

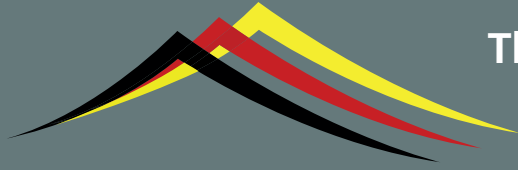


The 2012 Cultural Bridges Conference in Germany

*"Multiculturalism, the 2012 Global Debate:
Strengthening Intercultural Relations"*

November 7th-9th, 2012, Berlin





The 2012 Cultural Bridges Conference in Germany

Berlin, September 1th-20th, 2012

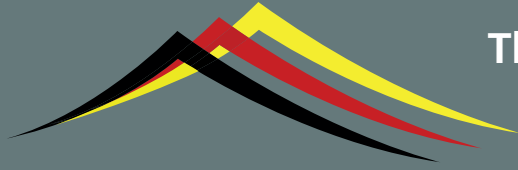


Introduction

Globalization has brought the world closer together; free movement and increased migration mean that nations must face the challenge of effectively integrating multicultural societies. As a prominent example, contemporary Germany consists of a diverse multicultural landscape of individuals whose origins stem from every continent of the world.

From the 7th to the 9th of November in Berlin, the ICD welcomed a diverse range of participants from a various cultural backgrounds to take part in its 2012 Cultural Bridges conference in Germany.

The 2012 Cultural Bridges in Germany Conference looked to present a wide range of perspectives on the issues surrounding intercultural relations in an international context, with a particular focus on Germany. The Conference went on to explore different examples and best practices of Cultural Diplomacy and soft power, as a means of bridging gaps in understanding between Germany and the world.



The 2012 Cultural Bridges Conference in Germany

Berlin, September 1th-20th, 2012



Conference Summary

Wednesday, November 7th, 2012

United in Diversity: Migration, Immigration & Integration

9:00, ICD House: Registration

9:30: Lecture & Discussion

Turkey as a Cultural Bridge between Europe and the Arab World

The Hon. Yasar Yakis

10:15: Lecture & Discussion

Sports – Connecting Cultures and Building Cultural Bridges in Germany

Ferry Pausch

11:00: Tea, Coffee & Refreshments

11:30: Interactive Panel Discussion
Integration of Immigrants in Germany & the EU: Best Practices

with The Hon. Yasar Yakis,
Amb. Dietrich von Kyaw,
Prof. Dr. Götz Kaufmann,

Wolfgang Jockusch, Ferry Pausch, Sarmad Hussein, Amela Malja, Hannes Strauss

12:30: Lunch Session

14:00, Embassy of Denmark, The Nordic Embassies, Felleshus: Visit,

Lecture & Discussion

Biking Diplomacy – Copenhagen Bike Culture and City-Planning as a Case in Danish Public Diplomacy

Birgitte Tovborg Jensen

15:00: Lecture & Discussion

Cultural Bridges through Film: Cinema for Peace (in the Framework of Berlinale Film Festival)

Virginia Palm

Participant Paper

The Integration of Immigrant Children of the first Generation and Intercultural Dialogue in Primary Schools, Case Study of Slovenia

Marijanca Ajša Vizintin

17:00, The German Parliament: Visit & Tour

19:00, ICD House:

Lecture & Discussion

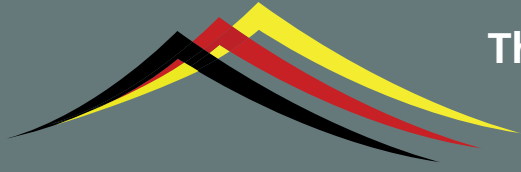
Energiewende – a Cultural and Democratic Revolution

Hans-Josef Fell (Mdb)

Video Interview

20:00, Ach Nicko Ach:

