

Cities for Europe Conference

Towards a Europe of Citizens

9 November 2012

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

at the Berliner Rathaus (City Hall), Luise-Schroeder-Saal, Rathausstrasse, 10178 Berlin

An event in the framework of the Berlin Conference 2012

Europe is in the grip of a profound crisis – and this is bound to affect European cities and their citizens. They share the responsibility for building a “Europe of Citizens”. After all, where do Europe’s citizens encounter Europe? – In their own cities. It is in Europe’s cities that the specifically European cultural achievements are born; it is here and in Europe’s regions that the commemorative sites connected with major European events are to be found; this is where the integration of people of different cultures succeeds – or fails; this is where abandoned buildings are given a new lease of life and entire city quarters are reclaimed; this is where people work together across borders; this is where citizens preserve and use Europe’s heritage – the traces of Europe’s cultural diversity down through the ages.

The “A Soul for Europe” initiative firmly believes that the best way to build a “Europe of Citizens” is through culture and that the cities have a key role to play in this process. That is why, on the eve of the Berlin Conference 2012, the city of Berlin and the “A Soul for Europe” initiative are co-organising, together with their cooperation partner, the Federal Agency for Civic Education, a conference that will bring together representatives of European cities, mayors, artists, cultural workers and engaged citizens to discuss what concrete measure the cities can take to help build a “Europe of Citizens”.

These are some of the questions that will be addressed: In what ways are cities already assuming their responsibility for Europe? How can such efforts be made more visible at the local level? What can individual citizens do in their own cities and regions to strengthen local action for Europe? Are there successful and inspiring examples of such activities? How can administrators and policymakers – from local to national authorities to key EU institutions – support action for Europe? Does it make sense to support and promote existing initiatives through cooperation between European cities?

The results of this conference will be taken up in the Berlin Conference 2012 the following day.

“A Soul for Europe” wants to thank the following partners for their support:

With the support of the “Europe for Citizens”
programme of the European Union:



The Strategy Group was built up and its work
is made possible with the financial support of:

Robert Bosch Stiftung

Project Executing Organisation
STIFTUNG
ZUKUNFTBERLIN

SCHEDULE

from 10:30 a.m.	Arrival of participants
11:00-11:10 a.m.	Welcome by Brigitte Russ-Scherer, former Lord Mayor of Tübingen / "A Soul for Europe" Initiative
11:10-11:30 a.m.	Opening of the conference and introductory statement by Michael Müller, Senator for Urban Development and the Environment, Mayor of Berlin
11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	Panel discussion "Cities and their Responsibilities for Europe" Strategic Approaches and Reports on the Cities' Experiences Francisca Abreu, Culture Councillor to the City of Guimarães Krzysztof Soska, Deputy Mayor of the City of Szczecin Werner Spec, Lord Mayor of the City of Ludwigsburg Moderator: Volker Panzer
12:10-12:40 p.m.	Experience Europe! Brief presentations of exemplary projects
12:40-1:30 p.m.	The "European Marketplace" – Tour with refreshments in the foyer
1:30-3:00 p.m.	Europe Café Discussion and exchange of experiences at three tables Moderator: Justus Boehncke, Jörg Plenio, Daniel Schreiber
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Final Discussion with presentation of the results of the Europe Café Presentation of the BERLIN DECLARATION With Jo Leinen, MEP, President of the European Movement International and Member of the Advisory Board Parliamentarian Working Group of "A Soul for Europe" and Volker Hassemer, Chairman of the Board of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin and Co-Founder of "A Soul for Europe" Moderator: Volker Panzer

5:00 p.m.	The "State of Europe" Speech Speech held by the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz An event initiated by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and Stiftung Zukunft Berlin Venue: Deutscher Bundestag (Paul-Löbe-Haus), Konrad-Adenauer-Strasse, 10557 Berlin [registered guests only]
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The "A Soul for Europe" initiative seeks to promote cooperation between civil society and policymakers and is actively engaged across Europe in efforts to build a "Europe of Citizens". The work of the initiative is premised on the belief that efforts to strengthen and further develop Europe can only succeed if the citizens themselves help shape Europe instead of leaving this job to European institutions and a small group of experts. European culture has an important role to play here. The driving force behind the "A Soul for Europe" initiative is a group of 50 young Europeans from more than 20 different countries.