

Humboldt-Reden zu Europa



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für Europäisches Verfassungsrecht



Einführung von Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ingolf Pernice*
für die Humboldt-Rede zu Europa von

Jorge Sampaio

Präsident der Republik Portugal (1996-2006),
High Representative of the UN for the Alliance of Civilizations

„European DiverCities – challenges of cultural diversity,
multicultural citizenship and interethnic cities in Europe“

25.10.2010

- es gilt das gesprochene Wort -

* Professor Dr. jur., Dr. h.c. Lehrstuhl für öffentliches Recht, Völker- und Europarecht der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, gf. Direktor des Walter Hallstein Instituts für Europäisches Verfassungsrecht der Law (WHI) of the Humboldt-University of Berlin (www.whi-berlin.de).

"Die Europäische Union muss sämtliche Minderheiten integrieren, alle, aber insbesondere die Muslime".

Dies forderte unser heutiger Gast, Jorge Sampaio bei einer Rede vor fast genau zwei Jahren, am 22. Oktober 2008 vor dem Europäischen Parlament.

Es gehe um grundsätzliche Fragen wie Werte, Haltung, Glaube, Verhalten, Demokratie, Menschenrechte, sozialen Zusammenhalt, Integrationsfähigkeit, Justiz, Säkularisierung und europäische Identität.

Worauf das zielt, folgte dann:

„Die EU muss eine kollektive Identität schaffen, unabhängig von Herkunft und Religion mit gemeinsamen kulturellen Werten.“

Dear Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this first Humboldt-Speech in this new academic year 2010/11.

We are proud to invite to this series of lectures at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin the most eminent acting or former Heads of State or Government of the EU to share their visions for the Future of the European Union.

We are striving to stimulate a discourse about our common future, particularly among experienced political leaders and young students. Ministers and ambassadors and their staff, parliament deputies, the media as well as the citizens of Berlin are always welcome to participate.

These speeches may not change the world nor Europe, granted. But they could have a long-term homöopathic effect upon minds and political developments. They make a difference.

This is why, after ten years of great events, also this new academic year we continue to organise the „Humboldt-Reden zu Europa“.

This is why I feel so happy and honoured to particularly welcome our present guest President Jorge Sampaio. He combines two roles and experiences in a most challenging way:

Having been the President of the Republic of Portugal from 1995 to 2006, he is now the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, nominated by the Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for a task which – in my view – is critical for the long-term preservation of peace in our countries and beyond: global peace.

President Sampaio, born in 1939,

- spent parts of his childhood in the United States.
- He started his studies with music, than became a medical doctor, specialised in public health issues.
- This was not enough, however, so he studied law and graduated in 1969 at the University of Lisbon.
- Since than, Jorge Sampaio was active in several political actions against the dictatorship in Portugal. He played an important role in the revolution, in 1975 he was appointed deputy minister for external cooperation.
- He joined the socialist party in 1979 and was elected deputy to the portuguese parliament. For five years he engaged in the protection of human rights as a member of the Human Rights Commission of the Council of Europe.
- He was Secretary General of the socialist party from 1989 to 1991,
- He was elected as the major of Lisbon in 1989 and reelected in 1993,
- in 1995 he was elected President of Portugal, and re-elected in 2001 for another five years. During this period he opposed publicly the cooperation of the then Prime minister of Portugal, Barroso, with George W. Bush, Blair, Aznar and others regarding the Iraq war and qualified this war as illegal.

- 1997 was the year when Ban Ki Moon appointed him as UN High Commissioner for the Alliance of Civilisations. This alliance, he says, „is trying to promote ‚good governance of cultural diversity‘, and cities are their places of greatest concern.

These points of your c.v. suffice for assuming that there cannot be anybody more appropriate as you to talk to us about a subject which is one of the most imminent problems of our societies today. No need to give examples for this, the media are full of debates on immigration-control, prohibition of the use of turkish language in school courts etc.

We have to understand that integration in Europe is a question not only of eliminating borders among countries or territories, but also of cultures and minds.

Yet, integration cannot mean adaptation of the other. Even „the principle of tolerance“ as it was proposed by *Joseph Weiler* a few years ago to characterise the European Union would not really play in this context.

We need more, and this is what the respect of human dignity means: The value of the „otherness“. What makes us rich and triggers new ideas, new developments, progress is that we are different, grown up in different cultures, have different traditions, beliefs, aspirations.

Dear Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

let me not try to anticipate where our discussion today will turn to. We have a real expert with enormous experience and competence to develop his view on what he has titled:

"European DiverCities - challenges of cultural diversity, multicultural citizenship and interethnic cities in Europe"

I shall express my warmest gratitude also to all those, who made this event possible:

The European Commission with both, the former and the acting Heads of Delegation in Germany, Dr. Gerhard Sabathil and Mattias Petschke. Gerhard Sabathil is actually head of the Directorate Stragies, Koordination and Analysis of of the DG External affairs of the EU Commission. Many thanks for your kind co-operation and the initiative, lieber Gerhard, to arrange this lecture and to give some comments to the speech of President Sampaio.

The President of our Humboldt-University, Professor Dr. Olbertz, who shortly after his taking this office gave us the honour to host and to open this event, congratulations and vielen Dank Herr Präsident.

The Deutsche Post, who supports our work so generously, and invites us to the reception right after the end of our official discussion. Many thanks to the Deutsche Post for giving us „food for thinking“, and

Mrs. Müller and our wonderful crew for so well preparing this afternoon which I hope will be unforgettable and stimulating for all of us.

President Sampaio, we are eager to listen to your lecture, many thanks for being with us today,
the floor is yours !