



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

DIRECTORATE COMMUNICATIONS  
PROTOCOL AND CONFERENCES DIVISION

Mr Nikos Themelis  
26 Pafou  
GR-156 69 Papagos, Athens

Frankfurt am Main, 11 June 2007

Dear Mr Themelis,

### **CULTURAL DAYS OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK - GREECE 2007**

We are very pleased that you have accepted our invitation to take part in the CULTURAL DAYS OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK - Greece 2007 in Frankfurt am Main. The Cultural Days are held each year to showcase the culture of one of the EU Member States. Please find attached some further information on this initiative.

This year's programme will bring a taste of Greece's rich and diverse culture to the city of Frankfurt and will include concerts, book readings, theatre and dance performances, films, lectures and children's events.

The Cultural Days will take place from 24 October to 13 November 2007 under the patronage of Mr Jean-Claude Trichet, President of the European Central Bank, and Dr Nicholas C. Garganas, Governor of the Bank of Greece.

In this context, we should like to confirm that the reading will take place at the **Literaturhaus** on **25 October 2007** at **20:00**. The responsible person for the organisation of this event is **Ms Teresa Weiss**

Please contact her or myself should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Helga Meister

*Head of Division*



Encl.



## CULTURAL DAYS OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

### Short description

The CULTURAL DAYS OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK take place once a year at the ECB's headquarters in Frankfurt am Main. Their purpose is to bring the cultural diversity and wealth of the EU Member States to as many people as possible. The national central bank of each year's featured country supports the ECB in devising and running the varied programme of music, literature, performance, art and photography, along with exhibitions, lectures and events for children.

### **A. Concept and philosophy**

The concept of the CULTURAL DAYS is not totally new. Originally these events aimed to increase cultural exchange and raise awareness of Europe's cultural wealth. Initially the CULTURAL DAYS were organised for the staff of the European Central Bank (ECB).

As the feedback from the first Cultural Days in 2002 was so positive, the ECB's Executive Board decided to make this event a permanent fixture of the annual cultural calendar and to give the "CULTURAL DAYS" project a long-term perspective. The ECB works closely with the national central bank of the respective showcased country in devising and implementing the programme.

The **objectives** of the CULTURAL DAYS are:

- to bring the cultural diversity of the EU Member States closer to the people of the Rhein-Main area, the ECB's staff and visitors from Europe and the rest of the world;
- to foster cooperation and exchange within the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) in fields other than monetary policy.

## **B. Why do we have the CULTURAL DAYS?**

Outside the financial world, the ECB is known primarily as the manager and guardian of the euro, which – to be frank – sounds rather dull. At the same time, we experience daily the enriching challenge of living in a largely border-free Europe. In view of the growing need for cultural exchange and integration, we felt that it was important for the ECB to support activities that help to foster a better understanding among the peoples of Europe, without forgetting the importance of national cultural roots. Since the ECB is a European institution, we feel we have an obligation to make an active contribution to the European idea, while wishing to be a good corporate citizens in our local environment.

## **C. CULTURAL DAYS: featured countries 2003-07**

Portugal (2003)

Poland (2004)

Hungary (2005)

Austria (2006)

Greece (2007)