



Supported by the Europe for Citizens Programme

The Conscience of Europe

- "The Conscience of Europe" international conference, Finnish Parliament 18–19 March 2014, Helsinki
- "Miranda – The Roma Holocaust" exhibition, Finnish tour 2014–2015
- "With the Seven-String Guitar ", theatre play, Alexander Theatre, Helsinki, premiere 19.3.2014

During 2014 and 2015 the Finnish Association for Arts and Culture **Drom** will produce "The Conscience of Europe" a series of events dedicated to the issues of multicultural Europe. The main event, **a two-day international conference entitled "The Conscience of Europe"**, will take place in the Finnish Parliament on the 18th and 19th of March 2014. The project will also feature the touring exhibition "Miranda – the Roma Holocaust" and additional cultural events and activities of the conference. Finland's former president Tarja Halonen is patron of the project.

The speakers and participants of The Conscience of Europe conference will consist of **European decision makers, figures in cultural life, and recognized academics. The Conscience of Europe conference aims at reforming the EU's policies concerning multiculturalism, minorities and immigrants.** During the conference, Veijo Baltzar will announce his proposal for the reform of policies of multiculturalism in Europe. The conference will underline the importance of developing and expanding measures based on education and culture.

Our goal is a multicultural Europe of equality where everyone will have the right to cultural identity and self-respect. Those holding positions of responsibility and future decision-makers must reform inherited attitudes towards minorities and build a true Europe of citizens.

Last year, Baltzar published, in Finnish, “Kokemus pohjainen filosofia” (“A Philosophy of Experience”, ntamo, 2012), a philosophical-pedagogical work in which his main message is that Europe should reform its policies and systems of education in order to respond to the requirements of multiculturalism. The English version of the book will be published in the early February and sent to the conference participants in advance as background material for its themes. On the basis of the Conscience of Europe, Baltzar will write a continuation of this published work, the purpose of which will be to guide the decision makers of the future to a constructive and empowering path.

The Ideology of “The Conscience of Europe”

In the Europe of today everything is being materialized and numbered. Equality and human rights cannot lag behind in the past. In the name of progress, leaders with authority delegate cosmetic measures from top to bottom. Will they be able to implement sustainable development in minority issues?

Although Europe is ethnically multicultural, **we lack the necessary functional tools and goal-oriented competencies in matters of law, bureaucracy and education.** In 2014, we are still dealing with ethnic and cultural minorities **in the margins.** In Finland, marginalization provides employment for hundreds of thousands of members of the majority, and in Europe for millions, while excluding minorities. Minorities should be treated and addressed within a globalized European context. A people cannot exist without its authors, artists, Nobel Prize winners and academics. The relevant question is how to provide status for minorities that have been pushed into the margins, such as, for example, the Roma people.

The future is based on young people, who gain their strength from their cultural heritage. Veijo Baltzar underlines that **culture, education and moral considerations are the most important tools for creating multiculturalism.** To achieve a living and viable multinational Europe, the countries of the EU must empower national minorities and their cultural identities. We are inviting influential decision-makers, cultural figures and researchers to engage in an inter-cultural dialogue. The future should not be built on disposable commodities. We function in direct interaction with leaders who have the power to integrate minorities on the path of survival.

Our goal is to awaken Europe and to permanently reform the EU’s national minority policies.

Administration and project partners

Drom administers "The Conscience of Europe". It is responsible for producing and implementing all the events of the project: the touring exhibition, the international conference and its complementary activities.

Drom Association's strategic steering committee has formed an influential background for achieving the objectives of the association. The committee consists of Finland's former PM **Paavo Lipponen**; former Minister for Foreign Affairs, deputy **Ilkka Kanerva**; former minister of the Environment deputy **Kimmo Tiilikainen**, Youth Counsellor **Olli Saarela** and the director of the Alexander Theatre **Reima Jokinen**. The work of steering committee has involved also former deputy **Pekka Haavisto** (current Finland's minister for International Development) and a former deputy **Astrid Thors** (current OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities). The members of the strategic steering committee take part in planning and carrying out the international conference.

The partners of the project so far

Institut Français de Finlande
Goethe-Institut Finland
The Embassy of Estonia, Helsinki
The Embassy of Hungary, Helsinki
The Embassy of the Czech Republic, Helsinki
The Embassy of the Netherlands, Helsinki
The Embassy of Slovakia, Helsinki
The World Assembly of Youth
The Museum of Romani Culture, Brno, Czech Republic
The National Museum of Finland
The Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland
The Alexander Theatre, Helsinki, Finland
The Cultural Affairs Office of the City of Raasepori, Finland
The Association for the Loviisa Cultural Centre, Finland
The Cultural Affairs Office of the City of Iisalmi, Finland

Additional events of the conference:

Monday, 17 March 2014, 6 p.m., National Museum

The Drom Association and the National Museum of Finland will organize a welcoming event for conference participants and co-partners to be hosted by Museum Director Helena Edgren. Visiting exhibition “Miranda – The Roma Holocaust. Who's Afraid of the White Man?” (produced by Drom Association in 2011, exhibition is in the Finland’s National Museum 13.9.2013 – 23.3.2014)

Wednesday, 19 March, The Alexander Theatre, Helsinki :

7.p.m: The première of theatre play “With the Seven-String Guitar ”

8.p.m. Networking dinner

More information: www.drom.fi, www.en.drom.fi/the-conscience-of-europe

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