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Launch Conference

Of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation

7 January 2009 in Prague

SPEAKERS PROFILE

Jaromír Jermář

Mr Jermář is Senator and chairperson of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions. He is a graduate of the Philosophical Faculty at Charles University Prague and was employed as the head of Historic and Ethnographic Department of the Museum in Mladá Boleslav. He resigned from his position as the representative of the Central Bohemian region after his election to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic where he is very actively involved. He is a vice chairman of the Senate's club of Czech Social Democratic Party and a member of the Permanent Commission for the countrymen living abroad.

Ondřej Liška

Mr Liška is the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports in the Czech Republic. He studied politics and religion at the Masaryk University in Brno. Since 2002 he is a member of the Green Party and its expert on foreign politics. He is concentrating primarily on European, foreign and security policy, social issues, protection of human rights, globalization, rural development, promotion of ecological agriculture and regional development. His long-term area of interest is intercultural coexistence. He is cooperating with several nongovernmental organizations and social initiatives in the Czech Republic and worldwide.

Ján Figel'

Mr Figel' studied electrical engineering at the Technical University in Košice and till 1992 worked in the Factory of Industrial Automation in Prešov. He spent one semester abroad studying international relations at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. and one semester studying European economic integration in Antwerp. He also taught international relations at the Trnava University. He worked as a State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Slovakia (SR) and from 1998 to 2003 was the Chief Negotiator of the SR for the negotiations on the accession of SR to the EU. From May till November 2004 he was a member of the European Commission of Roman Prodi, where he was, together with Olli Rehn, responsible for the area of enterprise and informatics. From November 2004 he is the European Commissioner responsible for education, training, culture and youth.

Václav Jehlička

Mr Jehlička is the Minister of Culture in the Czech Republic. He studied Pedagogical Faculty in České Budějovice, used to be the mayor of the town of Telč and also the Senator of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, where he concentrated on education and science, culture and heritage and towns and villages. From 2007 he is the Minister of Culture. Mr Jehlička is a cofounder and many year also vice chairman of the Association of Historical Sites of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and honorable chairman of the Association of Towns and Villages of the UNESCO Czech Heritage. As a member of the group of Friends of France in the parliament he aims

to widen the cultural cooperation between the Czech Republic and France and the Czech and French towns.

Jakub Dürr

Mr Dürr is the Vice Minister of Education, Youth and Sports in the Czech Republic. He studied politics and European studies at the Palacky University in Olomouc and Masaryk University in Brno. He also concentrated on politics during his studies at Miami University in the USA. He was vice rector for external relations at the Palacky University till recently. From September 2008 he is the Vice Minister of Education, Youth and Sports in charge of the European affairs and primarily the Czech Presidency in the first half of 2009.

Esko Aho

Mr Aho is a former Prime Minister of Finland and the ambassador of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. He held the post of Prime Minister of Finland from 1991 to 1995. After the 2000 presidential campaign, Mr Aho moved and joined Harvard University for one year as a lecturer. Following his retirement from the Finnish Parliament, he worked as a private consultant. Mr Aho was appointed President of the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, as of 2004. Currently he works as the executive vice president of Nokia company.

Radek Špicar

Mr Špicar works currently as the Director of External Relations of Škoda Auto. He graduated from Charles University and University of Cambridge. His other studies abroad include Georgetown University and the Harvard University. He is a former Vice Minister of Martin Jahn who was a Vice Prime Minister responsible for economic affairs. He is also a lecturer at the Institute of Economic Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University and Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. His areas of interests include primarily economic diplomacy, European integration and the assets of think tanks and NGOs.

