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ICOM-Europe, In der Halde 1, 14195 Berlin, Germany

Chairman

Berlin, May 18, 2007

### Pressrelease

ICOM-Europe wishes to express its appreciation and support of the Long Night of Museums in Europe on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2007. The event expresses the joint will of European museums to provide new forms of access to museums for a large audience. It creates a bond in order to underline the importance of museums in Europe as institutions, that promote cultural understanding. To be characterized as a European museum means to enforce the engagement for the sake of freedom and human rights in the world. It means to recognize, that individual or national identities in Europe can only be formed by mutual acceptance of the other and it means to foster individuality as a precondition for creativity and cultural diversity.

The Long Night of Museums is an excellent forum to show the broad scope of activities, that characterize the European museum world today. For families and children, for flaneurs and enthusiasts, for lovers and individualists, for youth and active senior citizens it provides every possible form to enjoy, study or just feel emotionally touched by tangible and intangible representations of universal heritage. ICOM-Europe is also proud to declare its patronage for the Long Night of Museums.

Udo Goesswald  
Chair ICOM-Europe