



**UNIONE EUROPEA DEGLI ESULI E DEGLI ESPULSI
EUROPÄISCHE UNION DER FLÜCHTLINGE UND VERTRIEBENEN
EUROPEAN UNION OF EXILED AND EXPELLED PEOPLE**

Il Segretario Generale – Der Generalsekretär – The Secretary-General

Trieste, 14th January 2011

Esteemed President,

with reference to the correspondence exchanged with Mr. Pawel Zaboklicki, and in particular to the e-mail of November 23th, with whom it were asked to specify the projects and related fields in which the European Union of Exiled and Expelled People (EUEEP) could cooperate, I provide some clarifications in this regard.

The EUEEP is an International Non Governmental Organization seated in Italy, supported and funded by the Italian Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, acknowledged by the European Commission and it cooperates permanently with consultative status with the United Nations. By some partnership agreements EUEEP actively works together with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR), with the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, and directly with the Council of Europe. Furthermore, due to specific cooperation protocols, the EUEEP promotes its institutional activity for various European governments.

Since its foundation, EUEEP endorsed the realization of projects aimed to the strengthening of dialogue for the achievement of reconciliation process, mainly among those countries involved during last century in forced displacement of populations and mass expulsions due to war events, launching, in example, with success and yet during 2008, cultural programs between Austria and Slovakia, Italy and Slovenia, Hungary and Ukraine, Hungary and Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria, finalized to rediscover the importance of cultural traditions in the great historical regions in Europe, in which population transfers and relevant changes of ethnographic proportions happened.

The proposal that I intend to present, considering it appropriate, is referring to the development of a complete cultural project connected to the programs for sustainable Tourism in Europe – recalled by the European Commission and executable by yet existing instruments, already illustrated in occasion of 2010 edition of the European Tourism Day – dedicated to the valorization, for example, of the historical toponymy in the great Baltic regions (Pomerania, Eastern Prussia, Courland, Livonia, Masuria, Sudovia and many more), with reference to their historical changes, ethnographic characteristics and consequent evolution along centuries.

Actually the resources of cultural tourism are one of the priorities in the first decades of the century for the political underpinning to the strengthening of European awareness, the development of the values and historical and civil consciousness of the citizens – especially younger generations – and that resources are subject to intensive action by the European institutions, the international organizations, the civil society and cultural institutions of EU member states and those of the Council of Europe.

Experiences and important cultural programs at national, transnational and European level, together with projects such as the European Cultural Routes or the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, inspired and laid the basis for the correct formulation of a desirable model of trans-



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European cultural tourism, able to create the necessary bridges among the different and varied facets of European culture, unique knitting of a so composite, rich and articulate texture.

Realities as European Route of Migration Heritage, or the latest Route of European Cemeteries, or even the project of European Heritage Labels, represent a crucial first step in expressing the start of the aimed overcoming, even in the cultural field, of the fracture and distances that are the legacy of the worst policies of the two main war periods of the twentieth century and their long aftermath, which ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The EUEEP is yet defining similar projects on a regional and local level, together with many administrations of various countries and with the participation of the relative Ministries for Culture, but, in this case, the involvement in the Baltic area of the Union of Baltic Cities, as privileged partner, could be crucial.

However, this proposal fits fully in the objectives foreseen by the Commission on Tourism and by the Commission on Culture of the Union of Baltic Cities.

Even the document “Contribution of the Union of the Baltic Cities to the Baltic Sea Strategy of the European Union” and the “UBC Strategy 2010-2015”, apart from the principles of the UBC’ Statute itself, provide the realization of such a project.

All that explained, I ask You to let me know Your evaluation on what above proposed and, in case, to indicate a date for a next meeting aimed to explain in detail all the aspects of this project.

In my conviction that You will pay the highest attention to this initiative, I would like to extend You the sense of my most distinguished consideration.

Massimiliano Lacota
Secretary-General

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