



icd

institute for cultural diplomacy

The Washington D.C. Summit on Cross Continental Cooperation 2013

*„Future Prospects in International and Intercultural Relations
to Enhancing Cross & Trans Continental Cooperation“*
(Washington D.C., November 4th – 7th, 2013)





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(Berlin; September 25th - 27th, 2013)

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Introduction



The second event of the Cross Continental Cooperation Summit 2013, the Washington D.C Conference convened on November 4th. Lasting for three day the event was hosted across three venues; the National Public Radio headquarters, the Goethe Institut, and the Italian embassy. Following on from the Berlin Inaugural Event held in September of this year, the Washington D.C event is one of several conferences arranged globally this year bringing together politicians, experts and academics to debate upon the topic, “Future Prospects in International and Intercultural Relations: Building Bridges between Europe, USA, Russia and China”. The Conference provided a platform to explore the possibilities for the development of stronger relationships between Europe, Russia, China, and the USA. The main aim of this platform being to examine the potential advances in global stability, sustainable development, economy, and human rights that Cross Continental Cooperation can offer.

Given the multitude of ongoing disagreements between East and West across the entire geopolitical spectrum, most recently the continuing civil war in Syria, the strengthening of sustainable dialogue and collaboration is a difficult yet valuable goal. The facilitation of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the major global players in the Eastern and Western hemispheres promises to deliver more comprehensive solutions to contemporary economic, political and social issues.

Accordingly the ICD has assembled leading figures in Washington D.C for the Conference with the objective of contributing to a progressive global agenda, highlighting opportunities for cooperation between Europe, Russia, China, and the USA. In exploring these opportunities the Conference had an added focus on the role of cross continental cooperation in Human Rights and Youth prospects.

“Future Prospects in International and
Intercultural Relations to Enhancing Cross &
Trans Continental Cooperation”

President Franco Frattini

(Washington D.C.; November 4th, 2013)



Group Photo with Speakers and Participants during “The Washington D.C. Summit on Cross Continental Cooperation 2013”
(Washington D.C.; November 4th - 7th, 2013)



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Agenda

The Washington D.C. Summit on Cross-Continental Cooperation set out to provide a platform to explore how intercultural dialogue and cultural exchange can be utilized effectively in order to achieve a successful cross-continental coalition. On the agenda were the future prospects of international and intercultural relations and the development of stronger relationships between Europe, Russia, China and the USA.

In particular the following issues were examined and explored in the Summit:

- The Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights
- The UN Security Council and International Law
- The Middle East Conflicts
- International Trade & Global Economic Prosperity
- Intercultural Relations as a Vehicle to Strengthen International Relations



Conference Timetable

Monday, November 4th, 2013 - NPR Headquarters

10.00 “Opportunities for International and Intercultural Relations to Enhance Cross & Trans Continental Cooperation”
H. E. Amb. Elena Poptodorova
 (ICD Advisory Board Member;
 Ambassador of Bulgaria to the United States)

Prof. Dr. Getachew Metaferia
 (Professor of Political Science, Morgan State University)

16.00 Tea, Coffee & Refreshments

11.00 Guided Tour at NPR Headquarters
Kingsley Smith
 (Director, International Programs,
 National Public Radio (NPR))

16.30 “A World of Institutions: Assessing Our Progress”
Prof. Dr. James Stocker
 (Visiting Assistant Professor of
 International Affairs, Trinity Washington University)

12.00 “The UN Security Council and International Law”
H. E. Amb. Elin Suleymanov
 (Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States)

17.00 “Toward a Union of Democracies”
Dick Henry
 (President, The Streit Council)

13.00 Lunch Break

14.30 “Shared Freedom-Space and Shared Responsibility”
Imam Talib Shareef
 (President & Imam, the Mosque Masjid Muhammad, Inc)

17.30 “Future Prospects in International and Intercultural Relations to Enhancing Cross & Trans Continental Cooperation”
The Hon. Franco Frattini
 (Former Foreign Minister of Italy)

15.00 “US-Pakistan-Afghanistan exchange”
Dr. Tom Palmer
 (Executive Vice President
 for International Program at
 AtlasNetwork; Senior Fellow at
 Cato Institute)

