

BRUSSELS CONVERSATIONS 2012

on

A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe

would like to cordially invite you to

a 2-Day Conference

16 & 17 November



Brussels, Thursday, 27 September 2012

Invitation to take part in the *Brussels Conversations 2012 on A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe*

Dear Madame or Sir,

A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe is pleased to announce [The Brussels Conversations 2012](#) the 16-17 of November 2012. This multidisciplinary two-day conversation organized by the European House for Culture together with the Marcel Hicter Association, the Access to Culture Platform, "A Soul for Europe," and the Philosophy Festival, as well as EFA, ENCATC, EUNIC, and Felix Meritis, will reflect upon the importance of active citizens and the role of arts and culture in the making of Europe in an inviting, participatory, and festive way. *The Brussels Conversations 2012 on A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe* will be the second in a series of three events dedicated to building a Europe from the bottom up. The series of events of *A Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe* form "A Soul for Europe's" kick-off to the *European Year of Citizens 2013*.

The Coalition aims to strengthen the level of participation and role of European civil society in European development. The conference will discuss the challenges that lie ahead of us – democracies at risk in various parts of Europe, nationalistic tendencies, fear of the other, which are particularly seen and understood as cultural phenomena. The conviction that Europe must be built on its cultural component is the main driving force behind the multidisciplinary two-days. The gathering invites a broad and diverse audience to accentuate the role of citizenship within a united Europe. Coming to a crossroad of European integration, we ask: How can we look at the immense diversity and richness of Europe as one of its cultural strengths? What is the significance of Europe in today's world?

The Coalition believes that culture is the catalyst for change for the future development of European society. An important step in this process is mutually achieved through developing a common language, a **shared set of values and a shared agenda between politics, the economy and civil society**.

At the *Brussels Conversations 2012*, various topics will be covered in three main sessions and different informal conversations. For each session, we will gather selected representatives from different backgrounds to discuss the topics. The program will be included and event details will be constantly updated on the European House for Culture [site](#).

We invite citizens – and more specifically: actors from civil society, business, and politics from across Europe to: produce insights, make commitments, present examples of civic engagement that are already effective, and most importantly to take action.

If you wish to participate in this conference, we kindly ask you to fill in the [online registration](#) form **before 1 November**. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the [European House for Culture](#).

We hope to see you in Brussels the 16-17 November!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frans de Ruiter', is written over a horizontal line.

Frans de Ruiter

President of the European House for Culture