



The Model Conference

Cross-Cultural Issues in the Global Context

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



Modelová konferencia

Interkultúrna problematika v globálnom kontexte

Fakulta medzinárodných vzťahov, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave

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Representative of the European Union

24.10.2010

For the purpose of the conference held by Forum for the 21st century on 29th November 2010 the European Union pronounces and suggests:

Lingua franca

As first, The European Union would like to comment effort of The Forum for the 21st Century (thereinafter the Forum) to establish English as only one diplomatic language in the world. Following the statistics total number of countries which official language is English is 53. So we acclaim the importance of this language in international relations.

But The European Union as an institution with 23 official languages, where English is mother tongue of only 13% of citizens, cannot agree with establishment only one language to be possible to communicate in international relations. We regard these efforts unacceptable and also ignoring the fact there are other 5 world languages certified by United Nations. Majority of world population doesn't speak English, so we find it unjust to force the national elites to learn language which, thanks to technologies and globalization, in last years has get to the forefront.

In this point of view we can see two options: First. That we create or re-create Latin or Esperanto as a diplomatic language what would be fair to all nations in the world, because of the neutral status of these languages.

Second option, more realistic one, calls for establishment of two languages as "linguas francas". In consideration of these facts, The European Union suggests, along with English, to accredit the French or Spanish as a lingua franca. This step would be the sign of variety in international relations and would not indicate the primary position of English and English speaking countries. We consider that reasonable.

Another suggestion is related to status of lingua franca. The European Union proposes to establish the lingua franca (whatever it would be) as a recommended (not obligatory) language in which elites of national states could negotiate on the floor of international organizations and forums.

Global religion

The European Union, as an organization, groups the sovereign, mostly secularized states. In history but also in these days we can observe consequences of misunderstandings among people and groups of different races or beliefs. Extremism in any form is not acceptable. Because of that, the European Union recommends secularization for all states. Secularized state can assure more independent governance in the countries and also easier respecting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which declare that human beings shall enjoy freedom of belief.



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In these circumstances the European Union calls for tolerance among world religions on higher level (heads of churches), but also among the believers of different religions to respect each other. It is also crucial to respect the not-believing of atheists. There cannot be anything in everyday life what could disturb or inflamed them in their certitude.

Common values

Nowadays, when the member states of the European Union fight with the problem of unsuccessful multiculturalism this question is really necessary to resolve.

Migration and migrants bring new elements into a resident culture. But as the Forum has mentioned yet cultural diversity is not a new phenomenon and there must exist an accurate form how to get along with migrants in the 21st century.

In regard to this belief the European Union does appreciate the Forum's efforts to create a list of common values which in case of being respected by everyone would lead to peaceful coexisting of races and a constructive dialogue among cultures.

Research is needed on the cultural, historical, political, social, psychological, educational and economic factors which facilitate or prohibit the peaceful coexistence of different cultures. The cultural interactions between migrant and minority groups and the host societies, their role in the construction of a more tolerant society and the conditions for this have to be analysed.

Consequently the main issues can be highlighted and discussed. This dialogue should be taken not only on political field, but various groups of specialists or non-governmental organizations have to be involved. According to this plan the risk of misunderstanding is minimized.

Finally, the role of the media and public discourse in the formation and results of diverse coexisting cultures should be explored.

Prevention of conflicts

As the Forum proclaimed, intercultural dialogue is essential in prevention and ending conflicts. In this area we can see a solution in implementation of before mentioned common values. These could establish an indubitable frame of discussion what can lead to resolving the problem.

For the purpose of easier strengthening or fixing of relations it is necessary to organize a various activities including seminars, roundtables and the publication of papers and briefings in order to make the public informed and then we can watch the reaction of both sides.

In these activities should really be involved the experts from academic and science fields as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations or delegates of minorities. If one problem has to be solved there cannot accrue any other. This can only be done if all parties of (potential) conflict are involved.

For better understanding of minorities countries should for example seek to enhance the cross-border mobility of artists and workers in the cultural sector and the cross-border dissemination of works of art. Such activities are reliable way how to bring cultures or nations nearer, how can the differences be explained and understood.



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Now we would like to express our hope that voice and opinions of the European Union the Forum will take into consideration in preparing next version of presented document and that our suggestions will be useful.



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