



International Congress  
Chemnitz University of Technology  
Germany, 6 - 9 May, 2009

Under the patronage of the President of the  
European Commission, Mr. José Manuel Barroso

The notion of Europe is associated with a vast range of intellectual, cultural, and political possibilities. Research on Europe tends to invoke biases and a high degree of ideological reductionism that undermines efforts to pursue nuanced and productive forms of reflection.

The congress organisers ask whether there is a way of approaching the essence of the European character without reducing the discussion to essentialism. Is there a way of navigating the mazes that separate questions from answers when we think about Europe?

The aim of the international congress, Ideas of Europe / Ideas for Europe, is precisely to map a better and deeper understanding of Europe, without relinquishing reasoned discourse and ethical dialogue.

The congress will address the double meaning of its title, bearing in mind that the object of reflection intersects with multiple fields of theoretical representation. We thus ask the speakers to centre their analyses on the following five panel topics.

The congress will take place in Chemnitz, 6–9 May 2009, under the patronage of the President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso. Mr Barroso will officially close this congress.

Prof. Dr. Viriato Soromenho-Marques  
President of the Scientific Committee

## Panel Topics:

### 1 – Europe before Europe

What was the conceptual status of “Europe” prior to modernity – i.e. during Antiquity and the Middle Ages? How were ideas about Europe shaped and what was the geographical understanding of Europe’s place on the globe?

### 2 – Early modern Europe

How did the thinkers of modernity conceive of their own European identity and of the historical and spiritual implications of such a profound shift in the European mentality?

### 3 – Europe between Enlightenment and the Holocaust

What were the implications for European identity and for the future during the period that stretched from the hopeful Enlightenment and the twilight of rationality to the planned hubris of the Holocaust?

### 4 – Europe as seen by others

For centuries, Europe was dominated by an internalised law of expansion, aiming to replicate itself in vast areas of the world. How has Europe tended to be seen by peoples on other continents?

### 5 – Europe and its future prospects

Vacillating between constitutional designs, along the lines of long envisioned European Federalism, and demands for devolution and national identity – what are the prospects for the European future in a world subject to global hopes and even more widespread fears and imminent dangers?

## Organising Institutions

- Chemnitz University of Technology
- Institute for European Studies, Chemnitz University of Technology
- CLEPUL – Centre for Literatures in Portuguese of the Universities of Lisbon
- CompaRes – International Society for Iberian–Slavonic Studies  
European Institute for Cultural Sciences P. Manuel Antunes

## Scientific Committee

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## Associated Institutions

- Centre for Philosophy, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Centre Jean Monnet, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- Centre for Humanistic Studies, University of Minho, Portugal
- Departament of History, Federal University Santa Catarina, Brazil
- École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France
- European Research Institute, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- European Studies Institute at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Moscow, Russian Federation
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- Institute of European Studies, Budapest, Hungary
- Institute of European Studies and International Relations, Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Commission for Iberian-Slavonic Comparative Research at the International Committee of Slavists
- Spanish Society for Iberian-Slavonic Studies
- The Institute for European Studies at International University Audentes, Tallinn, Estonia
- The School of High Comparative European Studies, University of the West Timisoara, Romania

## Keynote Speakers

- Onésimo T. Almeida (University of Brown)
- Zygmunt Bauman (University of Leeds)
- Ingrid Baumgärtner (University of Kassel)
- José A. Ferrer Benimeli (University of Zaragoza)
- Erhard Busek (Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe)
- Mary del Priore (University Salgado de Oliveira, Rio de Janeiro)
- Milan Gjurginov (International Committee of Slavists)
- Michael Harbsmeier (Roskilde University)
- Halina Janaszek–Ivaničková (University of Silesia)
- Günther Lottes (University of Potsdam)
- Eduardo Lourenço (Vence)
- Andrei Marga (University of Babes–Bolyai, Cluj–Napoca, the Rector)
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- János Riesz (University of Bayreuth)
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- Janusz Tazbir (Polish Academy of Science)
- Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek (National Sun Yat–sen University / University of Halle–Wittenberg)