

Conference Agenda

The “European project” has experienced various incarnations since the Second World War and—despite the proliferation of sovereign debt crises in Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Italy—remains a unique and unparalleled political experiment with important lessons to impart to the rest of the world. However, the challenges this relatively inchoate union faces are significant and, with the stability of the single currency in peril, the political and economic future of Europe is hazy.

Germany and France have publicly maintained their commitment to the stability of the Euro, but there is no guarantee that ever more drastic steps won’t be necessary to save the dream of a United Europe. While economic policies are at the top of everyone’s radar screens, increasingly divergent views on military engagement and on the very nature of supranational governance also threaten to divide the Union. A greater reliance on a new, culture-based brand of diplomacy is in no way a panacea, but will certainly go a long way toward furthering Europeans’ understandings of one another and, in turn, resolving critical challenges productively and peacefully.

The following issues will be mentioned and explored:

Historical Foundations of European Unity and the Role of Cultural Diplomacy

Exploring the history of the European Union is the first and arguably the most essential step toward understanding the current state of the EU and the role of culture within it. The end of the Second World War, the rebuilding of the continent, the fall of the Soviet Union, the reunification of Germany and the demise of Communism as a legitimate form of human political organization have all informed the revolutionary “European project,” whose latest incarnation was cemented in the 2009 Lisbon Treaty. Steadily increasing European integration over the past 65 years has underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy as a crucial tool for intra-EU relations and for weathering the unique crises that now threaten to jeopardize European unity. The first day of the conference will facilitate exploration of the following issues:

- **The Postwar Geopolitical Landscape, 1950-1990**
(Focus: History of the EU; integration as a response to World War II; cosmopolitan political theory; East-West ideological battles; European unity; inter-cultural dialogue)
- **The History of Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: New Solutions to Recurring Problems**
(Focus: Inter-cultural dialogue; soft power; European integration; conflict management)
- **East Meets West: Reunification, Integration and Full Union**
(Focus: The collapse of Communism and the fall of the Soviet Union; Eastern states’ transition to liberal democracy; Maastricht treaty; the single currency; inter-cultural dialogue; the “German question”)



Youth on the Move

An initiative of the European Union



The 2011 International Conference on Cultural Diplomacy in the EU (Brussels, International Conference, December 6th - 9th, 2011)

- **The East-West Imbalance: Current Disparities and Challenges**

(Focus: Disparities in wealth, income and employment rates from East to West; Eastern states' integration into the EU; EU enlargement; the single currency; inter-cultural dialogue)

- **Why Lisbon? Costs and Benefits to the 2009 Lisbon Treaty**

(Focus: Federalization of Europe; European democracy; inter-cultural relations; European unity; the future of federalization)

- **Europe Represented: Literature**

(A European writer will showcase his/her work and explain how his/her writing elucidates European culture; he/she will discuss why literature remains a powerful tool for cultural diplomacy and exporting European history/culture across international borders)

European Economic Challenges and Collective Solutions

The European debt crisis, compounded by the lingering effects of the 2008 global financial meltdown, has ushered in an age of austerity and underscored the need for harmonized, Union-wide economic policies to ensure the stability of the single currency. Yet the conditional nature of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) has caused a rift between European nations like Greece and Portugal—that understandably balk at relinquishing the right to increase government spending to tackle social problems—and Germany and France, that believe an unconditional rescue is unfair both to the recipients and the benefactors. The conference will address the origins of the current crisis and debate the efficacy of collective solutions—from the EFSF to the introduction of Eurobonds to constitutionalized austerity measures—in a frank and open forum based on honest exchange of views and expertise.