Michael Wimmer

Mr Wimmer is a founding member and first general manager of EDUCULT, an independent institute for cultural policy and cultural management. As music educator and political scientist he brings many years of professional experience in co-operation of the arts, culture and education. He is a lecturer at the Institute for Political Sciences at the University of Vienna on the development of Austrian cultural policy and international comparison of cultural policies. Mr Wimmer is a founding member of the European Network "artsandeducation", commissioned by the Austrian Ministry of Education and Culture, the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

John Newbiggin

Mr Newbiggin is a freelance strategy consultant for creative industries. He is a cultural entrepreneur with a client-list that includes the UK Film Council, the Arts Council of England and Channel 4 Television. He was formerly the Head of Corporate Relations at Channel 4 Television and a special advisor to Chris Smith MP when he was Secretary of State for Culture in Great Britain. Mr Newbiggin joined Channel 4 in 2000 and his previous jobs include working for David Puttnam's film company Enigma and for Neil Kinnock as a Policy Advisor.

Odile Quintin

Ms Quintin serves as Director General of DG Education and Culture in the European Commission. She has a postgraduate degree in Public Law, Political Science and Comparative Public Law. After joining the European Commission 1970 and working in the Directorates General for Agriculture and External Relations, Ms Quintin joined DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in 1982, of which she held the post of Director General between 2000 and 2005.

Ivo Mathé

Mr Mathé is Vice Rector of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and former director of the Czech TV. He has started working for the Czechoslovakian TV as a production assistant even before his film studies. At the beginning of 1990s he was the chief of production of creative artistic series there. Later on he became the director general of Czech TV and also the vice president of European Broadcasting Union (EBU). From 1999 to 2003 he was the head of the Office of the President Václav Havel. Mr Mathé is an author, consultant, filmmaker and teacher at the Academy of Performing Arts Academy. He is also a member of the Presidium of Czech Film and Television Academy, European Film Academy and Scientific Council of the University in Economics in Prague.

Jiřina Šiklová

Ms Šiklová studied history and philosophy at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University in Prague (PF CU). She cofounded the Sociology Department at the PF CU, where she engaged herself in the issue of youth and student movements and after the revolution in 1989 she founded the Department of Social Work at the PF CU, which she directed till 2000. Ms Šiklová founded also the non-profit Gender Studies Centre in Prague and is a cofounder and guarantee of similar centres in the whole Czech Republic. She is a member of many Boards of Trustees of nongovernmental foundations (Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, Vision 97, Charter 77 Foundation, Account Barriers, Foundation VIA) and member of editorial councils of Czech and international specialized magazines (for example Listy, European Journal of Social Work, East Central Europe, Social Research). In 1995 she gained the Woman for Europe Award for her contribution to the European integration. In 1999 she was given the Medal for Merit of First Grade by the President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel.

Radu Mihăileanu

Mr Mihăileanu is a Romanian-born French film director, screenwriter and Ambassador of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. He studied film and graduated from the Institute des Hautes Études Cinématographiques (IDHEC) in Paris. In 1990s Mr Mihăileanu's films were recognised at several renowned film festivals (such as the Montreal Film Festival and the Istanbul Film Festival), and awarded numerous prizes. The critical acclaim he received for his most recent film, *Va, Vis et Deviens/ Live and Become* (2005) secured his position as one of the most renowned European directors today. The film won countless awards including the Audience Award at the Berlin Film Festival and the César for Best Screenplay in 2006.

Přemysl Sobotka

Mr Sobotka is the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. He studied medicine at the Charles University in Prague. Then he worked at a hospital in Liberec first at the chirurgic section, later at the X-ray section and from 1991 he served as its senior doctor. From 1990 to 1996 he engaged in the management of the hospital but also became town councillor. In the year 1996, 1998 and 2004 he was elected as the representative of the Liberec region to the Senate, where he served first as Vice President and later as President of the Senate. This year he was successfully re-elected to the position of President of the Senate.

Martin Tlapa

Mr Tlapa is the Vice Minister of Industry and Trade in the Czech Republic. He studied at the University of Economics in Prague and later got an MBA at the Czech Technical University in Prague and Hallam University in England. At the Ministry of Industry and Trade he is in charge of the EU section and the trade section. In 1990s he started to work at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade, later he worked at the Czech Embassy in Canada as head of the trade economic section and after that he served as a Director General of the agency CzechTrade.