15.30 “Cross-Continental Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities”

19.00 “Opening Formal Networking Reception of the Conference”
Reception at the Embassy of Bulgaria to the United States



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Conference Timetable

Tuesday; November 5th, 2013 - Goethe Institute

10.00 “Transatlantic Relations: Challenges and Opportunities in a New Reality”
H.E. Amb. Dr. Božo Cerar
(Ambassador of Slovenia to the United States)

10:45 “Lithuania’s EU Presidency - Achievements and Remaining Challenges for Strengthening Inter-Continental and Cross Continental Cooperation”
Rolandas Kačinskas
(Minister Plenipotentiary, the Embassy of Lithuania to the United States)

11.30 Coffee Break

12.00 “Bridge Building on a Continental Level: Islam, Immigration, and Empire in Europe”
Amb. Akbar Ahmed
(Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies & Professor, School of International Service, American University; Former Pakistan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Ireland)

12.45 “So Close Yet so Far: the Need for Cultural Diplomacy with Western Europe”
Dr. Kenneth R. Weinstein
(President and Chief Executive Officer of Hudson Institute)

13.30 Lunch Break

14.30 “Spying Among Friends: Implications for Trans-Continental Cooperation”
Prof. Dr. Dorle Hellmuth
(Assistant Professor of Politics, the Catholic University of America)

15.00 “Organizational Responsibility for Ethical Behavior: How a Learning Organization Instills Ethical Culture”
Dr. Beatrice Barbara Boerner
(Educator ; Head of the Business & Organizational Leadership Program at Brevard College)

15.30 “Transatlantic Cultural Diplomacy: Theory and Practice”
Jaroslav Zajicek
(Chargé d’Affairs, Embassy of the Czech Republic to the United States)

16.00 Tea, Coffee & Refreshments

16.30 “Personal Relationships: the Key to Strengthening International Relations”
Mark Hyatt
(President, Character Education Partnership)

17.00 “Is International Relations in Danger of Being Eclipsed by Conflict Resolution? The Case for Cooperation to Address Transnational Challenges in an Interconnected World”
Prof. Dr. Ivan Sascha Sheehan
(Graduate Program Director and Assistant Professor, Negotiation and Conflict Management Program, Global Affairs and Human Security Program, School of Public and International Affairs, College of Public Affairs, University of Baltimore)

19.00 Group Dinner

Conference Timetable

Wednesday; November 6th, 2013 - Embassy of Italy to the United States

10.00 Welcome Address
H. E. Amb. Claudio Bisogniero
(Ambassador of Italy to the United States)

10:30 “Rock & Roll Diplomacy to Enhance Cross Continental Cooperation”
Amb. Andras Simonyi
(Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University; Former Ambassador of Hungary to the USA)

11.30 Coffee Break

12.00 “China, India, and the United States: Dynamics of Power and Security in the 21st Century”
Prof. Dr. Charles F. Doran
(Andrew W. Mellon Professor of International Relations; Director of the Global Theory and History Program; Director of the Center for Canadian Studies, The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced and International Studies, Johns Hopkins University)

12.45 “A Limping Giant And The Liberian Crisis – Is Nigeria Her Brother’s Keeper Or A Regional Influential?” (participant paper)
Olusimbo Olorunfemi
(PhD researcher in Political Science; Director of Media and Public Relations for the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria)

13.15 Lunch Break

14.30 “Future Prospects for Cultural Diplomacy to Enhance Cross & Trans Continental Cooperation”
Amb. Prof. Dr. Cynthia P. Schneider

(Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy, Georgetown University; ICD Advisory Board Member; Former U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands)

15.00 “How the Common Roots of the Abrahamic Tradition May be used to Promote Human Rights”
Prof. Dr. Juliana Geran Pilon
(Professor of Politics and Culture and Director of the Center for Culture and Security at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C.)