- **Euro Stabilization: Prospects and Possibilities**

(Focus: The single currency; introduction of national austerity measures; Eurobonds; financial responsibility; inter-cultural dialogue)

- **Burdens of the Euro Zone: Germany/France Versus the PIIGS?**

(Focus: National identity; austerity; inter-cultural dialogue; balance of power in the EU; economic strengths and weaknesses of Germany, France, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain)

- **Origins of the Euro Crisis: The Role of Culture**

(Focus: Enlargement of the EU; economic power; corruption; cultural disparities; inter-cultural relations; the European Central Bank; under-reliance on domestic industry and production)

- **An Ounce of Prevention: How Increased Diplomacy Can Stave off Future Crises**

(Focus: National and regional financial policies; European Central Bank policy; economic harmonization; balanced-budget amendments to national Constitutions; inter-cultural relations; integration)

- **Europe Represented: Art**

(A European artist/photographer will showcase his/her work and explain how his/her portfolio elucidates European culture; he/she will discuss why art/photography remains a powerful tool for cultural diplomacy and exporting European history/culture across international borders.)



The 2011 International Conference on Cultural Diplomacy in the EU (Brussels, International Conference, December 6th - 9th, 2011)

Conflict Management and Resolution—the European Way

Even in highly-developed societies and fully-functioning states, conflict is inescapable. Properly and fairly managed, it may lead to positive outcomes for all parties involved—but if mismanaged or ignored, it can easily develop into an out-of-control situation with destructive consequences. Since a conflict emerges when two or more parties' values are of different character, conference speakers and participants will discuss the role of cultural diplomacy in staving off traditional conflicts and resolving extant disputes; diverging European viewpoints on military engagement, particularly in the current wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya; and what preventative actions can and should be taken to promote a sense of shared European identity, mitigating unnecessary internecine battles.

- **Culture/Wars: How a “New” Form of Diplomacy Can Prevent Traditional Conflicts**
(Focus: Cultural diplomacy; military engagement; European capital of culture; conflict resolution)
- **Military Engagement: Divergent Views**
(Focus: Military engagement; humanitarian intervention; NATO; German foreign policy; conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya; US foreign policy; realism versus idealism)
- **Armies of “Soft Power”: Promoting A European Brand of Public Service**
(Focus: European youth; youth engagement; public service; a “European Peace Corps”)
- **Europe Represented: Music**
(Focus: A European musician will showcase his/her work and explain how his/her music elucidates European culture; he/she will discuss why music remains a powerful tool for cultural diplomacy and exporting European history/culture across international borders.)

Intra-EU Governance: Convergence of National versus Supranational Interests

The fourth and final day of the conference will focus on the debate that has galvanized European policymaking since the Union's earliest inception: How should the EU balance national interests with harmonized, “European” policy goals and objectives? This constant push-pull between subsidiarity—the founding political principle of the EU—versus the prospect of increased federalization (the Habermasian dream of a United States of Europe) has affected intra-European relations and hindered further integration. In order to shed light on current, culturally-rife debates over integration, speakers and participants will explore the rise of radical right-wing parties throughout Europe (discussing how these movements might use culture to unite Europeans rather than divide them); the Schengen area treaty that facilitates free movement throughout the EU; the political principles undergirding the EU in its current form; and the unmistakable cultural differences in theories of governance—how, for example, can the centralized and federalized structural traditions of France and Germany, respectively, be reconciled? The ICD will also present a potent example of the “European story”—one citizen's personal account of what it means to be European and how education, travel and employment can facilitate a true cultural dialogue.

- **The Rise of Right-Wing Movements: Effects on Integration**
(Focus: Right-wing politics; nationalism and nationalistic movements; European integration)



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- **Migration as Cultural Diplomacy**

(Focus: The Schengen treaty; integration of immigrants into Western European societies; freedom of movement)

- **Maintaining Subsidiarity: National Interests in the Face of Supranational Governance**

(Focus: National interests; European integration; balance of interests; principles of subsidiarity; federalization of Europe; French versus German traditions)

- **The Future of the EU: 20, 50, 75 Years On**

(Focus: Integration; Europe as an international actor; economic prognosis; balance of interests; intercultural/interreligious dialogue)

- **Europe Represented: Who We Are**

(A European citizen with a particularly interesting back story/career/point of view will share his/her concepts on what it means to be a European and the value of inter-cultural dialogue and understanding within Europe.)



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