



Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations

Istanbul, Turkey, 6-7 April 2009

Breakfast Session #11: Intercultural Dialogue and History in the Context of Globalisation: Towards a Worldwide Network of Historians and History Teachers

Tuesday, April 7, 2009: 07:45-08.45

Organized by the Council of Europe (COE), North South Center, Research Center for Islamic History Art and Culture (IRCICA)

- Other suggested partners: UNESCO, ALECSO, ISESCO, Anna Lindh Foundation.

Objectives and Expectations of this Session

Historical references are part of all possible kinds of intercultural relation or dialogue whatever the context, the content and the nature of the partners involved. Moreover, reference to each other's history appears very often at the start of any kind of intercultural dialogue. Therefore, a good reflection on the different perceptions of history as such and on the different ways it is taught (objectives, methods, pedagogy...) could fundamentally affect the quality of the dialogue. This is even more critical in the era of globalization.

Following on earlier meetings held by the COE and IRCICA on the subject of history teaching in the era of globalization, and the launching of the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, this breakfast session will launch an initiative to plan practical further steps to be taken. This breakfast session will present the results of earlier meetings and discuss the practical next steps to progressively set up a network of interested parties (historians, history-teacher trainers, intergovernmental organizations, among others) who can create the conditions for cooperation and dialogue between historians, and make concrete proposals for history teaching in this context.

Questions to Frame the Discussion

Some suggested questions include:

- What are the initiatives that are already produced, or in production, on the subject of history teaching and representations of the "other"?
- What existing international history networks and organizations should be involved to avoid duplication and take advantage of their experiences in terms of methods, difficulties encountered, etc.?
- What concrete commitments can be made by partners?
- What would be a specific and limited theme/issue around which a first exchange and cooperation could start with participation from **all** regions of the world?

Expected Outcomes

- A plan of action for the development of a network of History Research Centers, History Teachers Training Institutes, and International Organizations active in the fields of History and History Teaching.
- A draft proposal for convening a global conference/workshop/symposia.

Organization of this Session:

Co- Chairs:

- Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, COE and Halit Eren, IRCICA