15.30 “Our Shared Humanity: The Moral and Cultural Preconditions of Cordial Relations”
Prof. Dr. Claes G. Ryn
(Professor of Politics, the Catholic University of America)

16.00 Tea, Coffee & Refreshments

16.30 “Cultural Diplomacy and Youth Entrepreneurship in Africa to Strengthening Cross Continental Cooperation”
H.E. Dr. Tebelelo Mazile Seretse
(Ambassador of Botswana to the United States)

17.00 “Women in Diplomacy”
Dr. Marilyn Sephogle
(Founder and President, The Women Ambassadors Foundation)

17.30 Farewell Address



Mark Donfried with President Franco Frattini, President of the OYED, Former Foreign Minister of Italy; Senator John McCain, US Senator for Arizona; and H. E. Amb. Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador of Italy to the US at the US Congress (Washington D.C.; November 5th, 2013)



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Conference Summary

Day 1 - National Public Radio Headquarters (Washington D.C.; November 4th, 2013)



Guided Tour at NPR Headquarters by Kingsley Smith, Director of International Programs, at National Public Radio (NPR)

The Conference commenced at the national Headquarters of NPR, promising to set the tone of entire three day event with a diverse range of speakers and topics all under the aegis of “Future Prospects in International and Intercultural Relations to Enhancing Cross & Trans-Continental Cooperation”. NPR, formerly National Public Radio is a privately and publicly funded non-profit membership media organization that serves as a national syndicator to a network of 900 public radio stations in the United States distributing news and cultural programming.

Lectures from Ambassadors H.E Suleymanov of Azerbaijan

and H.E Poptodorova of Bulgaria represented participation from the Washington D.C diplomatic community whilst president and imam of the Mosque Masjid Muhammad importantly raised the issue of faith, multiculturalism and the role of Cultural Diplomacy in an afternoon session. Meanwhile, talks and discussions from Prof. James Stocker and Prof. Getachew Metaferia, of Morgan State and Trinity Washington University respectively, ensured participation from the local academic community. The day ended with an engaging lecture and discussion session exploring the broader themes of the Conference from H.E Franco Frattini, former Foreign Minister of Italy.

“Opportunities for International and Intercultural Relations to Enhance Cross & Trans-Continental Cooperation”

H.E. Amb. Elena Poptodorova, ICD Advisory Board Member; Ambassador of Bulgaria to the USA

H.E Poptodorova, ICD Advisory Board Member and Ambassador of Bulgaria to the USA delivered the keynote speech as the conference opened its first day at the Headquarters of National Public Radio. In a speech outlining the salient issues of the Conference, Ambassador Poptodorova talked on the effects of Globalization and the increasing importance of Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy before raising the contemporary struggles occurring in South-Eastern Europe and Syria. Ms. Poptodorova closed the address by highlighting the significance of supra-nationalism, and the need to turn to education in improving cross continental cooperation in the future.

“Globalization” stated the Ambassador “is a trend and integral part of society that is only going to become greater”. She went on to point out that the increasing internationalization of problems, problems such as the deterioration of the environment, unstable political regions, cyber warfare, terrorism, and energy security, all contribute to interdependent and global threats to all states. As these issues loom large in Europe and around the world, Ms. Poptodorova argued that “the need to enhance cooperation and deepen understanding among peoples and cultures has never been more important – intercultural dialogue is not an option but a necessity”.

Turning her attention specifically to the economic crisis, the Ambassador pointed out nationalistic and xenophobic trends that are on the rise throughout the whole of the Europe. Using her own nation of Bulgaria and surrounding states as an historical example, she explained that in times of these trends it is vitally important to face them head on – when people shrink away from intercultural dialogue and propagate negative cultural attitudes, violence often follows. In tackling this problem, Ms. Poptodorova questioned the extent to which traditional Hard Power diplomacy is of use, instead she advocated that Soft Power, with trust, dialogue, and understanding have far greater efficacy.

Noting the idealistic tone she was taking, the Ambassador



H.E. Amb. Elena Poptodorova
ICD Advisory Board Member; Ambassador of Bulgaria to the USA

recognized the difficulties of a Soft Power approach, both within and between states. The most realistic way of supporting Soft Power was through Supra-nationalism she told the audience. Left to bilateralism two states, for example, would often not strive for a “win-win solution” to issues even if such a solution were attainable.



