



The Federal Government's Envoy  
for Culture and Media

Berlin, 30 June 2006

**Salute**

to the cultural exchange project

**EU expanding use**

The countries of the European continent are more and more growing together, thereby arts and culture play a key role in this process. Because it is only on the basis of culture that new values, orientations and identities can arise from. And only self-assured people can approach and understand others in an inquisitive and open manner.

This is why the European Community requires mature citizens who not only feel their affiliation with their own country and nation but who also identify themselves as Europeans. Our efforts must be directed at a unified Europe of diversities. This expresses the substance: European identity may only exist in coexistence with respect for specifics of national and regional cultures.

To respect other cultures means to know them. Therefore we must further expand cultural relations between Germany and especially the new acceding EU countries. This is particularly why I am very pleased about the project "EU expanding use". In terms of exchange-exhibitions between Germany and the other participating countries, it contributes in a exemplary way to cultural exchange. The idea of a unified Europe requires life, enthusiasms, and fantasy, to carry on causing inspiration: This is why I wish the project "EU expanding use" a never ending success.

**Bernd Neumann**

Minister of State of the Federal Chancellery  
Commissioner for Cultural and Media Affairs