



European Committee
of the Regions



Dresden.
Dresdener

Landeshauptstadt Dresden
Der Oberbürgermeister

International Dresden Dialogue
2 to 3 October 2017
City of Dresden

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 2 and 3 October 2017 the City of Dresden is inviting mayors and representatives from cities throughout Europe to the "International Dresden Dialogue". This is under the patronage of the President of the European Committee of the Regions Karl-Heinz Lambertz and is held in cooperation with the Association of German Cities. The theme will be social cohesion in the digital age.

The cities of Europe are currently confronted with developments which are leading to an erosion of social ties and the way in which communities hold together. The consequences of people fleeing their own countries, migration, economic and social inequality, globalisation and digitalisation represent new challenges for social cohesion. Representative democracy is being scrutinised, European integration questioned and social tensions and polarisation in urban communities are increasing. Furthermore, the world which is now fully networked thanks to the internet as well as the newly created virtual reality are influencing the formation of public opinion and decision-making in the long term.

Together with representatives from local authorities, we would like to enter into an international dialogue to discuss the division and polarisation of urban communities, in particular, the role of social media and culture.

I would be very pleased to be able to welcome you at this conference in Dresden and to share your experiences and work on joint strategies together to help overcome the new challenges which the cities of Europe are facing. Please also forward this invitation to others who may be interested in this.

Please find enclosed the preliminary programme. Further information on the conference on 2 and 3 October 2017 is available on <http://www.dresden.de/dialogue> and you can also register online here. If you have any questions please contact Regine Kramer from the European and International Affairs Department of the mayor's office by telephone: + 49 3 51 4 88 20 10 or e-mail: dresden-dialog@dresden.de.

I look forward to welcoming you at the "International Dresden Dialogue".

Yours sincerely

Encl.

Dirk Hilbert

Dresden, 13 July 2017



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International Dresden Dialogue
The Art of Democracy and Social Cohesion
2 to 3 October 2017, City of Dresden (DE)
City Hall, Dr.-Külz-Ring 19, 01067, Dresden

Draft Programme

Moderation of the two-day event by Prof Greg Clark, London

Main conference languages EN/DE – Interpretation will be provided

Monday, 2 October 2017

13.00

Registration

14.00–14.10

Welcome

Dirk Hilbert, Mayor of the City of Dresden

14.10–14.45

Greetings

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President, Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Dr. Eva Lohse, President, Deutscher Städtetag (Association of German Cities)*

14.45

Commentary

Dr. Kai Unzicker, Bertelsmann-Foundation

„Community Cohesion report – an international comparison“

Roundtable - contributions by

Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Vice-President, Gdansk (PL)

Leoluca Orlando, Mayor, Palermo (IT)

Bart Somers, Mayor, Mechelen (BE)

Dr. Stephen Farry MLA, Former Minister of Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland Executive (UK)

Jaakko Niinistö, Deputy Mayor, Vantaa (FI)

Thomas Rajakovics, Mayor's office, City Councillor, Graz (AT)

John Jorritsma, Mayor, Eindhoven (NL)*

Dario Nardella, Mayor, Florence (IT)*

Roland Ries, Mayor, Strasbourg (FR)*

Tony Skipper, Lord Mayor, Coventry (UK)*

and others

Perspectives for Europe's cities

Daniel Termont, Mayor, Ghent (BE) and President of EUROCITIES

17.45–18.00

Summary and first conclusions

19.00

Evening programme and reception

Tuesday, 3 October 2017

08.45–09.00

Welcome

Prof. Greg Clark, London

09.00–10.15

PANEL 1: Democracy 2.0 - Does (social) media divide communities?

- Prof. Philip Howard, Oxford Internet Institute (GB)
- Daniel Termont, Mayor of Ghent (BE)
- Niddal Salah-Eldin, Head of Social Media at „WELT“ (DE)*
- Prof. Dr. Lutz Hagen, Technical University of Dresden (DE)*

Coffee Break

10.45–12.00

PANEL 2: The art of living together – Can culture and art unite communities?

- Hasko Weber, Artistic Director, German National Theatre and Staatskapelle Weimar (DE)
- Dr. Rafał Dutkiewicz, Mayor of Wrocław (PL)
- Konstantin Sukhenko, Chairman of Culture Committee, Saint Petersburg Government (RU)*
- Prof. Martin Roth, President, Institute of Foreign Relations (DE)*
- Eneko Goia, Mayor of Donostia-San Sebastián, (ES)*

12.00–12.15

Summary and closing remarks

12.30

Press Conference

Networking buffet