Welcome Group Dinner



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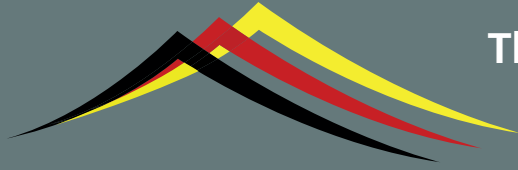
Conference Summary

Wednesday, November 7th, 2012

United in Diversity: Migration, Immigration & Integration

To begin the conference, the honourable Yasar Yakis, the former foreign minister of Turkey gave a lecture on the role of Turkey in acting as a bridge between Europe and the Arab world. Mr Yakis discussed a number of current issues in the Arab world including secularism and the Arab spring. Following on from this, Ferry Pausch raised the issue of sports in cultural diplomacy, its role and how effective projects, such as their Deutschlandstiftungs integration program can be in building dialogue between groups. Yasir Yakis and Ferry Pausch were then joined by Dietrich van Kyaw, Dr. Goetz Kaufmann, Wolfgang Jockusch, Samad Hussein and Amela Malja to take part in an interactive panel discussion on the topic of 'Integration of Immigrants in Germany & the EU: Best Practices'. Throughout this lively debate a number of important topics were raised including; the nature of integration in countries such as Germany and America, how Germany's attitude towards integration has changed in the last 20 years and what more can be done to facilitate access in Germany. After a short lunch break, participants were invited to the Danish embassy, where they were greeted by Brigitte Tovborg Jensen

the Danish cultural Attaché, who gave a fascinating insight into the biking culture in Copenhagen and what that brings to Danish identity. ICD masters student Virginia Palm then gave a lecture on the topic of Cultural Bridges through film, discussing the idea of cinema for peace in the framework of the Berlinale film festival. Following on, participant Marijanca Ajsa Vizintin presented her paper on The Integration of Immigrant Children of the first Generation and Intercultural Dialogue in Primary Schools, using her native Slovenia as a case study. This was an insightful lecture, given the wide representation of ethnic minorities in Slovenia, which can serve as a notable example to other diverse nations. Participants were then taken to the German parliament where they were given a guided tour. The final lecture of the day was given at the ICD house of Art and Culture by Hans Josef Fell, on the subject of the Energiewende in Germany. Mr Fell raised a number of key topics and gave valuable insight into what it a crucial topic facing modern Germany. To conclude the day, participants were taken to the popular Greek restaurant, Ak Niko Ach on Kufuersendamm, where good times were had by all.



The 2012 Cultural Bridges Conference in Germany

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Conference Summary

Thursday, November 8th, 2012

Islam in Western Society and Bilateral Relations between Countries

9:00, ICD House:

Lecture & Discussion

Building Cultural Bridges between Europe & the USA with reference to 2012 Presidential Elections

Mark C. Donfried

10:15: Lecture & Discussion

The Role of Civil Society in Transatlantic Relations

Harald Leibrecht (Mdb)

Video Interview

10:45: Tea, Coffee & Refreshments, Participant Interviews

11:25: Lecture & Discussion

Strengthening of Intercultural Understanding on the Parliamentary Level

Erwin Lotter (Mdb)

12:00: Interactive Panel Discussion

The Visions of Islam in Germany & Western Society

Erwin Lotter (Mdb), The Hon. Yasar Yakis, Mark C. Donfried

13:00: Lunch Break

14:30, The German Federal Agency for Civic Education:

Lecture & Visit

Multiculturalism in Germany

Dr. Marco Michel

16:30, ICD House:

Participant Paper

The History of Arabs – Bridging Cultures with Knowledge of the Past

Wafaa Al-Natheema

17:00: Lecture & Discussion

Cultural bridges between Pakistan and Germany in the Context of Globalization and Multiculturalism

H.E. Amb. Abdul Basit

Video Interview

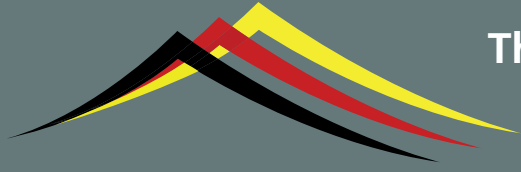
18:00: Interactive Discussion:

Can Islam subsist in Western Society?

