

27-28 June 2014

Addressing Europe's Unfinished Business

through an action for a more peaceful, more united Europe



The Foundation CAUX-Initiatives of Change invites you to a Seminar on **27 and 28 June 2014** in the International Conference Center in Caux (Montreux, Switzerland). This seminar will include leading politicians, historians and thinkers and will reflect on how **to foster a new European spirit across Europe**.

The 100th memorial of the start of WWI and the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall is a unique occasion for European-minded political leaders, historians and thinkers to address Europe's unfinished business.

Europe's unfinished business means the lack of articulation of the European project in accessible language and the lack of fostering a European spirit by way of European history school textbooks, frequent joint war commemorations and appropriate celebrations on the Day of Europe each 9 May. Is this situation not an open door for nationalist revivals?

Europe's unfinished business means unresolved cross-border or dormant internal regional conflicts, unhealed wounds which have caused a string of armed conflicts in Europe over the last 25 years. Peace is unfortunately as relative a notion in Europe today as it is in other continents. The 2014 Crimean crisis comes as a particularly brutal reminder of this fact.

Europe's unfinished business means new countries applying to join the European Union without having fully appropriated the deep peace process that forms the basis of the European project. This plays a role in the current lack of cohesion of Europe and puts a question mark on its future.



During this seminar, four workshops will be organised to share the best of the participants' experience and vision, and to design new initiatives:

- **Changing Paradigms in the Eastern Regions of Europe:** eliminating age-old rivalries, acknowledging Russia and Turkey as key contributors to Europe's past and future, which "creative efforts" are needed to lastingly pacify those regions?
- **The Challenge of Immigration:** in spite of the Schuman declaration's intentions, economic imbalances have continued and are leading to massive migrations which challenge identities. Envisioning initiatives to raise the standard of living in poorer countries, and initiatives for smoother integration of "newcomers" to Europe.
- **Ethnic Identity and Minority Rights in a Democracy:** drawing from positive experiences like Alto Adige/South Tyrol to prepare solutions for current unresolved issues: how to repair past mistakes and create a respectful and positive environment for ethnic minorities?
- **War-based or Peace-based Identities?** In order for Europe's youth to grow up as good national and European citizens, speeches and writings about the past need to be carefully revisited. How to make European values and vision a central reference in a common foundation for teaching of history and European civic instruction?

2014 is an appropriate time to pause for a moment and reflect on the lessons learnt – or not – from our European past. It is an appropriate time to think through how we could give the European ideal the energy and generosity which young Europeans expect.

The Caux conference center played a part in the Franco-German and other reconciliations after WWII. It is run by the CAUX-Initiatives of Change Foundation which aims at connecting together and equipping those who want to act in favor of peace, trust-building, reconciliation and sustainability. It benefits from Swiss neutrality and the Swiss desire to contribute to peace and human security.

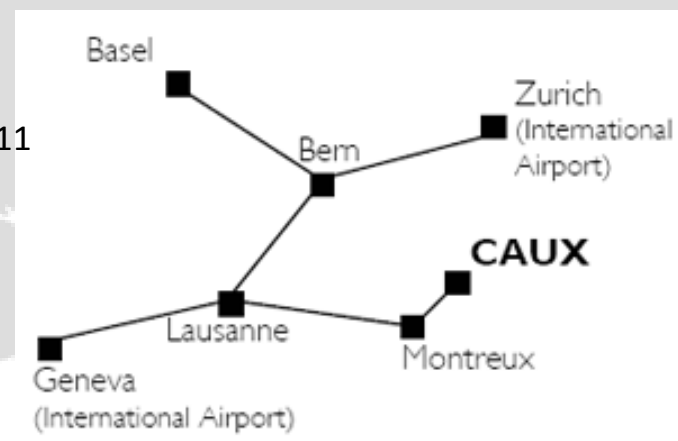
The Conference Center in Caux

The Caux conference center is located at an altitude of 1000 metres, overlooking the stunning Lake Geneva and the Swiss Alps. Formerly the Caux-Palace Hotel, it became an international meeting place in 1946, thanks to the generous contributions in time, talent and money of many volunteers.

How to Get There

Caux is located one and a half hours by car or train from Geneva and two hours from Bern. Trains to Caux run from Geneva Airport as well as from Bern every hour. For exact departure times and connections to Caux, consult www.sbb.ch.

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For registrations please visit our website www.caux.ch

Registration form: https://application.caux.iofc.org/en/online_applications/new

There will be an all-inclusive charge of 320 CHF for the two days, full board 1 night*

*if your stay includes two nights, the price is 430 CHF; reduced rates and scholarships for students available.