



Press release

22-23 May 2013, De Balie – Amsterdam

08.05.13

The Dwarfing of Europe? A dialogue between Brazil, India, China and Europe

Europe is in a crisis that goes far beyond financial issues. Europe is busy re-inventing itself while up-and-coming powers such as Brazil, India and China (the 'BIC countries') take a more important role in defining global relations. Currently the public debate around these issues mostly concern the economic aspects of this shift. With *The Dwarfing of Europe?*, the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and partners Tilburg University and De Balie Amsterdam want to open up the debate to view Europe and its future in relation to culture and democracy in a globalising world.

Since fresh eyes can see things anew, ECF and partners have invited leading speakers from Brazil, India, China and Europe to take part in a crucial public debate under the leadership of moderators **Paul Scheffer** (Journalist, Writer and Professor at Tilburg University) and **Yoei Albrecht** (Director of De Balie). We want to bring together their visions of and around Europe.

Confirmed speakers include: **Drs. Renée Jones-Bos** (Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands), **Dr Cui Hongjian** (Director of the Department for European Studies, China Institute of International Studies, Beijing, China), **Cristina Soreanu Pecequilo** (Professor of International Relations, Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil), **Karinne Lisbonne-de Vergeron** (fellow of the Global Policy Institute, UK and author of *Chinese and Indian views of Europe: new perspectives from the emerging Asian giants 2012*), **Professor Rajendra K. Jain** (Chairman and Professor at the Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India) and **Fokke Obbema** (Foreign News Editor/ex-Chief Economy at *De Volkskrant*, author of *China en Europa*).

The programme is thematically split over two days. The primary language is English.

The public debate on **22 May** will focus on the social and cultural developments that are occurring as a result of shifts in power relations. On **23 May**, the focus will be on the position of Europe in a globalised world and its cultural consequences. As a lead up to the two public debates, a closed seminar will take place in the run up to the public debates on **22 May** with 50 international specialists from the worlds of culture, politics, science, economy and media.

The complete programme can be found at www.culturalfoundation.eu

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Programme outline for seminar and public debates (English-spoken)

Date & Time 22 May, 20:30-22:00
Location [De Balie](#), Amsterdam – Grote Zaal
Theme The social-cultural developments of shifting powers. What are the perceptions of, and expectations for, Europe according to the international researchers from Brazil, China and India?
Moderators Paul Scheffer and Yoeri Albrecht

Date & Time 23 May, 14:00-17:15
Location [De Balie](#), Amsterdam – Grote Zaal
Theme Europe's position in a globalised world and the cultural consequences. Are European values and traditions in question?
Moderator Yoeri Albrecht

The full [programme](#) is online.

The **closed seminar takes place on 22 May between 14:00 and 18:00** at the Salon of De Balie. Paul Scheffer will be the moderator of the seminar. Journalists are invited to attend.

Notes for the editor

- 1) Interviews and attendance can be arranged with the keynote speakers via Mascha Ihwe: mihwe@culturalfoundation.eu.
- 2) The full [programme](#) is now online.
- 3) Photos and further press information is available [here](#).
- 4) *The Dwarfing of Europe?* is supported by [Fritt Ord Foundation](#).
- 5) The event takes place at **De Balie** in Amsterdam **22-23 May 2013**.
- 6) ECF has been a supporter of culture in Europe for the past 60 years. Believing the unifying power of culture is an essential component in the creation of the open, inclusive and democratic society that is indispensable for Europe.

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