Mark Donfried with H.E. Amb. Elena Poptodorova
ICD Advisory Board Member; Ambassador of Bulgaria to the USA



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Alluding to the uncertainty of international relations, Ms. Poptodorova explained that any two states would often interact with each other as though in a zero-sum game, seeking a “win-lose” outcome for themselves. With the aid of supra-national institutions such as the EU, a neutral intermediary, it would be possible to take an unimpassioned position and attain the best optimal solution for all member states.

Seguing into the Syrian civil war, she argued that the flow of refugees streaming into the EU could, if left to states taking a unilateral approach, lead to a “powder-keg” of reactionary tension, nationalistic aggression and ultimately a lack of support for refugees at a state level. Instead, the Ambassador argued the best way to tackle the issue was via cooperation and multilateralism at the state level and the fostering of intercultural dialogue and understanding at the intra-state level.

H.E. Ambassador Poptodorova finished the address by turning to the future. Education, she passionately stated, was the key to achieving peace and stability in an increasingly globalized world where states, peoples and cultures were



H.E. Amb. Elena Poptodorova, ICD Advisory Board Member; Ambassador of Bulgaria to the USA with Jean Pillard, conference participant

colliding together. “The globalized world is a media world” she said and, with groups of people, governments, and even the media itself pursuing a political agenda, we must not lose sight of quality, neutral education for the future generations.



“The UN Security Council and International Law”

H.E. Amb. Elin Suleymanov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States



Mark Donfried with H.E. Amb. Elin Suleymanov
Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States



H.E. Amb. Elin Suleymanov
Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States

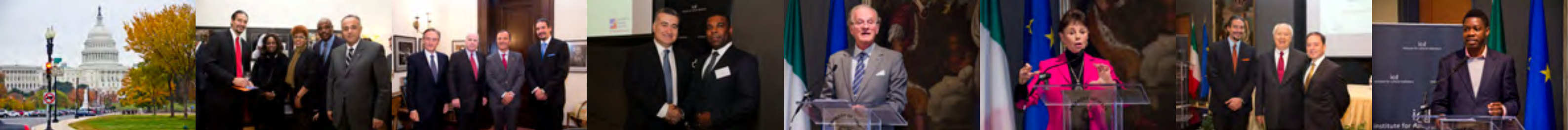
Ambassador Elin Suleymanov took to the podium in the early afternoon of the first day, delivering a lecture which capitalized on the pertinence of Azerbaijan’s recent position as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The topic of this lecture being international law, the UNSC’s relation to international law, and the concept of international law both in theory and in practice.

Being part of the UNSC, explained the Ambassador, “was a great capacity building exercise and a great learning experience”, especially for a state that is barely 20 years old. He went to add that the task was no easy one, with Azerbaijan chairing complex UNSC meetings on terrorism, radicalism and the enhancement of cooperation between the UNSC and the Islamic Organization for Cooperation.

The UNSC, stated the Ambassador, is the highest authority in international relations today; primarily a crisis management body, it is arguably the most supreme arbiter of international law with resolutions being binding, and without appellate, for all member states. Mr. Suleymanov acknowledged however, that the application of international law was not to be confused with the theory and

rhetoric of international law. “During the Cold War” explained the Ambassador, “international law did not count for much, lost as it was amongst the primacy that was the power struggle between the US and USSR”. Mr. Suleymanov stated that the collapse of USSR and end of the Cold War promised a more positive role for international law in the maintenance of positive of relationships within the community of states, arguing that to some extent this was true. However, drawing on historical case studies of the UNSC and the application of international law, he highlighted how there was still an “enforcement gap” between the rhetoric and reality of international relations - this point was stressed by reference to “Operation Allied Force”.

The NATO operation, which initiated a large scale bombing campaign on former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, included the involvement of two permanent members of the Security Council, yet did not obtain an explicit UNSC resolution. “The act”, stated a bemused Mr. Suleymanov, “was found to be ‘illegal but legitimate’ by a UN independent commission on Kosovo”. The Ambassador juxtaposed the case to one of his own nation – the Armenian occu-



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pation of Azerbaijani territory. In relation to the conflict between the two nations the UNSC passed 4 binding resolutions in 1993 demanding the withdrawal of Armenian troops yet nearly a decade on, as the Ambassador argued, they have not been adhered by Armenia or enforced by the international community. The Ambassador asked the audience to contrast this with the intervention in Iraq in the 2001 and the recent intervention on Libya which, he argued, were based upon vague resolutions at best.

