

Consultation on EC proposal for European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008

1. The proposal was adopted by the Commission on 7 October 2005. The Year aims to increase people's mutual understanding and their appreciation of the many different cultures in Europe and to help them develop a sense of the values and traditions we share as part of our common European citizenship.

The European Year's objectives

2. The overall aim of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue is to contribute to one of the fundamental aims of the European Union: bringing together the peoples of Europe.

The objectives of the Year are as follows:

- to help all those living in an expanded European Union to adapt to a more open, multicultural environment;
- to raise the awareness of all those living in the European Union of the importance of engaging in dialogue with people from other ethnic and faith groups and from other countries in the EU;
- to reinforce and promote all Community programmes and activities which contribute to intercultural dialogue;
- to highlight the contribution of different cultures to our heritage and ways of life;
- to encourage innovative initiatives promoting intercultural dialogue, particularly among young people.

Activities during the Year

3. Examples of activities to promote these objectives are as follows:

- promotional campaigns, at Community and national level to spread the key messages of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue;
- events and initiatives on a European scale highlighting achievements and experiences on the theme of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue;
- events and initiatives at national level with a strong European dimension.