

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am very proud to welcome you to our second international concertation event for support actions in the area of cultural heritage.

We are very glad that the european commission decided once more to have their meeting take place in austria.

Due to the fact that this part of our events is dedicated to key players in this area only few austrian people are allowed to participate in the following discussions.

Ladies and gentlemen!

In these days we are still in the process to rebuild the european union.

To create a political union out of a trade union, which was founded in 1957.

In the european union a lot of topics have been discussed which are not only economic ones. The currency issue for example is not an issue for economy people only it is not only a question of how we are going to pay our bills in future.

Its a question of how is power divided up in a new europe.

Germany had to be convinced to give up the power of Deutsche Bank and to agree to establish a european central bank.

To create a common market is not only a question of free goods traffic

but also a question of common economic, social standards and prosperity.

To reach these goals all the social founds like the european social found had been developed.

For me the most exiting idea is to gain more prosperity and social security for all of us by going to or being in the european union. To help poorer regions to develop.

It is not the idea of giving gifts to them but of giving them money for their infrastructure to help them to reach european standards and by doing so to become equal partners.

The idea of a common university space is in my mind the idea of self conscious open minded citizens who have learned to communicate, who have learned that there is not only one solution for one problem but a lot of approaches to go, who have learned that we dont have to fear other countries other societies, who have lost regionalism, nationalism and rassism and got internationalism.

For reaching all these aims we have a lot of work to do and a good package of problems to solve:

In agriculture, traffic, migration, health care.

Many of you will ask: why is he telling us these stories? Maybe you agree or disagree.

We came together to discuss research affairs, framework programs and support actions and not a Nizza process or something like that.

The decision of Ireland made me rather sad, because I think it was the idea of not giving up particular, national advantages in favour of strengthening new economic weak regions just like the union did it before in Ireland.

But you are right, this not our topic, not today.

Our topic in terms of research is not how we organize to give european money to research institutes especially austrian ones.

Our topic is how can research contribute to solve our problems by making europe a union.

We never have to forget that everything we are doing ,negotiating the framework programs and the accompaning measures are dedicated to this aim.

In terms of cultural heritage , libraries, services for the citizens it is our duty to make the european university space more open, to open our european treasures in libraries and archives and museums to public, to make them participate in cultural life.

This day we will discuss all the support measures to fulfil the framework with life.

I therefore am very glad to welcome the experts of the commission in austria. Mr Bernhard Smith will tell us about new trends in FP 6 too.

You will be presented networks of excellence, technical cooperation and the area of dissemination and information which is very important to run a program conveniently.

Last but not least I have to thank Mrs Puente for her support organizing the event and Mrs. Hafner and my colleague Mrs Altrichter.

It is their work that you now can sit here, that you can hear me that you have internet connection and that we all have to eat and to drink during breaks. I know it was a pretty good job you did.

It is only left to me to wish you a pleasant and stimulating stay in vienna.