“Why” he asked “is this the case? Why does the Security Council enforce some resolutions, yet ignore others? Why can states act without a resolution, like in the case of Kosovo, but still be found to be ‘legitimate’?” The answer proposed by Mr. Suleymanov reinforced a realist school of thought on international relations as he explained that “might can always make right”. The Ambassador likened the situation as akin Orwell’s classic ‘Animal Farm’ – “we are all equal, but some more equal than others”. Although conceding that this was a political reality, he argued that it was myopic and harmful to any long-term progress we

might hope to make together in a globalized world.

The Ambassador offered up again the example of Azerbaijan and Armenia. “Now” he argued “we have the force to take back those lands legally deigned as ours by the Security Council. Yet we don’t because we have believe in international law”. Focusing on Hard Power and capitalizing on short term benefits would not be the way forward, “what if the power balance swung back again? And Again? To act on power and short-term benefit alone would lead to a back and forth indefinitely, and violently”.

He argued all nations must begin to see international law as being of benefit to us, continuing that respect for it will break international relations away from zero some games and instead ultimately result in sustained, “win-win” development for all. His Excellency Elin Suleymanov ended the speech with a poignant point on Cultural Diplomacy and our shared future – “We cannot hope to have progress in a world which we occupy with one another if we don’t strive to understand one another”.



H.E. Amb. Elin Suleymanov , Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States, with the conference participants

Keynote Speech by President Franco Frattini

“Future Prospects in International and Intercultural Relations to Enhancing Cross & Trans Continental Cooperation”

President Franco Frattini, President of the ICD Organization for Youth Education & Development and Former Foreign Minister of Italy



Drawing to a close the day’s proceedings, President Frattini gave an impassioned speech on Cultural Diplomacy as a vehicle to enhance future prospects of international relations and cooperation. The address focused on four main points relating to Cultural Diplomacy: firstly, the power Cultural Diplomacy possesses to involve non-state actors in the diplomatic and political process; secondly, Cultural Diplomacy as a means of preserving identity; thirdly, Cultural Diplomacy as a tool for revitalizing the transatlantic relationship overcoming important, yet sensitive issues; and finally the need for Europe to embrace Cultural Diplomacy in order to open itself up and thus cooperate more fully with the rest of the world.

President Frattini began his speech by emphasizing the timelessness of Cultural Diplomacy despite it being a relatively novel term in international relations. President Frattini highlighted how as a practice it has existed for centuries. However he continued by stressing to the audience how, in contemporary times, it is gaining increasing relevance to the way

we, as people in a globalized world, interact with one another and with authority. Cultural Diplomacy, he argued, should be seen not as a revolutionary concept, but rather as an evolutionary concept. As civil society grows it can access Cultural Diplomacy as a vehicle to engage in the political sphere – Cultural Diplomacy does not lie solely in the hands of governments, quite the opposite, it is in fact a delimitation of diplomacy stretching into all corners of society including academics, think tanks, research organizations, individuals, to name but a selection. President Frattini argued that these non-state actors of their own accord can, and frequently do, help to build bridges between states and groups, influencing the political outcomes of international affairs. Continuing this point, he highlighted that as states rely less on hard power and more on soft sower, with an onus on trust and understanding through dialogue, these non-state actors come to the foreground.

On a slightly less grand scale, but nonetheless still important, President Frattini moved onto his second point, of Cultural Diplomacy as a means to preserve identity. Using the efforts of his own country as an example, the former Foreign Minister explained how the work of state and non-state institutions and organizations can initiate acts of Cultural Diplomacy and promote identity, whilst at the same time engaging with other cultures. To demonstrate this point President Frattini shared with the audience details of projects within Italy, which were developing historical Roman cultural heritage sites on the Italian peninsula as well as developing sites in Asia Minor, highlighting to the world interesting cultural differences and similarities.