Moderator: The Hon.

Yasar Yakis

19:00, Swera: Group Dinner



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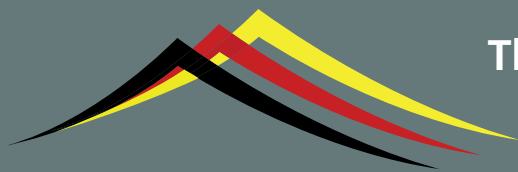
Conference Summary

Thursday, November 8th, 2012

Islam in Western Society and Bilateral Relations between Countries

Events on Thursday began at the ICD house with a lecture from ICD founder and Director Mark C. Donfried on building cultural bridges between Germany and the USA, with reference to the 2012 American presidential elections. His lecture explored a number of aspects of the relationships, from historical point of view as well as a look to the future. Harald Leibrecht and Erin Lotter, members of the German parliament, then joined participants at the ICD house to present their lectures, on the role of civil society in transatlantic relationships and strengthening intercultural understanding at a parliamentary level respectively. Following this was an interactive panel discussion involving Mr Lotter, Mark Donfried and Yasir Yakash on the Visions of Islam in Germany & Western Society. This proved to a lively topic of discussion, with a number of issues being raised by both panelists and participants. In order to gain a German perspective on multiculturalism in the country, participants visited

the German federal agency for civic education, where Marco Michel discusses both the importance and challenges of building a multicultural society in Germany. Returning to the ICD house, Wafaa Al-Natheema then presented a paper entitled, Participant Paper: "The History of Arabs - Bridging Cultures with Knowledge of the Past". Subsequently the Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany, His Excellency Ambassador Abdul Basit shared his insight on the relationship between Pakistan and Germany, giving particular focus on the Context of Globalization and Multiculturalism. Concluding the day's events, Yasir Yakish moderated a discussion between participants on the question of "Can Islam subsist in Western Society?" this contention subject provided an number of enthusiastic responses. Afterwards participants were invited to dine at 'Swera' a popular Pakistani restaurant, where good times were had by all.



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Conference Summary

Friday, November 9th, 2012

Globalization of Multiculturalism

10:00, Berlin Wall Memorial

Ceremony: Ceremony & Visit
Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall

13:00: Lunch Break

14:00, ICD House:

Lecture & Discussion

The Eastern Orientation/Policies of European Union and the European Orientation of Eastern Europe

H.E. Amb. Aureliu Ciocoi

Video Interview

15:00: Lecture & Discussion

The History of Arabs – Bridging Cultures with Knowledge of the Past

Wafaa Al-Natheema

15:45: Lecture & Discussion

Immigration and Identification - from Multiculturalism to proactive Integration

Kaspar-Laurenz Reif

Video Interview

16:30: Tea, Coffee & Refreshments, Participant Interviews

17:00: Lecture & Discussion

Multicultural Challenges of Small Countries – Case Study of Slovenia

Marko Stucin

Video Interview

Participant Paper

Cosmopolitan Solutions for Multicultural Reality of Europe

Narcisa Šabić

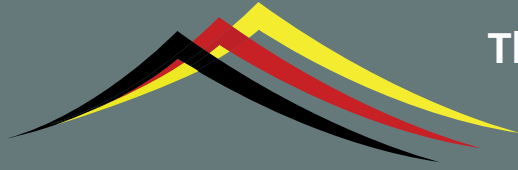
18:00: Lecture & Discussion

A Vision of Democracy
Ingrid Hönlinger (Mdb)

Video Interview

Farewell Address: The Hon. Yasar Yakis, Mark C. Donfried

19:30: Farewell Group Dinner



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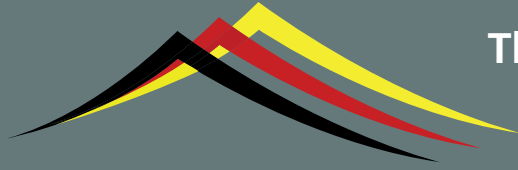
Conference Summary

