

Rapport angående
”Young Alliance of Civilizations”
och
Anna Lindh stiftelsens
”Euro-Med Youth Meeting” i Barcelona 19-21/10 2006

Jag, Mats Lindgren, har deltagit i detta forum som representant för Kulturföreningen Lätting.

Syftet med forumet var att samla unga representanter från hela Europa och medelhavsländerna för att diskutera och presentera lösningar på den oroväckande utvecklingen vi ser idag angående våra olika, farliga och felaktiga syner på varandras kulturer.

”Alliance of Civilizations” har skapats på förfrågan av FN:s generalsekreterare Kofi Annan i syfte att lämna en rapport om ovanstående problem. Alliansen lägger stor vikt vid ungas synpunkter och ideer då de inte bara är morgondagens ledare utan också därför att de i allra högsta grad lever och verkar mitt i de samhällen som påverkas starkt av den oroväckande utvecklingen.

Totalt var vi över 90 deltagare som alla på något vis arbetar med, eller studerar ungdoms, kultur, eller politik frågor.

Under forumet har vi skapat en deklARATION som lämnades över till alliansens ”High Level Group”, som nu kommer att inkludera den i sin rapport. Vi lämnade även över hela forumets protokoll som mer i detalj än själva deklARATIONEN presenterar våra tankar och förslag.

Det är allas vår uppfattning, deltagare, arrangörer samt högre uppsatta inom de olika organisationerna att det var ett mycket givande forum.

Bifogat material:

- Forumets program i detalj
- Den färdiga deklARATIONEN

Mats Lindgren
Gävle, 24.10.06



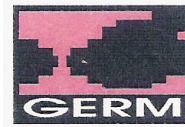
Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures
Fondation Euro-Méditerranéenne Anna Lindh pour le Dialogue entre les Cultures
مؤسسة أنالينده الأورو-متوسطية للحوار بين الثقافات

United Nations Association



Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània

Spain



مجموعة الدراسات
والأبحاث حول البحر الأبيض المتوسط
GROUPEMENT D'ETUDES
ET DE RECHERCHES SUR LA MEDITERRANEE

of

MEDITERRANEAN FORUM OF THE YOUNG ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS AND THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

Second Euromed Youth Meeting of the Anna Lindh Foundation

Barcelona, 19-21 October 2006

Thursday, 19 October 2006 (Day 1)

Morning	<p>9.00 – 10.00 Registration and coffee break</p> <p>10.00 – 11.00 Official opening</p> <p>Addressed by: Senén Florensa. Director General. European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) Marina Bru. President. United Nations Association of Spain (ANUE) Driss Khrouz. Secretary General. Groupement d'Études et Recherches sur la Méditerranée (GERM) Joaquim Nadal. Minister of the Presidence. Government of Catalonia Juan Prat. Ambassador. Spanish Ministry of Foreign affairs Youth representative</p> <p>11.00 – 12.00 Main conference: <i>What is the Alliance of Civilizations process?</i></p> <p>Shamil Idriss. Deputy director of the Alliance of Civilizations Secretariat. United Nations</p> <p>12.00 – 13.00 Plenary session</p> <p>Opening by the ANUE Adoption of the Agenda Confirmation of the Co-Chairs Adoption of the Working Table, Objectives and Methodology First reading of the "draft" declaration</p> <p>13.00 – 15.00 Lunch</p>
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Afternoon	<p>15.00 – 17.00 Working tables</p> <p>Table I: Immigration Cross-linking topics: (Situation on the country of origin, integration, exclusion, cultural diversity, political initiatives)</p> <p>Table II: Youth Cross-linking topics: (Dialogue, role, and contribution to the process, employment, empowerment)</p> <p>17.00 – 17.15 Pause</p> <p>17.15 – 19.00 Working tables (Follow-up)</p> <p>19.00 End of session</p>
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Friday, 20 October 2006 (Day 2)

Morning	<p>9.00 – 11.00 Working tables</p> <p>Table III: Education Cross-linking topics: (Values, religion, rights, understanding)</p> <p>Table IV: Gender Cross-linking topics: (rights, education, empowerment, health, equality)</p> <p>11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break</p> <p>11.30 – 13.00 Working tables (Follow-up)</p> <p>13.00 – 15.00 Lunch</p>
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Afternoon	<p>15.00 – 17.00 Working tables</p> <p>Table V: Institutional politics Cross-linking topics: (security, international relations, common policies, initiatives, mutual understanding)</p> <p>Table VI: Media Cross-linking topics: (positives and negatives influences, freedom of expression, values and education)</p> <p>17.00 – 17.15 Pause</p> <p>17.15 – 19.00 Working tables (Follow-up)</p> <p>19.00 End of session</p>
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Saturday, 21 October 2006 (Day 3)