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President Franco Frattini, President of the ICD Organization for Youth Education & Development and Former Foreign Minister of Italy

and the promotion of fundamental human rights. The response of the West was to swing between hasty intervention and a ‘wait and see’ attitude”. In such exceptional circumstances the EU ought not to shirk its responsibilities, but rather engage proactively to reach out and support those shared values. Developing this point, President Frattini argued that the EU had to embrace Cultural Diplomacy and build bridges with the rest of the world, focusing on refugees coming through its borders arguing that in a holistic sense the EU had a responsibility for these people.

The end of the speech was followed by an interview with President Frattini by Amb. Cynthia Schneider, the Director of Projects at the ICD and Former Ambassador of US to the Netherlands. During the interview President Frattini reiterated the grassroots movements of Cultural Diplomacy, offering up the example of how, after the savage war in the Balkans, most states in that area have enthusiastically embraced cooperation and the European project, largely through the actions of people-power groups.



President Franco Frattini with Amb. Cynthia Schneider, Director of Projects at the ICD and Former Ambassador of US to the Netherlands

Following this, President Frattini moved onto the transatlantic relationship and the role of Cultural Diplomacy in its future development, a key topic of the Washington D.C Conference. Stressing the critical importance of the relationship for those on both sides of the Atlantic, he emphatically argued that it was absolutely necessary for recent setbacks, setbacks relating to trust and privacy, be overcome in a satisfactory manner. “The transatlantic relationship” posited President Frattini, “not only needs a re-launching, it needs a renaissance”.

President Frattini came to his final point by focusing on the attitudes and future direction of the EU. The EU, he argued, needs to focus on shared ground between its values and the values of the people of the world. As an example he brought up the case of the Arab Spring, a series of developments where democracy, something central to European values, sprang from the grassroots of autocratic nations instead of being imposed or exported; “In the Arab Spring the people were calling out for dignity, prosperity, protection,

Welcome Reception to the Washington D.C. Summit on Cross Continental Cooperation hosted by H.E. Amb. Elena Poptodorova at the Embassy of Bulgaria to the USA



Mark Donfried with President Franco Frattini, President of the ICD Organization for Youth Education and Development, and Former Foreign Minister of Italy, and H.E. Amb. Elena Poptodorova, during welcome reception at the Embassy of Bulgaria to the USA





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Day 2 - Goethe Institute

(Washington D.C.; November 5th, 2013)



Amb. Akbar Ahmed (Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies & Professor, School of International Service, American University) with the conference participants

The second day of the Conference was held at the Goethe Institut. Named after German polymath Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the institute is an autonomous and politically independent non-profit German cultural association operational worldwide, promoting the study of the German language abroad and encouraging international cultural exchange and relations. The Goethe-Institut fosters knowledge about Germany by providing information on German culture, society and politics. This includes the ex-

change of films, music, theatre, and literature. Goethe cultural societies, reading rooms, and exam and language centers have played a role in the cultural and educational policies of Germany for more than 60 years.

Continuing the theme of future transatlantic cooperation a number of lectures focused on the US relations with other nations, whilst there were a number of participant papers from academics and professionals on specialized topics.

“Transatlantic Relations: Challenges and Opportunities in a New Reality”

H.E. Amb. Božo Cerar, Ambassador of Slovenia to the United States



H.E. Amb. Božo Cerar
Ambassador of Slovenia to the United States

Ambassador Božo Cerar began his address by outlining the state of transatlantic relations and post-Cold War international politics. “There is a new reality” stated Mr. Cerar, “one which has been characterized by unrivalled western preeminence since the fall of the Soviet Republic”. The Slovenian Ambassador explained however, that although much more clear and present during the Cold War, threats still exist today in various forms. A bipolar world, split between East and West, was arguably more politically stable than the multipolar world that is emerging today, argued the Ambassador. He highlighted that the multipolar world has threats that are much more complex- “more grey than black and white”.

In terms of the transatlantic relationship between the US and Europe, Mr. Cerar argued that the new reality has complicated matters. NATO used to have a clear remit as a territorial defense alliance but now occupies a role as a crisis management organization, a role which is equally important but harder to define and manage. Ambassador Cerar made the case that this fact has led to a decline in the willingness to lead from both Europe and the United States. A decline in willingness that has been exacerbated by other threats in the “new reality”- the economic crisis, terrorism, climate change, organized crime and energy security all contribute to greater movements for insularism on both side of that Atlantic.

