



INVITATION

Panel discussion followed by Cocktail reception
hosted by **Ulrike Lunacek**, MEP, The Greens/EFA

**"Conflict and Memory:
Bridging Past and Future in (South East) Europe"**

1st December 2010, 19:00, A1G2

Florence Hartmann, journalist and author, Balkan expert, member of the Executive Board of the Humanitarian Law Fund (Belgrade)

Dragan Klaić, visiting Professor of Cultural Policy at the Central European University in Budapest, Initiator and Chair of the European Festivals' Research Project

Wolfgang Petritsch, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Austria to the OECD, former High Representative of the International Community for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vedran Džihčić, political scientist, University of Vienna, 2010-2011 Austrian Marshall Plan Fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington D.C.

Moderation:

Ulrike Lunacek, MEP, Co-Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs for the Greens/EFA Group, Rapporteur on Kosovo of the European Parliament

Fifteen years have passed since the end of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, eleven years since the conflict in Kosovo, but diverging memories and selective narratives on the recent past are still dominant in ex-Yugoslavia. Has trust and reconciliation between the ethnic communities been re-established, is finding the truth part of the national agendas, have the root-causes of the conflict been addressed by the political elites and by civil society? Questions abound, and there are no easy answers. The discussion will approach the Balkans as integral part of the common European history. In fact, many countries that are already European Union members also have conflicting memories and are to this very day involved in a complex process of, first, coming to terms with their own past; second, acknowledging each other's conflicting memories; and, third, trying to (re)construct a common European memory as part of transnational memory spaces.

As the European experience of the twentieth century clearly demonstrates, rebuilding a bridge, a house, the physical infrastructure is mainly a matter of money and resolve. However, rebuilding trust between the former warring parties and finding a way to deal with the now divided past in a constructive way needs much more time and continuous effort of all parties and actors involved in this cumbersome process. It above all requires enormous political will and readiness on the part of both the elites and the citizenry for critical reflection, combined with a quantum of self-criticism.

During the panel discussion the book *"Conflict and memory: Bridging Past and Future in (South East) Europe"*, published by Wolfgang Petritsch and Vedran Džihčić in cooperation with Center for European Integration Strategies (CEIS) and City of Vienna, will be presented.

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