



Pécs Forum – “A Soul for Europe”

10 November 2007

The programme comprises three interrelated thematic sections:

1. Why the Pécs Forum – “A Soul for Europe”?

- The idea of “A Soul for Europe” must be fleshed out if it is to unfold its impact. This means, among other things, that each nation, each of Europe’s diverse cultures must define its contribution to Europe’s soul and make it accessible to the citizens of Europe (“The Bulgarian Europe” is the splendid title of a project being conducted in Rousse, Bulgaria).
- To make the substantial contribution of culture effective at the European level, “A Soul for Europe” is practising new methods of cooperation that are needed between civil society, in which culture is created and lives, and the world of political decision-making. Both sides must pool their different competences and responsibilities to tackle this task jointly. An important role is played here by parliamentarians who have adopted the goals of “A Soul for Europe”. Only if civil society and policy-makers work together can a “culture of democracy” emerge in Europe.
- Exploring the social, economic and political impact of the cultural activities of independent groups and initiatives is the goal of the Culture for Structural Development project, which aims to produce guidelines on how to use cultural potential for the benefit of European regional policy.

2. Civil Society and the role of the city in building Europe

- “European culture” takes place in cities and regions, in all its true diversity. Europe’s cultural performance and identity are being shaped by local and regional activities, institutions and individuals. By developing and maintaining cultural achievements, cities and regions give culture a greater impact on Europe’s unification process, on an emerging European citizenship and on Europe’s global performance. Cities and regions thus share a major responsibility for Europe.
- A European Capital of Culture like Pécs in particular can demonstrate how cities and regions effectively contribute to “A Soul for Europe” and to the shaping of the EU.
- It would be a great achievement if the Pécs Forum – “A Soul for Europe” did not remain a one-off event but encouraged a sufficient number of people to make it a lasting project for the development of a Europe-oriented cultural network based on local and regional civil society.

3. Europe as a cultural process

- With its *Communication for a European agenda in a globalizing world*, which it adopted on 10 May 2007, the EU Commission has put culture on the agenda in all areas of policy. Culture as a topic could – in much the same way as the environment has over the last 30 years – attract greater public awareness and enter mainstream European policy-making.
- The original and true motor of European unification, long – and for good reasons – overshadowed by economic and security concerns, is thus once again becoming the focus of attention: the striving for community that is rooted in culture and directed towards cultural goals. “... *the EU has reached a stage of its history where its cultural dimension can no longer be ignored...*” (J. M. Barroso in his opening address to the 2004 Berlin Conference “A Soul for Europe”).
- The Pécs Forum is, however, not intended to produce ambitious visions but rather to ensure that practical consequences are drawn from the emerging paradigm change in cultural policy. The cultural process cannot be implemented from Brussels; it must be implemented “far away from Brussels but very close to Europe”, where Europe’s culture lives and thrives, in the civil society of its cities. Future forums at other locations will further concretize the task of “A Soul for Europe” with the help of new partners.



Programme

9.30 – 9.50 a.m.

Welcoming addresses

- Peter **Tasnádi** (Mayor of Pécs)
- Katalin **Szili** (Head of the Hungarian Parliament, via video stream)
- Endre **Bókay** (Member of the Hungarian Parliament)
- András **Mészáros** (General Director, Pécs2010)

9.50 – 10.30 a.m.

Dialogue between György Konrád and Steve Austen

- György **Konrád** (Writer, Hungary)
- Steve **Austen** (Permanent Fellow of the Felix Meritis Foundation, Amsterdam, “A Soul for Europe” Initiators Group, The Netherlands)

10.30 – 11.00 a.m. Coffee break and press conference

11.00 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.

Moderator: Steve **Austen**

Why the Forum Pécs Forum – “A Soul for Europe”?

- Introduction:
- Nele **Hertling** (Spokesperson, “A Soul for Europe”, Germany)
 - Márton **Méhes** (Artistic Director, Pécs 2010)
 - Dejan **Ubovic** (Cultural Front Belgrade, Serbia; Organizer of the Belgrade Forum)

Discussion Topics:

- A Soul for Europe – Dialogue between civil society and political decision-makers
- Forum X – A model form of dialogue between civil society and policy-makers
- The cultural potential of Pécs
- The culture of democracy
- Potential for infrastructural development and social change
- The content and the addressees of Guidelines on Culture for Structural Development

Discussion:

- Margarita **Dorovska** (cult.bg Foundation Bulgaria; CSD project coordinator)
- Dessy **Gavrilova** (The Red House Centre for Culture and Debate, Bulgaria)
- Marijana **Grandits** (Director, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe)
- François **Matarasso** (researcher, UK)
- Doris **Pack** (MEP, Steering Committee “A Soul for Europe”)
- Rarita **Szakáts** (AltArt Foundation, Romania; CSD project coordinator)
- József **Szávai** (Tanac, Pécs)
- Yuriy **Vulkovsky** (Sofia University; CSD project coordinator)

12.45 – 13.00 p.m. Conclusions and consequences (Moderator)

13.00 – 14.30 p.m. Lunch



14.30 – 16.30 p.m.

Civil society and the role of the city in building Europe

Moderator: Michael **Zeeman** (journalist, essayist, poet, The Netherlands)

Introduction:

- Tibor **Gonda** (Deputy Mayor of Pécs)
- Volker **Hassemer** (Spokesperson, “A Soul for Europe”, Germany)
- Miklós **Marschall** (Transparency International)

Discussion Topics:

- Cities and Regions as European players by virtue of cultural achievements: The Cities and Regions Project
- The responsibility of European Capitals of Culture
- The potential of local civil society
- Civic participation: cities and citizens
- Pécs: Mediator between East and West / North and South
- Istanbul as a model
- The Pécs Forum as a permanent project?

Discussion:

- Esra **Aysun** (European Cultural Association, Istanbul (European Capital of Culture 2010), Turkey)
- Nevenka **Koprivsek** (Power Station / Bunker Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- Corina **Raceanu** (The Board for Culture, Religious Affairs and National Cultural Heritage of Timis County, Romania)
- Bernhard **Schneider** (Editorial coordinator, “A Soul for Europe”, Germany)
- Tamás **Szalay** (Pécs 2010, Hungary)
- Márton **Szuhay** (mediator, Pécs)
- István **Tarrósy** (ID Research)
- Angéla **Thiesz** (Retextil)

16.30 – 17.00 p.m. Coffee Break

17.00 – 17.50 p.m.

Moderator: Michael **Zeeman** (journalist, essayist, poet)

Europe as a cultural process

Introduction:

- Volker **Hassemer** (Spokesperson, “A Soul for Europe”, Germany)

Discussion Topics:

- Responsibility of the cultural sector at local, regional, national and European level
- Culture at the heart of EU policies
- Practical consequences

Discussion:

- Eszter **Babarczy** (journalist, Hungary)
- Endre **Bojtár** (Chief Editor, Magyar Narancs)
- Lilia **Braila** (Alte Art initiative, Chisinau, Moldova)
- Kyrylo **Bulkin** (Journalist, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty, Ukraine)
- Ildikó **Füri** (House of Civic Communities, Pécs)
- Helena **Drnovsek Zorko** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Slovenia)
- Balázs **Szász** (Plusz Munkacsport, Hungary)
- Fruzsina **Szép** (Director, Music Export Hungary; National Advisory Board, Pécs 2010)
- Rita **Varga** (Közelítés Arts Association, Pécs)

17.50 – 18.00 p.m.

Conclusions and consequences for forums in other cities (Nele **Hertling**)

19.00 – 21.00 p.m.

Concert and Dinner