The insularism, he argued, would create a vacuum. The international proactivity of European states and the US was based on shared values of liberal democracy, human rights and free market economics but if the transatlantic states were to withdraw from the international stage then that vacuum could potentially be filled with values less palatable to us all. Mr. Cerar told the audience that these are considerations that must be acknowledged by leaders on both side of the Atlantic. He argued that a vacuum must not be allowed to form and that if not NATO, then perhaps the EU Shared Defence Policy could take a more prominent role.



Jean Pillard, participant of the Conference, during the Q&A Session
“Transatlantic Relations: Challenges and Opportunities in a New Reality”



Mark Donfried with H.E. Amb. Božo Cerar
Ambassador of Slovenia to the United States



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Day 3 - Embassy of Italy to the United States

(Washington D.C.; November 6th, 2013)



The Final Day of “The Washington D.C. Summit on Cross Continental Cooperation” takes place at the Embassy of Italy to the United States.



H. E. Amb. Claudio Bisogniero
Ambassador of Italy to the United States

H.E. Amb. Claudio Bisogniero introduced the final day of the Summit by reiterating the themes and expressing the importance of the Cultural element in international diplomacy. “Cultural Diplomacy,” stated the ambassador, “is an important dimension of the diplomatic sphere that should not be overlooked”. He went on to praise the role

of Cultural Diplomacy in not only strengthening relations between countries, but also its role in identifying areas where there are difficulties, divisions and misunderstandings and overcoming them when and where they occur.

The ambassador shared some cultural exchanges between the US and Italy to highlight his points, discussing the initiative “2013 the year of Italian culture in the US” which consists of more than 300 events in more than 50 cities across the United States. The initiative sees the promotion of the great Italian cultural and artistic tradition—from Caravaggio to Michelangelo— but also the more recent advancements and exchanges in fields of innovation, creativity and technology. Proffering up instances of Italian success in nanotechnology and space industries, H.E Bisogniero explained to the audience that 40% of the habitable modules on the International Space Station were built by Italy.

Ambassador Bisogniero finished his address by wishing everyone a special day before introducing Mr. Andras Simonyi to the stage.

“Rock & Roll Diplomacy to Enhance Cross Continental Cooperation”

Andras Simonyi, Former Ambassador of Hungary to the United States, Director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University



Amb. Andras Simonyi, Former Ambassador of Hungary to the United States, Director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University



Amb. Andras Simonyi, Former Ambassador of Hungary to the United States, Director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University

Following on from lectures addressing state-level relations and Cultural Diplomacy, Mr. Andras Simonyi took to podium to deliver a speech on the more ‘human’ side of Cultural Diplomacy. A light-hearted address on an important matter, the Former Ambassador and two time guest of the Colbert Report discussed the significance of rock & roll, and indeed music in general, as a cultural medium.

Reflecting upon his own experiences in Hungary during the Cold War, the former ambassador argued that rock and roll, the music that he loves, swept up an entire generation of young people under communist rule and implanted the ideals that would later bring down the Iron Curtain. Simonyi told the audience that the allure of rock and roll was irresistible despite oppressive rule, for “whatever the authorities tried, however they wanted to suppress rock and roll music, it was not possible because of the attraction, because of the appeal, because of the greatness, because it was freedom”.

Rock and roll music was a powerful form of cross-cultural communication, bringing East and West closer together, stated Mr. Simonyi.

“When we were listening to the radio, we were part of the free world, if only for a few moments, whether the system we lived under liked it or not. Rock and roll, culturally speaking, was a decisive element in loosening up communist societies and bringing them closer to a world of freedom.”

Although a unidirectional form of communication, it was nonetheless something you shared with others in “heart and mind”. Bringing the focus of the speech to the modern day, the former ambassador Mr. Simonyi likened it to the effect of music to the internet today. “Music and the internet are only mediums,” he argued “the important thing is what message you choose to convey over these mediums”. Rock and roll, he continued, was an empowering, agitating message of freedom but not all forms of music are. Likewise the Arab spring may be called a technological revolution, but the iPhones and internet that facilitated it were nothing without the powerful message of freedom contained within – “it is the content that matters” argued Mr. Simoyini.