Morning	<p>10.00 – 10.45 Adoption of the Final Declaration</p> <p>10.45 – 11.30 Presentation of the follow-up plan by the ANUE, IEMed and Anna Lindh Foundation</p> <p>11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break</p> <p>12.00 – 13.00 Official closing by: Àngels Mataró. Director General. United Nations Association of Spain Traugott Shoefthaler. Director General. Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures Federico Mayor Zaragoza. Co-Chair. Alliance of Civilizations Youth representative</p> <p>Certificates</p> <p>13.00 End of the Forum</p>
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MEDITERRANEAN FORUM OF THE YOUNG
ALLIANCE OF CIVILISATIONS AND THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP
Barcelona, October 19-21, 2006
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

We, young people of the Euro-Mediterranean region, gathered in Barcelona on occasion of the Mediterranean Forum of the Young Alliance of Civilisations and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, stress our deep concern with the lack of understanding, the political tensions, the deterioration of international relations and the increased episodes of violence worldwide.

We belong to a unique crossroads of civilisations, cultures and exchanges. Young people are indispensable in constructing the present and in the pursuit of a better future. We bear the consequences of all decisions of our current leaders, concerning the coexistence and the respect among the peoples. Our voice must be heard.

Regardless of our origins or beliefs, we consider that the dialogue amongst cultures is essential for a better future. The Alliance of Civilisations must be a tool to strengthen dialogue and a means for cooperation among countries. The bridge we are building should be based on solid pillars of mutual understanding and respect.

We can contribute to the process of this Alliance from our experience and knowledge of a reality, that of civil society, that tends on some occasions to be left aside. Young people are key in moving from talk to action. We have the right and the obligation to participate in political decision-making.

Therefore, building on the experiences of the Barcelona Process, which also participates in the dialogue among cultures, we hereby declare:

Immigration

Immigration can and in the future should have a positive connotation as well as influence on host countries and is a right of any citizen. However, the incentives to migrate must be changed from it being a necessity to becoming a choice. For this to be ensured, the economic as well as political situation in the countries of origin together with stronger cooperation mechanisms must improve. In today's world, immigrant communities as well as host country civilisations are far from benefiting in the way they could from the unique chances immigration bears. Immigrant communities, like no other, offer a forum of intercultural exchange.

Exchange can not take place where there is no means of communication. Amongst the main challenges of integration of immigrants is the language barrier. We deem it absolutely necessary that every immigrant, especially children, have access to and be strongly encouraged to attend free language courses. We call on all countries to assist all receiving states in order to financially support these classes. To further promote intercultural learning, we suggest the creation of a common program for elementary schools on cultural diversity in the Mediterranean area which teaches shared history and puts special emphasis on universal values. Dialogue and exchange of cultural knowledge should further be promoted through urban planning and efforts should be taken to avoid segregation.

Furthermore, we call on all responsible governments to devote the funds otherwise allocated to the certain military or intelligence operations, to support cultural programs. We call on all communities to change their perceptions about immigrants and to pursue rights-based policies to allow legalization of undocumented immigrants under fair conditions, in order to promote the cessation of their economic exploitation.

The future should be shaped by social and financial investments aimed at the promotion of dialogue rather than of the building of fences.

Youth

Youth is a clear target group for the Alliance of Civilisations. This is because we influence and are influenced by all topics under its debate. An active involvement of young people should be foreseen for the successful future implementation of this initiative.

Youth empowerment through active participation is a basic pillar for the advancement of our societies. Motivation and equal opportunities are key elements to achieve full participation and active responsible citizenship.

Young people need effective channels for communication with decision-makers from the local to the international levels. Resources, opportunities as well as structures of networking as National Youth Councils and other youth structures should be enhanced and properly funded.

Good practices to promote active citizenship in the participation decision-making processes and in the co-management of policies, need to be structured and encouraged.

Education

Education is the key for development and for breaking barriers to get to know each other. It is a mechanism of conflict prevention and creation of values such as democracy, respect and plurality, and it is a basic element to reinforce social cohesion. Key proposals to advance a common educational framework must include:

The attention to diversity, such as the promotion of spaces for intercultural learning and dialogue in schools, based on a neutral, critical and objective approach and the freedom to choose religious or non-religious education, to build up understanding and fight stereotypes, intolerance and extremism.

