

## Conclusive report from thematic group IX “Culture and Arts” (1)

[spoken in Swedish]

*Kära vänner, det är en stor glädje för mig att stå här idag och prata mitt modersmål inför er alla. Det kanske inte är någon som förstår men jag ville ändå säga något för att visa på minoritetsproblematiken.* [Dear friends, it is a great pleasure for me to stand here before you all today and speak my mother tongue. Maybe no one understands, but I still wanted to say something to point to the issue of minorities.]

[spoken in Chinese]

Ok, now I will speak Chinese. At this kind of Sino-European event speaking Chinese is the least I can do as a white male European. What I just said was spoken in my mother tongue Swedish, and maybe I am the only Swede here in this arena who could understand it. I wanted to make you all aware of the issue of minorities, languages and the issue of communication which is so essential in our Forum.

Our theme group “Culture and arts” is rather complex with people working with religion, art, media, Sino-European views of the individual, issues of a multilingual society, ethnicity, identity, peace and so on. Talking about “culture”, such a big issue, we should really start a “China Europa Cultural Forum”, shouldn't we?

So, in our group the discussions were very lively, there were many opinions, but finally this morning we came to some conclusions on the key issues.

[spoken in English]

And now I will switch to English for the key issues.

The first issue is **education**. How can we use education as a means to give students tools to be able to analyse knowledge content, including their national history, in order to avoid as much as possible any kind of stereotypes and propaganda?

The second issue is **minority rights**, as I mentioned in my opening. What is the role of nationalism in interpreting history as a political project and in the non-observance of minority language rights?

The third issue is **conflict resolution**. China and Europe are faced with ethnic, cultural diversity and migration challenges. While Europe is emphasizing open discussion about conflicts and the ways to resolve them, China stresses harmony and the practical tools to achieve it.

The fourth issue is **sustainability, traditional cultural heritage and economic development**. Economic development generally produces significant damages and distortions. Traditional cultural heritage, threatened in diversity and wealth, must be protected in order to build the future. It is a factor of sustainable development.

The fifth issue is **rule of law**. In any field, the rule of law is of primary importance to the development of a creative civil society to insure that rights and duties are explicitly

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regulated by law so as not to be left to interpretation by political power. Transparency is the basis of trust.

The sixth issue is **freedom of expression**. Make sure through dialogue that the plurality of views and concerns of civil society, including religions, are fully valued and taken into consideration to build spiritual and moral values and an inclusive society.

The seventh and final issue is more a statement from our group that **carrying on investigating the artistic essence and expression is an essential means of mutual understanding**.

Now for the action plans.

### **1) Communication**

- enhance knowledge about the Forum to the broad public (re-design Forum webpage with open collaborative space, public relations team, think tank etc.)
- provide information on existing exchange programs
- pro-actively engage more European countries in the Forum

### **2) Active exchange**

- exhibitions
- joint workshops
- publications and documentaries

### **3) Education for mutual understanding**

- focus on young people and students
- intercultural education
- summer camps/schools/conferences
- multilingual training courses
- exhibitions and performances
- senior education
- distance education

[spoken in Chinese]

That was all for our group. Thank you all for your attention!

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