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INVITATION LETTER

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to inform that the Finnish Association **DROM** organizes an **international conference “The Conscience of Europe”** dedicated to and aimed at renewing the multicultural policies in Europe from **18 to 19 March 2014** in **Helsinki, Finland**. The two-day conference is taking place in the Finnish Parliament Annex.

You, a young person (age 18-35) are welcome to participate this conference.

“The Conscience of Europe” is an initiative by a president of Drom Association, Cultural Counsellor, author and versatile artist Veijo Baltzar, who is a travelling Roma by his roots. Veijo Baltzar is a leading contributor in multicultural issues in Finland. In his book “A Philosophy of Experience” (2012) Baltzar claims that Europe should reform its policies and systems of education in order to respond to the requirements of multiculturalism.

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.

The speakers and participants of the conference consist of European decision-makers, recognized academics and figures in cultural life. Among the confirmed speakers are the minister of State for Social Inclusion Dr. Zoltán Kovacs (Hungary), the minister for Education Jaan Aaviksoo (Estonia), professor Catherine Wihtol de Wenden (France), Finland’s former president Tarja Halonen and former prime-minister Paavo Lipponen. The programme including all conference speakers will be published by the end of January.

Among others, these questions will be dealt during the conference:

Does multicultural Europe deal with its ethnic and cultural minorities in the margins? Does it speak the same language as its minorities? Are minorities used as rubber stamps for various projects, positions, prize, awards etc. meant only for the majority? Will the majority’s attitude of “I am tolerant of you” create true equality?

The number of conference participant in total is approximately 120. The number of participants allocated for young people from all over the world is 38. The DROM Association **welcomes young active people from all over world who are interested in creating a multicultural society** and the future direction of related measures in areas such as education, administration and the law.

Conference participants take responsibility for their travel-related expenses and for reserving own accommodation. In order to participate the conference, you must register yourself by sending your information to address drom.coeurope.hki@gmail.com including following details:

- Full Name:
- Age:
- Country of residence:
- The possible organization you represent:
- Occupation / student:
- Write a short paragraph about your motivation to participate in this event:

Looking forward to receiving your applications.

Sincerely,

Nina Castén
Executive Director
DROM Association

Note: Kindly forward the registration details to the contact information provided below:

Nina Castén
Executive Director of DROM Association
Website: www.drom.fi
Email: nina.casten@gmail.com
Tel: +358 44 5090683