Downtown Washington D.C.
(Washington D.C.; November 4th - 7th, 2013)



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Speaker List

Amb. Akbar Ahmed

Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies & Professor, School of International Service, American University; Former Pakistan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Ireland

Amb. Andras Simonyi

Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University; Former Ambassador of Hungary to the USA

Dr. Beatrice Barbara Boerner

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Ambassador of Slovenia to the United States

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Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States

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President of the ICD Organization for Youth Education & Development; Former Foreign Minister of Italy

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Imam Talib Shareef

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Mark Hyatt

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Olusimbo Olorunfemi

PhD researcher in Political Science, Chief Executive Officer for the HOOFBET DOT COM, Director of Media and Public Relations for the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN)

Rolandas Kačinskas

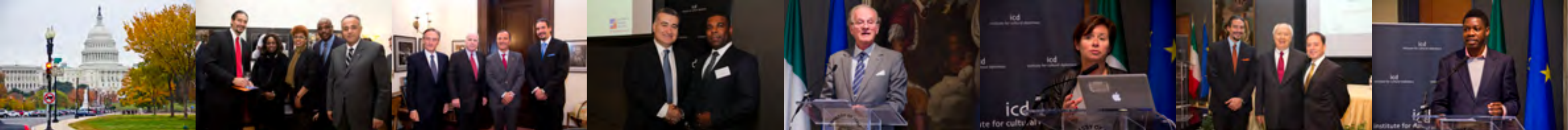
Minister Plenipotentiary, the Embassy of Lithuania to the United States

H.E. Dr. Tebelelo Mazile Seretse

Ambassador of Botswana to the United States

Dr. Tom Palmer

Executive Vice President for International Program at AtlasNetwork, Senior Fellow at Cato Institute



The Washington D.C. Summit on Cross Continental Cooperation 2013 *“Future Prospects in International and Intercultural Relations to Enhancing Cross & Trans Continental Cooperation”* (Berlin; September 25th - 27th, 2013)

Video Highlights



A Lecture by President Franco Frattini
 President of the ICD Organization for Youth Education & Development; Former Foreign Minister of Italy



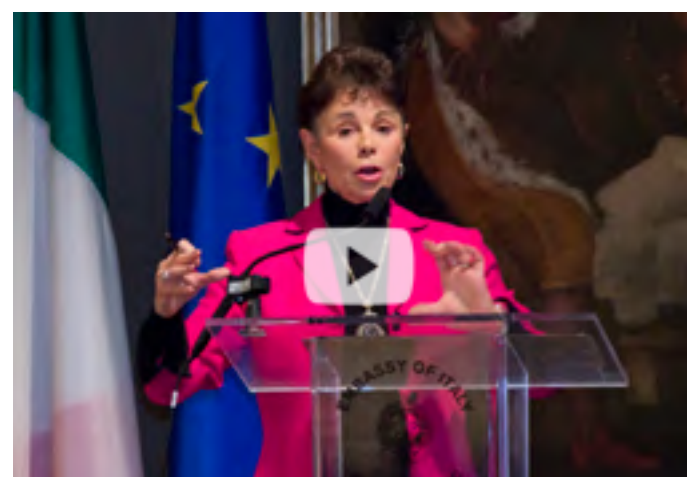
A Interview with President Franco Frattini
 President of the ICD Organization for Youth Education & Development; Former Foreign Minister of Italy



A lecture by H. E. Amb. Elena Poptodorova
 ICD Advisory Board Member; Ambassador of Bulgaria to the USA



A Lecture by H.E. Amb. Andras Simonyi
 Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University; Former Ambassador of Hungary to the USA; ICD Advisory Board Member



A Lecture by H. E. Prof. Dr. Juliana Geran Pilon
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A Lecture by H.E. Amb. Dr. Božo Cerar
 Ambassador of Slovenia to the United States



A Welcome Address by H. E. Amb. Claudio Bisogniero
 Ambassador of Italy to the United States



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