Friday, November 9th, 2012

Globalization of Multiculturalism

In celebration of fall of the Berlin wall, participants were taken to the 'Berlin Wall Memorial Ceremony'. Later that afternoon, at the ICD House of Art and Culture, the Ambassador of Moldavia to Germany ,H.E. Amb. Aureliu Ciocoi presented a lecture on the subject 'The Eastern Orientation/Policies of European Union and the European Orientation of Eastern Europe'. The lecture proved fascinating as a number of relevant points were raised on the idea of promoting multiculturalism. Shortly afterwards CDU party member, Kaspar-Laurenz Reif was given the opportunity to present a lecture and discussion, choosing the topic of 'Immigration and Identification - from Multiculturalism to proactive Integration'. This lecture discussed in detail the history of German multiculturalism from

the 'Gastarbeiter's' arrival in German society, right up until the present day. From a quite different perspective, what followed was a presentation from Slovenian embassy secretary Marko Tucin on the multicultural challenges facing a small country. Next Narcisa Šabić gave a very slick presentation of her paper on the theme of 'Cosmopolitan Solutions for Multicultural Reality of Europe', which was well received. Finally the conference was ended by German parliament member Ingrid Hoenlinger, who gave a though provoking lecture entitled, 'A Vision of Democracy', exploring what the future of democracy may hold. The conference was then rounded off by a farewell presentation by Mark Donfried and Yasir Yakish, and a farewell group dinner.



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Speakers

H.E. Amb. Abdul Basit Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany

Wafaa Al-Natheema Founder and Director of the Institute of Near Eastern & African Studies (INEAS)

H.E. Amb. Aureliu Ciocoi Ambassador of Moldavia to Germany

Mark C. Donfried Director & Founder, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy

Hans-Josef Fell Member of the German Parliament

Ingrid Hönlinger Member of the German Parliament

Sarmad Hussein German Parliament, Political Analyst and Foreign Policy Advisor, SPD Party

Birgitte Tovborg Jensen Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Denmark in Berlin

Wolfgang Jockusch Founder and CEO of BAMIKnet

Dr. Phil. Götz F. Kaufmann Professor at the Free University of Berlin and the Cultural Diplomacy Studies Center of the ICD

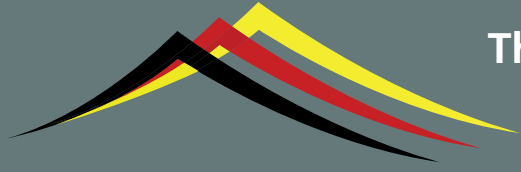
H.E. Amb. Dietrich von Kyaw Former German Ambassador

Harald Leibrecht Member of the German Parliament

Erwin Lotter Member of the German Parliament

Rory MacLean Author

Dr. Marco Michel The German Federal Agency for Civic Education



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Speakers

**H.E. Amb.
Ken Osinde**
Ambassador of
Kenya to Germany

Virginia Palm
Master Student in
Cultural Diplomacy
and International
Relations

Ferry Pausch
Managing Director,
Deutschlandstiftung
Integration

**Anouschka
Pearlman** National
Public Radio, Berlin

**Mr. Kaspar-Laurenz
Reif** German Parlia-
ment, CDU/CSU Party

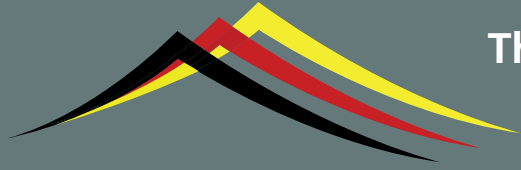
Narcisa Šabić MA
student of political
science, University
of Ljubljana

**Johannes-Seb.
Strauss** CEO of
Solid Impact

Marko Stucin
First Secretary,
Embassy of Slovenia
to Germany

**Marijanca Ajsa
Vizintin** Slovenian
Migration Institute (SMI),
Research Centre of the
Slovenian Academy of Sci-
ences and Arts (SRC SASA)

