



SVERIGES AMBASSAD

Promemoria

2009-11-14

Lissabon

*Ambassaden Lissabon*

*Bengt Lundborg*

**Closing remarks by Ambassador Bengt Lundborg,  
Sweden, at the 2009 Lisbon Forum on "Creating a  
culture of Human rights through Education"**

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President Sampaio,  
Dep Secr. General de Boer-Buquicchio  
Mrs Bergamini, Chair of the Executive Council, NSC  
Mr Nasim Ahmed, AKDN  
Mr State Secretary Lourtie  
Dear Guests, speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, I would like to congratulate the North-South Centre for its important work during the last year and for the Lisbon Forum of this year. The Centre has no doubt an important task in promoting the principles of dialogue, partnership and solidarity.

The Presidency welcomes the fact that Morocco as the first non-European state became a member of the North South Centre this year. Morocco is a close partner to the EU. We hope to see more countries join the Centre,

As underlined by most speakers the theme chosen for this years Forum is a central one. We have to invest in learning of Human Rights if we wish to see sustainable peace and security, as specially pointed out by President Sampaio.

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Mr Hammarberg yesterday underscored that the EU also needs to look at its own performance. Many people in the EU and in Europe as a whole are not aware of their rights. Without common knowledge of our fundamental rights, they are merely a set of words on paper. It is therefore of utmost importance that our citizens have knowledge of their rights.

At the end of this year we can rejoice in the fact that the Lisbon Treaty will enter into force. EU will become more efficient will be better at projecting itself on the international scene. President Barosso pointed out in his video message that he intends to start the coming Commission by creating a new portfolio for fundamental rights. This will provide new impetus to work of EU on Human Rights and international involvement.

I would like to thank the AKDN for hosting this Forum and the Portuguese Government for its support for the Centre. I wish the Centre continued fruitful partnership with key actors of intercultural dialogue such as the Alliance of Civilisations and the Anna Lind Foundation

I think the discussion at the Lisbon Forum 2009 has been very important and I wish the Centre all the best for the programme and Lisbon Forum during the next year!

Thank you very much