

Press Release

M100 Sanssouci Colloquium 2009

“At the Crossroads of World History”

Leading media representatives discuss Muslim Media and Muslims in the Media in Potsdam.

Potsdam, 14th August 2009. For the fifth time, the M100 Sanssouci Colloquium invites leading editors, commentators, publicists and public figures to Potsdam. The Conference, taking place in the Sanssouci Palaces from 14th to 15th September, will focus on “Muslim Media and Muslims in the Media”. The emphasis will be on developing stronger linkages between European mainstream media and Muslim media across Europe, the Middle East and the wider Muslim world. The Colloquium will ultimately explore the role of media coverage and the portrayal of Muslims by European and minority media in impacting public opinion as well as long term integration processes and social cohesion within Europe.

To **Lord Weidenfeld**, the co-initiator and Chairman of the M100 Sanssouci Colloquiums, this year’s topic is of particular importance: “We are currently standing at the great crossroads of world history. We must manage to give a voice to moderate speakers in the Muslim world and this is the main task of responsible media in the East and West. The dialogue at Sanssouci plays a significant, bridge-building role.”

This year, the participants of this high-profile Conference include amongst others: **Jasim Al-Azawi** (Al Jazeera, Qatar), **Kristiane Backer** (TV presenter, GB, Germany), **John Burns** (New York Times London), **Kai Diekmann** (BILD, Germany), **Roger Köppel** (Weltwoche, Switzerland), **Mathias Müller von Blumencron** (Der Spiegel, Germany), **Octavia Nasr** (CNN), **Bertrand Pecquerie** (World Editor’s Forum, France), **Prof. Tariq Ramadan** (European Muslim Network, Switzerland), **Flemming Rose** (Jyllands Posten, Denmark), **Dr. Frank Schirmacher** (FAZ, Germany), **Oktay Ekşi** (Hürriyet, Turkey), **Denis MacShane** (MP Labour Party and Minister for Europe 2002-2005) and **Gwyneth Williams** (BBC World Service, GB).

As part of an annual series of events – Medienwoche Berlin-Brandenburg – the Colloquium is co-organised by the state capital of Potsdam, Potsdam Media International e.V. and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue. This year, the Colloquium will feature a significant contribution from CEDAR, the first European Network of Muslim Professionals, and its Media and Communications working group (www.thecedarnetwork.com).

Funding for this year’s M100 Colloquium has been received from the **Robert Bosch Foundation**, the **Media Board Berlin-Brandenburg**, and the **Vodafone Foundation Germany**.

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