**The Hon. Yasar
Yakis** Former
Foreign Minister of
Turkey



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Participants

Zulal Fazlioglu Akin

Faruk Aksel

Fatemah Albuloshi

Wafaa Al-Natheema

Julia Bondarenko

Sean Cannady

Alvaro Florez Diaz

Engy El-Rafae

Esther Gabagami

Glenn Gaviller

Dina Gericke

Zafar Iqbal

Carolina Beatríz Torres Jaramillo

Vlad Jecan

Saba Khalid

Magdalena Kircher

Agata Joanna Lagiewka

Camilla Marucco

Zachary Nelson

Anja Katrin Orth

Oleksandra Romanovska

Emily Joy Rothchild

Narcisa Šabić

Habib Saleh

Erin Schenk

Benjamin Tobin

Marijanca Ajsa Vizintin

Toedora Voaides

Ksenia Volosovtsova

Mart Wegman





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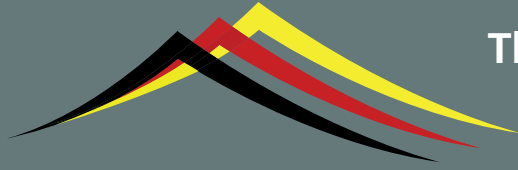
Participant Papers

Presentations were delivered from participants as part of the Cultural Bridges Conference in Germany. Subjects related to German cultural diplomacy were presented by the following people:

- **Marijanca Ajsa Vizintin**
The Integration of Immigrant Children of the First Generation and Intercultural dialogue in Primary Schools- Case study of Slovenia
- **Narcisa Šabić**
Pragmatic Approach And Cosmopolitan Solutions For Multicultural Reality Of Europe
- **Wafaa Al-Natheema**
The History of Arabs - Bridging Cultures with Knowledge of the Past

The papers are now exhibited on the website of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy.





The 2012 Cultural Bridges Conference in Germany

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Speaker Interviews



Hans-Josef Fells, Member of the German Parliament

During the interview Mr Fells faced question facing on a number on topics;

On the subject of his interests and his job Mr Fells described the relations between pollution destroying the world we live in and how this makes it difficult for us to live together. By creating a environmentally conscious world people can live together.

When asked about being about a signatory to the Prague declaration by the European commission, he spoke about his pride in signing this, he felt that the nature of Nazism and Communism in Europe where perfect examples of how totalitarianism is detrimental to multiculturalism.

An interesting question on the supposed failure of multiculturalism was posed, to which Mr Fells responded by suggesting that indeed many politicians

see the idea of multiculturalism as a threat to national identity, but believed the majority of Germans did not feel this.

In response to the question that Islam was incompatible in a country like Germany, he reminded the audience that Islam is by nature a peaceful religion, of course there are prejudices as a result of extremism, but there should be no suppression of Islam.

As a member of the green party he was probed on what the part could do to meet the energy needs of the future, Mr Feels raised several interesting points; that currently energy production was very centralised, jobs and opportunities could be created with renewable energy and act as a means of cultural diplomacy as localised decision making on energy could help promote dialogue.



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Speaker Interviews



Erwin Lotter, Member of the German Parliament

On the idea of multiculturalism being negative to the development of society and threat to identity, Mr Lotter challenged this instead pointing out that each member of society can learn from each other, giving the example of cuisines, and how diversity in this sense is encouraged.

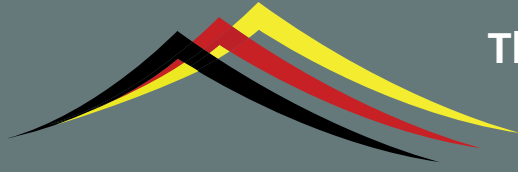
It was put to Mr Lotter that Islam could be an obstacle to integration; he acknowledged that this could be true, but only in the case of extreme fundamentalism, explaining that this is a result of peoples interpretation of the religion, not the religion itself.

