



A CULTURAL PROJECT

EUROPE

**20 Years
Berlin Conference**

**Join us in shaping
the future of Europe!**

**7 and 8 November
2024**

Where:

**Allianz Forum
next to the**

Brandenburg Gate

AGENDA

CONFERENCE DAY ONE

7 November 2024

Allianz Forum, Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin

11.30 am **Entrance & Registration at Allianz Forum**

12.30 pm **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Dr. Tobias Lindner, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Florian Hauer, Permanent Secretary for Federal and European Affairs and International Affairs, Senate Chancellery Berlin

Dr. Dr. h.c. Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

Ana Benavides Otero and **Stephanie Bonnici**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

01.00 pm **CONVERSATION: 20 YEARS OF BERLIN CONFERENCE & EU ENLARGEMENT**
The role and place of arts and culture in Europe

Introduction by **Nele Hertling**, Co-founder of the A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

Video Message by **José Manuel Barroso**, former President of the European Commission

Jo Leinen, former Member of the European Parliament, former President of the European Movement International (EMI)

Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, former President of the European Parliament

Dr.h.c. Doris Pack, former Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament

Dr. Hannes Swoboda, former Chair of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

Hosted by

Dr. Volker Hassemer, founder of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin & former Senator for Urban Development and Environment and

Yuriy Vulkovsky, former Deputy Minister of Culture, Bulgaria & Executive Director of Narodni Chitalishta Foundation

02.15 pm **Coffee Break**

02.45 pm **CONVERSATION: UNDERSTANDING THE NOW**
How are arts & culture driving today's political debates & the future of Europe?

Lisa Batiashvili, Georgian-born German violinist
Mariya Gabriel, former European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth & former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria
Michael Roth, Member of the German Bundestag & Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Hosted by **Farid Tabarki**, Founding Director of Studio Zeitgeist

04.00 pm **Change of location to European House**
Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin
170m from Allianz Forum

04.30 pm **PITCH, CONNECT AND SHARE: Introduction to tomorrow's conversations**
The speakers who will hold their breakout sessions on the next day will pitch their topics

EU – Invitation and exchange or deadly deterrence?

by **Urszula Bertin**

Europe a decolonial project?

by **Fernando Dias Costa**

Interconnectedness in the realm of culture.

by **Dr. hab. Dominika Kasprowicz**

Creative Laboratories of cultural discovery.

by **James McVeigh**

Creativity for social change.

by **Marina Mussapi**

Decentering european culture. Contributions of non european voices.

by **Necati Sönmez**

Welcome to Barbieland: European sentiment in the year of wars and elections.

by **Paweł Zerka**, Senior Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations

Conversation on the State of Culture Report

by **Natalie Giorgadze**, General Director of Culture Action Europe

07.00 pm **End of day one**

AGENDA

CONFERENCE DAY TWO

8 November 2024

Allianz Forum, Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin

The day's programme is designed to interconnect different formats, linking personal experiences with policy-making in four steps. First, European leaders share their personal stories in conversations with political, cultural, and civil society actors, exploring their visions for the future. This is followed by breakout sessions, where small groups can engage in open discussions with session leaders, reflecting on the insights shared. In the third step, political and cultural analysts synthesise the day's discussions into actionable policy proposals. Finally, decision-makers from local, national, and EU levels explore synergies and opportunities to create a joint agenda.

08.00 am **Entrance & Registration at Allianz Forum**

09.00 am **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Michelle Schmitz, Head of Representative Office Berlin Allianz SE and
Dr. Dr. h.c. Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin
Thomas Krüger, President of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education
Dr. Max Oliver Schmidt, Director of Studies for Migration and Europe, Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin

09.20 am **PRESENTING: A SOUL FOR EUROPE STRATEGY GROUP**

How has A Soul for Europe utilised the power of art and culture for Europe over the last 20 years?

Experiences shared by A Soul for Europe Strategy Group Members:
Susana Marques, Executive arts and culture manager, **Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos**, Yuste Foundation, **Dejan Ubovic**, KC Grad Belgrade, **Yuriy Vulkovsky**, independent consultant and former Deputy Minister of Culture in Bulgaria, **Giusy Chierchia**, CSR expert for the municipality of Milan, **Ana Benavides Otero**, EFA
Visual artist: **Yves Mettler**, Facilitators: **Stephanie Bonnici** and **Simon Mundy**

IN CONVERSATION WITH:

EXPECTATIONS AND DECEPTIONS, COMMITMENTS AND DECISIONS

Highly personal conversations between actors from the political and the artistic and cultural fields, and from civil society.

09.40 am **IN CONVERSATION WITH**

Dr.h.c. Doris Pack, former Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament
Mariya Gabriel, former European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth & former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria
Haris Pašović, Theatre Director from Sarajevo, Bosnia

Hosted by **Kathrin Deventer**, Secretary General of European Festivals Association & A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

10.40 am **Coffee Break**

11.00 am **IN CONVERSATION WITH**

Aiva Rozenberga, Lielā Talka, Riga, Latvia

Alison Mooney, Poet and former Speechwriter at the President of the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Lirak Çelaj, actor, director, and screenwriter, former Deputy Minister for European Integration, former Deputy Minister of Justice, Kosovo

Hosted by: **Nicolas Bertrand**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

12.00 pm **Coffee Break**

12.15 pm **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

During parallel sessions, participants will engage in discussions to consolidate what was shared in the plenary conversations. Divided into smaller groups, they will explore diverse perspectives and address key concerns about Europe's future. Each group will be guided by a speaker and a host, to allow for a focused exchange of ideas.

