

Salzburger Nachrichten

Donnerstag, 27. April 2006

EU-LESUNG

Tel. 0 66 2 / 83 73-0

Autoren zur EU; 30 recognised literary figures shall be presenting their views on the future of Europe on 9th May (Europe Day). The settings for such readings and the ensuing public discussions shall be selected coffeehouses in all 25 member states of the European Union as well as in Bulgaria and Romania. In Austria, the event shall be held in Cafe Central in Vienna's Herrengasse. Upon the invitation of the P.E.N Club, Karl-Markus Gauß, Adolf Holl und Josef inkler shall recite their essays. The contributions of other authors, including Great Britain's Timothy Garten Ash, Poland's Christoph Lipinski, Vaclav Havel from the Czech Republic or Eva Demski from Germany are also due to be published in a book shortly thereafter.

The Initiative; "Cafe d'Europe" was initiated by the Austrian EU-presidency. It shall be carried out by the Institute of the Regions (IRE) from Salzburg under the direction of former regional leader Franz Schausberger. In Brussels on Wednesday, he emphasised that the idea was to bind the coffeehouse - as a traditional European meeting forum - more firmly into the running debate on the future of Europe. Citizens who do not have the time to go to a coffeehouse on 9th May may participate now in the debate by going to www.cafeeurope.at and submitting their views on the Union there.

The current events in the capital cities of Europe is a first step. Should the event be a success, it could also be continued in the regions of Europe during the coming year. European secretary of state Hans Winkler said he is not expecting any "gushing reviews" on the European Union. He does not know what kind of views on Europe the authors will present. There will be no "sermons on the EU"; he hopes instead that there will be more open discussions on the subject.