



DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG
Ausschuss für Kultur und Medien

Die Vorsitzende

German Bundestag
Committee on Cultural and Media
Affairs
The Chair

For decades, the shared traditions of our European cultural life were masked by the ideological conflicts of block confrontation.

With the Eastern expansion of the European Union on the 1st of May 2004 the European countries took a big step towards reestablishing the cultural relationships between East and West, which had once been so manifold and close.

Yet what do we know about the new members, what do we actually know about each other? Do we know each other? I believe that Europe will only really grow together when we know and learn more about each other. Thus learning, we move towards a European Identity.

To grow together in this way, cultural dialog, i.e. a dialog grounded in the premise of difference and simultaneous tolerance, is absolutely crucial. Leading this dialog is closely tied to the understanding that cultural and artistic products constitute the potential of our future. Art and culture with their universal language of human creativity produce the necessary dimension, without which the shared European vision for the future would remain incomplete.

Therefore, I am particularly happy that the exhibition series "EU expanding use" creates a forum which allows contemporary artists to communicate their artistic confrontation with the issue of EU expansion. The exhibition series thus becomes a unique site of European encounter and cultural dialog.

My thanks therefore go to all those involved for their exemplary cultural commitment, and I send my best wishes for a successful realization of this project.

I wish you, the visitors of this exciting exhibition series, an enjoyable and stimulating dialog and constructive encounter with the "New – Yet Unknown."

Yours,