



EU2013.LT



MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF LITHUANIA



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF LITHUANIA

The Informal Meeting of Senior Officials of Ministries of Culture and Senior Officials Responsible for Culture in Ministries of Foreign Affairs

Programme

16-17 October, 2013
Vilnius, Lithuania

16 October, Wednesday

Arrivals

19.00-21.00

Welcome drink

Restaurant "Le Gout", the Amberton Hotel
L. Stuokos-Gucevičiaus str. 1

17 October, Thursday

Meeting venue: Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (Lietuvos mokslų akademija)
Gedimino av. 3

8.30-9.00

Registration and welcome coffee/tea

9.00-9.15

Welcome speech

Šarūnas Birutis, Minister of Culture, Lithuania

09.15-10.00

Opening session

The Difficult Art of a Dialogue: What Can Culture Do that Politics Cannot?

Moderator: Evaldas Ignatavičius, Ambassador to Belarus, Lithuania

Guest speaker: Leonidas Donskis, MEP for Lithuania, philosopher
How Can Culture Fill the Gaps Left by Politics?

Speeches by:

Jan Trzuszczński, Director General for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, European Commission
Michael Reiterer, Senior Adviser, European External Action Service

10.00-11.30

Session 1. Panel 1

Crossroads and Borders: Neighbourhood Policies and Cultural Polyvocality in Europe, Past and Present

The discussion will focus on how common history and/or shared culture of neighbouring countries can become an asset or a liability in present day clashes over competing historical narratives and geopolitical interests. How can our neighbourhood policies benefit from cultural polyvocality and shared culture, instead of losing ground and succumbing to political fatalism and complacency, historical revisionism and irredentism?

Moderator: Darius Udrys, Vice-Rector for Development and Communications, European Humanities University, Lithuania

Panelists:

- Stefano Bianchini, Professor, University of Bologna, Italy
- Egidijus Aleksandravičius, Director of the Lithuanian Emigration Institute, Professor, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
- Miran Mohar, artist and social activist, Slovenia
- Yves Plasseraud, lawyer, writer and human rights defender, France

Discussion

11.30-12.00

Coffee/tea break

12.00-13.30

Session 1. Panel 2

EU Neighbourhood Policy and Its Dilemmas: Can Public Domain and Culture Lead to Political Reforms and Democratization?

The discussion will focus on the disconnection between dissenting thought and established political practices, democratic public space and corrupt policies, liberal culture and illiberal politics, which appears as a serious setback and a major challenge for the Neighbourhood countries. How can we win back the public domain and culture of responsibility and engagement? Would semi-democratic and illiberal politics ultimately respond to the challenge of democratic culture in a positive way?

Moderator: Olexandr Butsenko, writer, translator, Director of the Development Centre "Democracy through Culture", Ukraine

Panelists:

- Rein Raud, Professor, writer and scholar, Tallinn University, Estonia
- Jens-Martin Eriksen, writer and scholar, Denmark
- Ulrike Ackermann, Professor, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- Lena Pasternak, Director of the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators, Visby, Sweden

Discussion

13.30-13.40 **Family photo**

13.40-15.00 **Buffet lunch**

Restaurant "Le Gout", the Amberton Hotel
L. Stuokos-Gucevičiaus str. 1

15.00-16.30

Session 2

Enhancing the Role of Culture in EU External Relations: Preliminary Findings and Orientations from the EU Preparatory Action in this Field

Presentation of the Preparatory Action "Culture in EU External Relations" and Plenary Discussion. Initiated by the European Parliament, this Preparatory Action aims to advance strategic reflection on the place of culture in EU external relations. It is implemented by the European Commission (DG EAC) with the support of a consortium of eight cultural institutes and organisations. Key activities include a comprehensive mapping and consultation process on strategies/approaches to culture in external relations in the Member States and a number of partner countries, including the neighbouring countries of the EU. This should lead to a final conference in April 2014, which will produce strategic recommendations on enhancing the role of culture in EU external relations.

Moderator: Ina Marčiulionytė, Ambassador, Director of the Latin America, Africa, Asia and Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Presentations:

- Rod Fisher, Independent Expert involved in the Preparatory Action on "Culture in EU External Relations"
Enhancing the Role of Culture in EU External Relations: Progress Report and Preliminary Messages from the EU Preparatory Action
- Damien Helly, Policy Officer, EU External Action Programme, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Independent Expert involved in the Preparatory Action on "Culture in EU External Relations"
Culture in External Relations. Key Early Messages from the Neighbourhood

Interventions:

- Michael Reiterer, Senior Adviser, European External Action Service
- Elke Atzler, Representative of European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)

Discussion

16.30-17.00

Summary of the day

Evaldas Ignatavičius, Leonidas Donskis, Ina Marčiulionytė

17.00-18.00 [Guided tour to Vilnius University](#)

18.00-19.30 [Free time](#)

19.30-22.00 [Dinner](#)

Hosted by Andrius Krivas, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Lithuania
The Energy and Technology Museum
Rinktinės str. 2

18 October, Friday

Individual departures

