

**ADDRESS BY GEORGES POUSSIN, UNESCO
AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM FOR EXPERTS
ON ARTS EDUCATION**

May 29, 2008 – Wildbad Kreuth, Germany.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

Because you already gave me the privilege and opportunity to present, during the Opening session of this Symposium, UNESCO's considerations on Arts Education, namely the follow-up to the Lisbon Conference through the implementation measures of Road Map as well as the perspectives for the Seoul Conference, my intentions are certainly not to repeat what I already said on Thursday afternoon.

However, I think we should fully express our appreciation on the results of this European Symposium, which is now coming to an end, and it is for me a very pleasant task to speak about its big success.

First of all, I would like to express my **thanks and congratulations** to the Hanns Seidel Foundation and to the German National Commission for UNESCO, for organizing this event so perfectly, in this marvelous and historical place of Wildbad Kreuth.

With your permission, I am glad to mention especially the names of Ms Christine Merkel and Ms Anna Steinkamp, from the German Commission for UNESCO, Dr Siegfried Höfling from the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Dr. Ernst Wagner, and would like to also extend my thanks to all the speakers, moderators, reporters and participants as well as others who contributed to the excellent work of this conference.

Now, in reference to **the contents** of our debates, discussions, exchanges, experiences and ideas, I would say that we have learnt many things particularly stimulating and helpful to us.

In light of the preparation for the Second World Conference on Arts Education, this European Symposium was especially vital with the view to acknowledging the expectations and advices of European partners. As you know, this World Conference will be held very soon in 2010, thanks to the generous offer of the Republic of Korea with the approval of the General Conference of UNESCO, and, consequently, we cannot foresee the same lengthy process of regional meetings that we had implemented during four years for the preparation of the First World Conference (Lisbon, 2006).

Of course, in preparation to the Seoul Conference, we greatly appreciate the local, national and regional initiatives like yours but you must understand that we cannot build a similar work plan as before for the Lisbon Conference.

What we will do, as I have already said, is to undertake the survey on the implementation of the Lisbon Road Map, addressing the Ministries of Education and Culture of all the Member States through the National Commissions for UNESCO, at the end of September or in October. What we the co-organizers, the Republic of Korea and UNESCO, will also do is to collect recommendations and advices from experts in different parts of the world, during the ongoing preparations within a limited time of period. Notably, our hope is indeed to receive from you additional proposals and information.

So, in this context, it is clear that the present European Symposium was particularly a valuable and timely occasion.

May I tell you how satisfied we are to learn of **the evident convergence** between the general orientations and strategy envisaged by the Republic of Korea and UNESCO for the Seoul Conference and what you have expressed here during our discussions and your outstanding conclusions?

To resume my remarks: it is quite obvious that we both consider it absolutely necessary to address the progress of the Road Map - our essential tool and framework of reference – as the big priority, stressing on the role of teachers and schools and equally on the necessity to take into account the fact that, nowadays, the learning process is not exclusively limited to schools. On one hand, including the socio-cultural environments outside of schools such as family, artists, NGOs, foundations, cultural industries and cultural centers, museums, etc., targeting a diversity of audiences, and, on the other hand, recognizing the role that arts education should play, through multi-stakeholder partnerships, in reaching the goal of peace, social cohesion, cultural diversity and sustainable development for building balanced individual capacities and integrated societies.

In this regard, we observed that you additionally referred to UNESCO's Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), which I find very pertinent.

You also highlighted the necessity of strong cooperation between educational and cultural actors and we fundamentally agree on this point.

Last but not the least, our proposal to reinforce capacities for qualitative researches on Arts Education, as the third objective of the Seoul Conference, was clearly supported during your discussions and considered as a main topic.

In fact, it is truly essential to strengthen the analytical research capacities of measuring the impact of Arts education, with an outlook to further improve the practices and influence policy making. I believe we are completely in agreement with the idea of a glossary.

As we said yesterday in one of our workshops, it would be very useful if you could help us collect, analyze and repackage resources on Arts education into evidence-based policy-relevant information by taking part in elaborating the "European contribution", which underlines various results and methodologies within such a resourceful region. We thank you very much in advance for this cooperation.

Finally, we have well noted the inspiring remarks you have made expressing and developing your own views. It was an important experience for me to participate in such a rich platform of exchange.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Friends,

We hope to keep in contact with all of you. Please consider that we positively remain at your disposal.

Once again, I thank you very much for your kind attention.
