



VAN ROMPUY TO SPEAK AT FOUNDATION WEEK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, 2 June – Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and Mark Walport, Wellcome Trust, will address “Foundation Week” with a keynote address on Thursday 4 June in a Special Plenary entitled ‘The European Game Plan’. Foundation Week is taking place at “SQUARE” rue Mont des Arts, Brussels.

‘The European Game Plan’ will examine how the Lisbon Treaty will help bring the European Union into new era – one better equipped to serve citizens across the 27 Member States. Making a stronger Europe will require the contributions from stakeholders across the board, including foundations.

“The Lisbon Treaty is an opportunity for foundations to clearly define their role in Europe,” said Gerry Salole, Chief Executive of the European Foundation Centre (EFC), which is organising Foundation Week. “European foundations can play a vital role not only in advancing the European project, but on tackling pressing global issues.”

Keynote speakers at the session (**12:00 - 13:00 Copper Hall**)

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council

Mark Walport, Wellcome Trust

European Cultural Foundation appoints Katherine Watson as new Director

The Board of the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) appointed Katherine Watson as the new Director of the ECF during the Foundation’s Board meeting held in Brussels yesterday. Watson has been Acting Director since November last year. During this period she and the ECF staff have successfully implemented the ECF’s new content programmes.

Before joining the ECF, Watson has lived and worked in both Canada and Europe. Watson entered the ECF in 2006 as Director of the foundation’s online, multi-lingual cultural information and networking platform LabforCulture.org In addition to this function Watson was appointed Acting Director of the ECF end of 2009.

Other highlights for Thursday 3 June include:

09:30 - 11:00 Room: 201

Transparency and accountability in the foundation sector: What is the EU Institutions’ road map?

Transparency and accountability lie at the heart of donor confidence and probity in the foundation sector. How effectively do existing rules and self-regulation tools work? How transparent are foundations? What are the implications for foundations if they become more transparent? The European Commission initiated a study to analyse recent public and self-regulatory initiatives improving the transparency and accountability of NPOs (2009 ECNL study). What are the key outcomes and what does the roadmap for future European Union action look like?

Moderator: David Emerson, Association of Charitable Foundations

09:30 - 10:30 Room: 206

EU policies and priorities in the field of migration

The briefing will look at the EU roadmap in the field of immigration and integration. Since 2000 the European Commission has made proposals for developing a common immigration policy at EU level, some of which have now become EU legislation, with a view to better managing migration flows by a coordinated approach which takes into account the economic and demographic situation of the EU. Such proposals and policy papers are addressing economic migration, integration, “illegal” migration, return and relation with third countries. Mr Olivier Tell from the European Commission will present the European Commission’s priorities in the field of migration and how these will evolve. What are the key challenges? How to move the agenda forward? Where would the Commission value cooperation with foundations?

14:00 - 15:00 Room: 211

2011 European Year of Volunteering: How to get involved at European and national levels

Volunteering is a key element of the foundation sector – some 2.5 million volunteers are active with European foundations. Foundations have also developed a wide range of activities to promote and support voluntary activities. The 2011 European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship aims to create momentum in this field by raising awareness and promoting the value and importance of voluntary activities and volunteers, working towards an enabling environment for volunteering and empowering those involved in voluntary activities. Interested in knowing more? Come to this interactive session and discover how you can take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the 2011 European Year at national and European level. What are the objectives and priorities of the Year and how it will be implemented at national and European level? How can foundations contribute to this initiative and to the EU agenda in the fields of volunteering and active citizenship? In which areas could foundations and the EU benefit from greater cooperation? These and other questions will be addressed during the discussion.

15:00 - 16:30 Room: 204

Beyond the emergency: Lessons from disaster response

The session will examine and compare recent large-scale disasters (such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti) and the international NGO community’s response to them. Topics for discussion will include the particular social and economic context of each disaster and the needs, both immediate and longer term, that arose from each situation, how effectively aid is coordinated on the ground among government and multilateral agencies, NGOs, and grassroots actors, and what lessons can be learned from the event that can inform future disaster preparation and response efforts.

16:45 - 17:45

Contemporary theatre - The Cloud An historical guided tour into the future

Organised by: European Cultural Foundation

The European Cultural Foundation is pleased to invite you on a guided tour of the historical museum of the future, headed by the theatre group SPACE. We are in the year 2060, fifty years after the great change, which saved us from our downfall. To mark this anniversary, the world looks back at the year 2010, and the preceding period in which humanity seemed to be heading towards an inevitable catastrophe. Over time we have gradually forgotten our history and become so accustomed to the good and harmonious life in the year 2060, that it is hardly appreciated anymore. Are we heading for a new catastrophe? The Cloud starts with a prologue, after which visitors are guided through an open-air exhibition in the streets of Brussels.

For Foundation Week, *Alliance* has assembled an international team of contributors that will be blogging throughout the week. They will post regular updates and responses to sessions on this blog site, as well as video interviews and end-of-day summaries. Go to: <http://alliancemag.wordpress.com/>

For media credential information and other details related to Foundation Week, please contact:

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