The importance of free and equal access to public education as a pillar for sustainable development to fight illiteracy, a barrier for dialogue and freedom. We urge states to fulfill the Second Millennium Development Goal to build a cultural dialogue and understanding based on a holistic approach, and to update educational systems.

The complementing nature of formal and non formal education so that there is a global perspective of the role of education considering transmission of knowledge, skills and attitudes. It is necessary to understand education as a life long learning process, and promote specific actions like students and teachers exchanges.

A minimum common global curricula, such as the promotion of learning of foreign languages as well as one's own language, the use of new technologies, the creation of international texts books commissions based on good practices, the recognition of degrees or educational background and professional training, networking and exchange (among schools, universities, youth organizations and career-oriented), work on human right values, critical thinking and democratic participation or teaching a media-critical approach.

Gender

The equal contribution of women and men to the advancement of society cannot be stressed enough. However, women are, in most places, still not treated, or regarded, as equal partners in society. The problem does not lie only in politics, but in society's treatment of women and in the implementation, or the lack thereof, of existing laws.

Concrete steps are necessary to overcome this reality. The full integration and participation of women in economic life must be supported by policies leading to specific measures to ensure equality in the work place, which must include; the availability of child-care facilities, equal maternity-paternity leave provisions, encouraging part-time or shared job schemes, balancing the responsibility of partners at home, equal pay for equal work, or the regulation of complaints and gender-based discrimination in the workplace through the establishment of ombudsman.

Human rights, gender-based violence, the global issue of homophobia and the disparate views of the social role of men and women are a constant in the debate about equality. The lack of understanding and the biased view of the role of women in society prevent most of them from fully enjoying their human rights. To overcome this stigma, we encourage strengthening civil society networking and capacity building as a means to share cultural-religious practices and adapt them to the needs and expectations of today's realities while respecting one's traditions and wishes.

Institutional Politics

The term "Alliance of Civilisations" neither implies the fusion of civilisations, nor is it limited to cooperation at a political level. The initiative must be as inclusive as possible. It must stress the progress and the successes which have already been achieved, especially in the Euro-Mediterranean context which should be a model. As the draft working paper of the Alliance mentions, it is imperative that neither religion nor culture may be utilized by governments as a means to impose their views on international policies or actions.

The "Alliance of Civilisations" will not have to limit itself to promoting cooperation between political actors, it has the chance to underline the importance of civil society. As other international initiatives such as the Barcelona Process improve cooperation, the increased participation of civil society in the decision-making process, the exchange of expertise, technology or education can have a similar effect on civil society.

In order to achieve more success on both levels a stronger focus needs to be put on active municipalities, since at this level civil society and political institutions work together closest. At an international level there should be a greater collaboration between the political institutions and civil society. Social forces within a state should not be underestimated, as positive social forces can complement and strengthen political institutions.

As the youth component of civil society as well as politically active citizens, we recognize the challenge of defining "civilisation". Despite the challenges the Alliance faces, we must acknowledge that it is the Alliance which will contribute to strengthening the close cooperation between civil societies.

Media

Today's media is more ubiquitous than ever before. While media institutions have the potential to exacerbate conflicts and perpetuate cultural misunderstanding, they can also be used as tools for change. Certain culturally insensitive terms are often used haphazardly, effectively carrying on the vicious cycle of intolerance. Drawing on the principles of the Alliance and its promotion of dialogue, we support professional training and exchange programs for students and journalists which seek to foster cultural respect. Experience shows that people on the ground with local understanding of a conflict will often portray events closer to the truth. It is vital that their voices be heard. The subsequent increase in the credibility of media outlets whose journalists are culturally educated will lead to more reliable information spreading through various regions of the world. Dependable news stories will provide better analyses of often sensitive topics.

We must encourage media plurality so as to increase the likelihood of a more objective conclusion being drawn from a multitude of sources. The "New Media" of the new century brought with it the chance for a myriad of opinions, voices, and perspectives to be posted and reached by anyone with access to the Internet. We promote sustainable initiatives to increase and globalize web access to all.

In order to mediate baseless prejudices spawned by fear of the unknown, articles and documentaries from around the world can be included in domestic media to show the perspectives of different countries. We support a culture of self-critique as a fundamental component of objective and ethical journalism. We wish to maintain our freedom of speech and media without restriction of socially taboo subjects; instead, our intrinsic respect for the diversity of cultures will prevent calls for governmental censorship.