

EUROPE DAY ANNIVERSARY

6 May 2011 | Istanbul Kültür University

WELCOMING REMARKS

Prof. Dr. DURSUN KOÇER
Rector, Istanbul Kültür University, Turkey

Thank you, Sylvia. I would also like to welcome all of you again once more.

As you know, our aim here is both to open our exhibition and to celebrate Europe Day.

Actually we have acted a few days early.

Instead of May 9th we pushed up the date of our Europe Day Celebration to May 6th in order to take advantage of the family business management symposium that is taking place at our university.

We perhaps also wanted to be the pioneers in celebrating this day.

After all, on the topic of the European Union Istanbul Kültür University is one of the leading universities.

We are in the lead of both Erasmus programs and courses related to European integration.

We even have a department that works on the obstacles to integration with the European Union facing Turkey.

In addition, the European Union is as important for us as it is for Turkey.

We see the EU as a project that maintains peace within differences.

For this reason, we value the words of Robert Schuman on May 9, 1950.

We hope that this exhibition will serve as a small means for Schuman's words and ideals to be remembered.

As Turkey is fulfilling its responsibilities for EU membership, EU member countries will stop seeing differences, which will add to Europe's richness, as an obstacle.

I know that I wish for many things, but when Schuman put forward the idea of the European Coal and Steel Community he was wishing for many things, too.

His dream was realized.

I believe that our dream will also be realized, and that Turkey, within her differences and tied to preserving enlightenment ideals, will be a part of a Europe that has not given up on the Kantian peace project.

And of course, I would like to welcome you once more, and to thank the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, which has brought.