When asked to comment on whether multiculturalism was developing or dead, Mr Lotter was convinced that it is still developing, whilst it is the responsibility

of each 'Laende' to promote this, he acknowledged that whilst work is being done to improve the current policies, more still needs to be done.

His party is deeply liberal, guaranteeing individual freedom to all, in terms of multicultural policy he believed it essential that all cultures accept each other. Rather than take an approach of 'sterilizing' the country from expressions of different cultures, it should be promoted and understood and that unity can and must come from a universal acceptance of the country's constitution.

Looking to the future, Mr Lotter is strongly in favor of a unified Europe, one based on fundamentals such as liberalism and democracy.



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Speaker Interviews



Ingrid Hönlinger, Member of the German Parliament

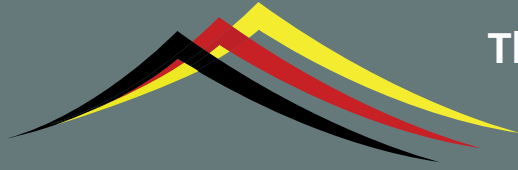
Speaking about how the government can develop integration policies, Ms Hönlinger believes a greater use of dual nationality would allow people greater representation and feelings of inclusion.

A question was posed on the idea of islamification being a threat to Germany, to this she replied that it is certainly a challenge however there is much that both cultures can learn from each other.

In response to the notion that multiculturalism has failed in German, Ms Hönlinger proposed that it is inevitable that in a globalized world cultures must deal with other and there are mutual gains for everyone if multiculturalism succeeds.

She gave a good example of multicultural interaction on a local level, discussing an international breakfast she attended in her local town, where people from many different backgrounds were able to interact.

Full interviews are available on the website of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy.



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Conference Voices

The Hon. Yasar Yakis

"I would not call Turkey an Islamic country; it is a secular country with a predominant Muslim population. Therefore it is more proper to use the term 'member country of Islamic countries'"

Harald Leibrecht (Mdb)

"Both Germany and the USA face the challenge of integrating minorities and both have a lot to learn from each other – mainly in the areas of antidiscrimination policies or integration of Islamic immigrants"

Kaspar-Laurenz Reif

"Integration needs identification, we need to realise that society is not a faceless authority, we are the society and integration is its part"

Wolfgang Jockusch

"Small countries tend to protect their national identity more than the big ones. Especially in the case of young countries, which need to re-develop their national identity whereas on the other hand, they are dealing with building a multicultural society"

Birgitte Tovborg Jensen

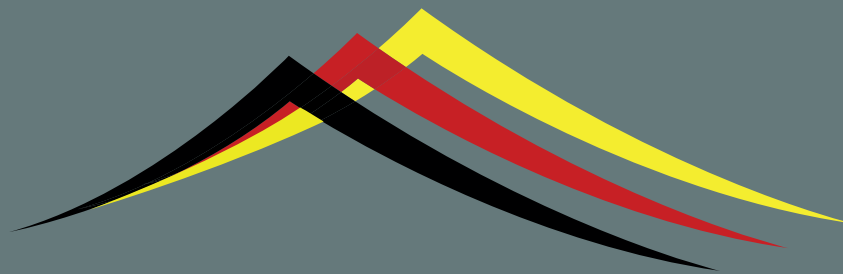
"To reach success of the multicultural society, instead of talking only about the differences, we need to focus on our common interests"

Wolfgang Jockusch

"The salad bowl model concerns talking about individuals, but to make the salad tasty we need the sauce to connect these individuals. Music, sports or other shared interests could be this sauce, enabling the mutual understanding by taking part in a common activity, independent on a single culture"

Erwin Lotter (Mdb)

"Instead of the term 'Multiculturalism' I prefer the word 'Interculturalism', which expresses the ideas we are talking about better. There is no need to show understanding in everything, but it is important to show respect towards other cultures"



CULTURAL BRIDGES IN GERMANY

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