

**Directorate of school, out-of-school  
and higher education  
Higher Education and Research  
Division**



**Higher Education and Democratic  
Culture:  
Citizenship, Human Rights and Civic  
Responsibility**

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
HEADQUARTERS  
PALAIS DE L'EUROPE**

Strasbourg  
**22 – 23 June 2006**  
Room 1

**P R O G R A M M E**

*The Council of Europe Higher Education Forums are intended to highlight and address particular issues of concern in a regular and flexible fashion, offering a major platform for high level policy debate in the area of higher education in Europe and beyond.*

**Higher Education and  
Democratic Culture:  
Citizenship, Human Rights and  
Sustainability**

Issues of democracy, its contents and culture as much as its form, define the political debate of our societies. In Europe, North America and other regions of the world, democracy is a major focus of public debate. Healthy democracies can only thrive and develop through open debate about the nature and future of democracy.

Yet, along with the global spread of democratic ideas and societies, a crisis of commitment to and practice of democracy persists. Democracy cannot exist without strong institutions and sound legislation, but it also cannot work without being based on democratic culture. Education and schooling are decisive forces shaping the democratic development of societies; and universities, in turn, are strategic institutions for the democratic development of schooling and societies.

A democratic culture encompasses democratic values, ways of knowing and acting, ethical judgments, analytical competencies, and skills of engagement. It includes concern for the sustainable well being of fellow human beings as well as of the environment in which we live. It includes awareness of and concern for human rights as well as openness to the cultural diversity of human experience and willingness to give due consideration to the views of others.

Higher education cannot remain indifferent to this challenge.

The Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR) will organize a Forum on Higher Education and Democratic Culture: Citizenship, Human Rights and Civic Responsibility (working title) at Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg.

The Forum will be organized in close cooperation with the US Steering Committee of the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy, comprised of the American Council on Education, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and Campus Compact. It will follow up and build on related previous Council of Europe activities such as the pilot project on the University as a Site of Citizenship, organised jointly with a consortium of US higher education organizations, with the University of Pennsylvania playing a leading role, and the Council of Europe initiative for the European Year of Citizenship through Education in 2005. The European University Association (EUA) will be closely associated, and other major European stakeholders will also be invited to participate.

The Forum will gather high level policy makers in North American and European higher education institutions and public authorities, as well as some higher education policy makers from other parts of the world. The purpose of the Forum will be to explore the responsibility of higher education for advancing sustainable democratic culture and to invite participants to discuss a declaration and practical follow-up activities.

The Forum will address a number of key issues such as

- i. Fostering democratic cultures: inclusion, social cohesion and intercultural dialogue;
- ii. Promoting human rights and democratic citizenship: teaching, research and public engagement;
- iii. Building sustainable democratic communities: knowledge, actions and civic responsibility.

The Forum, the declaration and any ensuing activities are intended to initiate a common major awareness raising effort for the need to increase the commitment of higher education institutions to a democratic culture and sustainable societies.

**Wednesday 21 June****16h00 – 17h30 – Registration**

Entry Hall of Council of Europe Headquarters

**Thursday 22 June****08h00 – 09h15 – Registration**

Entry Hall of Council of Europe Headquarters

**9h30 – 10h30 – Welcome, background and purpose of the Forum**

Chair: Sjur Bergan, Head of Department for Higher Education and History Teaching

Welcome by **Gabriele Mazza**, Director of School, Out-of-school and Higher Education, Council of Europe

- **Luc Weber**, Chair, Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR)
- **Henry Teune**, US Steering Committee of the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy
- **Josef Jařab**, Vice-Chair, Committee on Culture, Science and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **David Crosier**, European University Association (EUA)

BREAK

**11h00 – 13h00 – The Role of Higher Education for Sustainable Democratic Culture**

Chair: Virgílio Meira Soares, Bureau of the Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research

Keynote address

- **Frank Rhodes**, President Emeritus, Cornell University

Respondents

- **Tatsiana Khoma**, The National Unions of Students in Europe, Executive Board (ESIB)
- **Goolam Mahamedbhai**, President, International Association of Universities (IAU)
- **Sjur Bergan**, Head of Department for Higher Education and History Teaching

LUNCH

**15h00 – 16h30 Fostering the Culture of Democracy**

Chair: Susan Robinson, American Council on Education

Speaker

- **Brenda Gourley**, Vice-Chancellor, Open University United Kingdom

Respondents

- **Wayne Meisel**, President, Bonner Foundation
- **Etienne Van Vaerenbergh**, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

BREAK

**17h00 – 18h00 – The meaning and use of the declaration**

Moderators: **Sjur Bergan**, **Josef Huber**, Higher Education and Research, Council of Europe

**18h00 – 18h30 – Address by Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

Chair: Susan Robinson, American Council on Education

**18h45 – Reception, Council of Europe****Friday 23 June****8h45 – 9h00 – Opening of Day 2****9h00 – 10h30 - Promoting Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship**

Chair: Radu Damian, Vice-Chair of the CDESR (to be confirmed)

Speaker

- **Thomas Hammarberg**, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

Respondents

- **Martin J. Blank**, Director, Coalition for Community Schools
- **Lars Lyng Nielsen**, Vice-President, European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE)
- **G. David Pollick**, President of Birmingham-Southern College

BREAK

**11h00 – 12h15 – Building Sustainable Democratic Communities**

Chair: Caryn McTighe Musil, Association of American Colleges and Universities

Speakers

- **Aziz Pollozhani**, Minister of Education of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
- **Marvalene Hughes**, President, Dillard University

LUNCH

**14h00 – General report and adoption of the Declaration**

Chairs: Luc Weber, CDESR; Ira Harkavy, US Steering Committee of the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy

**David Crosier**, General rapporteur, European University Association (EUA)

**15h00 – Closing statement**

Closing statement by **Gabriele Mazza**, Director of School, Out-of-school and Higher Education, Council of Europe