

## *I Speak Therefore I Am*

### The Languages of Europe: Unity through Diversity

Education Forum organized by the Embassy of France and the Alliance Française in the United States in the context of the French Presidency of the European Union, in partnership with the Embassies of the European Union and the Delegation of the European Commission.

**Monday, September 8, 2008, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm (complimentary luncheon)**

**La Maison française, Embassy of France**

4101 Reservoir Rd, NW – Washington, DC – 20007

For security purposes, registration and a valid ID are required at the door

## Program

### *I – Unity*

#### Morning

9:00 am to 11:00 am - Maison française auditorium

**Latest standards in teaching, learning and assessment for European languages.**

- **Opening remarks by His Excellency Pierre VIMONT, Ambassador of France in the United States**
- ***Unity through diversity: A Brief Introduction to the Common European Framework of Reference or How the European Languages Work Together*** (15 minutes)  
Mr. Pascal SAURA – Deputy Delegate General, Alliance Française in the United States
- **New Opportunities for Students and Professionals** (15 minutes)  
Dr. Catherine PETILLON - Education Attaché to the Embassy of France
- ***A Global Language Portfolio (GLP): One Approach to Language Assessment in the United States*** (15 minutes)  
Dr. Patricia CUMMINS - Chair, American Association of Teachers of French Commission on Colleges and Universities
- **Europe in your backyard** (60 minutes)  
Mr. Luigi DE SANCTIS (*Education Office of the Italian Embassy*), Mr. Stefan BRUNNER (*Goethe Institut*), Dr. Zoe KOSMIDOU (*Hellenic Foundation for Culture*), Dr. Ana Maria DELGADO (*Instituto Camões*), Mr. Luis Enrique ELIAS RUIZ (*Instituto Cervantes*), Mr. Thierry LAGNAU (*Alliance Française*)

**Complimentary luncheon at La Maison française (11:00 am – 12:15 pm)**

## II - Diversity

### Afternoon

12:15 pm to 4:20 pm

### Roundtables on the Languages of Europe in the United States.

#### 1. "English - The European esperanto?"

**What is the relevance of English in European education, institutions and workplaces today? How many doors can English speakers push open in Europe?**

*Maison française auditorium - 12:20 - 1 :00 pm (40')*

Belgium: Mr. Philippe DE MUELENAERE – First Secretary, Press and Trade Policy

France: Dr. Catherine PETILLON – Education Attaché

Germany: Dr. Inke PINKERT-SALTZER – Federal Office of Administration of Germany (Central Office for Schools Abroad)

Spain: Mr. Pablo DIEZ – Education Adviser

United Kingdom : Mrs. Sharon MEMIS – Director of the British Council North America

#### 2. "No melting pot, please!"

**The *why* and *how* of preserving the diversity of European languages. To American students and professionals, cracking the many codes of Europe means understanding the core cultural differences and identities preserved along with national languages.**

*Maison française auditorium - 1:05 to 2:10 pm (65')*

Belgium: Mr. Philippe DE MUELENAERE – First Secretary, Press and Trade Policy

Bulgaria: Dr. Dimitar MIHAYLOV - First Secretary, Political and Cultural Affairs

Estonia: Mr. Andrei VALENTINOV – Third Secretary Press and Cultural Affairs

Greece: Dr. Demetra RASSIA – Deputy Counselor for Education

Italy: Dr. Roberto SEVERINO - Professor Emeritus, Georgetown University

Slovenia: Mr. Luka ZIBELNIK -Lecturer, Cleveland State University and Lakeland Community College

The Netherlands: Mr. Joost TAVERNE – Education, Culture and Science Counselor

Worldbank: Mrs. Nathalie RAY – Training Officer, French Language and Culture

#### 3. "He who speaks other languages..." On the importance of being plurilingual.

**In Europe, fluency in more than one language has become a crucial skill for young professionals. Education systems and exchange programs (such as *Erasmus*) have adapted to meet new challenges and prepare students for a new kind of competition. What is at stake and which languages should you learn?**

*Maison française auditorium - 2:15 to 3:05 pm (50')*

Estonia: Mr. Andrei VALENTINOV – Third Secretary Press and Cultural Affairs

Germany: Dr. Inke PINKERT-SALTZER – Federal Office of Administration of Germany (Central Office for Schools Abroad)

Greece: Dr. Zoe KOSMIDOU – Cultural Counselor

Portugal: Dr. Ana Maria DELGADO – Lecturer, Georgetown University

Spain: Mr. Pablo DIEZ- Education Adviser

Mr. Luis Enrique ELIAS RUIZ – Instructor, Instituto Cervantes

The Netherlands: Mr. Joost TAVERNE – Education, Culture and Science Counselor

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#### 4. "Do you Speak Euro-skills?"

**On understanding European certifications and diplomas available to Americans. How many are there? What level of access do they provide? Why should you consider earning a European diploma?**

***Maison française auditorium - 3:10 to 4:20 pm (70')***

European Commission: Dr. Laurent BOCHEREAU – Head of Science and Education Section

France: Dr. Catherine PETILLON – Education Attaché

Germany: Dr. Inke PINKERT-SALTZER – Federal Office of Administration of Germany (Central Office for Schools Abroad)

Mr. Stefan BRUNNER – Head of the Language Department, Goethe Institut

Italy: Mr. Luigi DE SANCTIS – Director of Education Office

Romania: Mrs. Ilinca ILIE – Second Secretary, Press and Cultural Affairs

Spain: Mr. Luis Enrique ELIAS RUIZ – Instructor, Instituto Cervantes

Sweden : Mrs. Margareta STORM – Director of the Swedish School

United Kingdom: Mrs. Mary-Catherine SCARBOROUGH – Education Marketing Adviser

#### **Afternoon**

**4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**

**Fellowship and Scholarship opportunities in Europe (information booths).**

**Learn about fellowship and scholarship opportunities available to American students throughout Europe. Attendees will get a chance to present their academic projects to the representatives of the European embassies and to take away first-hand information on what is available and how to apply.**

***Maison française Atrium***

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