GROUP 1: EU – INVITATION AND EXCHANGE OR DEADLY DETERRENCE?

About the relations between EU and refugees from an artist's perspective

Urszula Bertin, XENION – Psychosoziale Hilfen für politisch Verfolgte e.V., Berlin, Germany

Hosted by **Susana Marques**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

Note-Taker: **Ruggero Lala**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

GROUP 2: EUROPE A DECOLONIAL PROJECT?

The paradigm of looking at oneself through others' eyes and the adventure of pluriversity

Fernando Dias Costa, Musician, Grupo Sal, Tübingen, Germany

Hosted by **Dr. Max Oliver Schmidt**, Director of Studies for Migration and Europe, Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin

Note-Taker: **Ata Ünal**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

GROUP 3: INTERCONNECTEDNESS IN THE REALM OF CULTURE

How the new types of connectivity in arts and culture can shape the future of Europe

Dr. hab. Dominika Kasprowicz, Villa Decius, Krakow, Poland

Hosted by **Dejan Ubovic**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

Note-Taker: **Guido Ferilli**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

GROUP 4: CREATIVE LABORATORIES OF CULTURAL DISCOVERY:

Festivals – our very own cultural large hadron colliders

James McVeigh, Festivals Edinburgh, Scotland

Hosted by **Simon Mundy**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

Note-Taker: **Christiane Lötsch**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

GROUP 5: CREATIVITY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

How creativity can influence the societies we are living in and spark systemic change from the bottom up

Adama Sanneh, Co-Founder and CEO Moleskine Foundation, Milan, Italy Hosted by

Giusy Chierchia, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

Note-Taker: **Andreas Bock**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

GROUP 6: DECENTERING EUROPEAN CULTURE. CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON EUROPEAN VOICES

How can non-Western actors challenge the Eurocentric gaze and contribute to a more inclusive, decolonized understanding and practice of culture?

Necati Sönmez, Film critic & documentary filmmaker, Istanbul, Turkey

Hosted by **Özlem Cengel Götzelt**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

Note-Taker: **Yves Mettler**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

02.00 pm

Lunch

03.00 pm

PLENARY: FROM CONVERSATIONS TO ANALYSIS

Political and Cultural analysts synthesise the day's discussions into actionable policy proposals for the local, national, and European levels.

Lars Ebert, Secretary General for Culture Action Europe, Brussels, Belgium

Adelheid Feilcke, Director of Programs for Europe at Deutsche Welle, Berlin, Germany

Davinia Galea, Founder and Managing Director for ARC Research & Consultancy, Malta

Elena Polivtseva, Co-Founder Culture Policy Room and Research Expert for Goethe Institute, Brussels, Belgium

Rarita Zbranca, Programme Director for Cluj Cultural Center, Cluj, Romania

Dr. Paweł Zerka, Senior Policy Fellow for European Council on Foreign Relations, Paris, France

Hosted by Kathrin Deventer, Secretary General of European Festivals Association & A Soul for Europe Strategy Group and

Stephanie Bonnici, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

04.15 pm **Coffee Break**

04.30 pm **PLENARY: FROM ANALYSIS TO ACTION**

Decision-makers from local, national, and EU levels commit to political processes by exploring synergies and opportunities to create a joint agenda.

Dr. Samuel Azzopardi, President of the Gozo Region, Malta

John Boxall, Mayor of Birgu, Malta

Xavier Cester Vidal, Director de l'Àrea de Música at Institut Català de les Empreses Culturals (ICEC) in Barcelona, Spain

Dr. Stefan Fassbinder, Mayor of Greifswald, Germany

Őrsi Gergely, Mayor of Budapest District II, Hungary

Barbara Gessler, Head of the European Commission Representation in Berlin, Germany

Katti Hoflin, Director for cultural affairs in Västra Götaland, Sweden

Jacek Jaśkowiak, Mayor of Poznan, Poland

Gilles Pelayo, Head of Unit Creative Europe Culture at EACEA for European Commission, Belgium

José Ribau Esteves, Mayor of Aveiro, Portugal

Shaqir Totaj, Mayor of Prizren, Kosovo

Sarah Wedl-Wilson, Permanent Secretary for Culture in Berlin, Germany

Hosted by **Farid Tabarki**, Founding Director of Studio Zeitgeist

05.45 pm **CLOSING WORDS**

Rarita Zbranca and **Mahir Namur**, A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

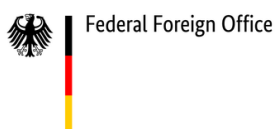
Dr. Dr. h.c. Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

06.00 pm **Reception**

Project and conference partners:



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We also thank the following partners for their support:



Executive organization:

