

PRESS RELEASE

Erfurt (Germany), 7th May 2006 : A new **European citizen' seminars** movement has been launched in Erfurt, Germany on 7th May 2006, in order to experiment and demonstrate Europe-wide citizenship, by having European citizens discuss and collectively design Public Policy Proposals. The main aim is to “confirm the movement (of European citizenship) by walking”, said with satisfaction Laurent Zibell, the President of the Association. The board and its members Marilena Di Stasi, Eric Mannes Schmidt, Pedro Morgado, Petar Natsev and Laurent Zibell have met for the first time in Erfurt: all them have one common passion to promote actively the **European citizenship**, by gathering citizens from **diverse geographical and social origins** in order to **actively participate** in the European public space.

The value-added from the association work comes from 2 sources, technical expertise and democratic legitimacy:

- The Public Policy Proposals will be technically sound, because they rely upon the vast and untapped resources of expertise present in European professionals, academics and association workers. These have developed in their everyday practice a direct and first-hand knowledge of the field being treated, an in-depth theoretical understanding, that will be mobilised in the seminars to design proposed solutions (and not mere academic analyses);
- The Public Policy Proposals will be democratically legitimate, because they will be the result of a discussion and consensus-building process taking into account the points of view, the experience and the interests of very diverse people. The diversity will be in terms of social position, geographical origin and life experience.

The first seminar will take place in Erfurt: Sunday 29th October 2006 – Saturday 4th November 2006 **on homogeneity of ruling corporate and economic elites**. Human Resources managers in corporations, trade unions representing middle-level management, MBA and management schools programmes managers, employers and employers' associations, shareholders associations, pension fund and asset managers, sociologists and management researchers, historians of crisis, political science researchers in the field of legitimacy of decisions and institutions will take part to the first one week long work session.

Erfurt is the centre of Thuringia's economic, intellectual, cultural and political life, it has always attracted prominent individuals, especially those who influenced the spirit of their age: Martin Luther, Adam Riese, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich von Schiller, Wilhelm von Humboldt, Johann Sebastian Bach, Tsar Alexander I and Emperor Napoleon I. In 1890, the "Erfurt programme" founded the German Social Democratic party. The city is nowadays the gateway between Eastern and Western Europe. For all these reasons it was chosen as the city of the foundation and residence of the association as well as for the first seminar.

For further questions please don't hesitate to contact Mme Marilena Di Stasi, Spoke person and Vice President of the Association, by email: marilena@distasi.net or Press@CitizenSeminars.eu or by telephone +32 486 26 40 72. Website: <http://www.CitizenSeminars.eu>