



**OUT** OF  
**THE**  
**BOX**  
CONFERENCE

2012

Maribor, Slovenia | May 15-17, 2012

on Innovative Ways to Improve the Culture of Living

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### Opening remarks by Felix Unger

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"Out of the Box" is a very challenging title, especially when the subtitle „*Innovative Ways to Improve the Culture of Living* " is considered.

This gives new incentives and stimuli to our whole society. The time is appropriate. We are all frightened by the financial crisis which endures in Europe and gives mixed feelings looking towards the future.

There is something wrong in our society and culture, a statement which has been done by Hamlet. We lost the values or define them too superficially and secondarily. A principal way to improve the culture of life is starting to consider the real values, which is the easiest but also most difficult part in our life. Definitely life per se has the highest value, it is too less in our conscious. Man as centre seems to be displaced in our society. From this top of the highest value - the life - we can derive all our doing and as ethical issues to transform our knowledge to other people.

The prerequisite to improve the culture of our living are we self. We self are the example to our children, to the next, to our next generation how we should act to be prepared to the future.

The financial crisis is a typical indicator for the present time: We lost the human dimension and value in our thinking. The whole financial crisis reflects the severe change from a real-economy to finance-economy. In the real economy the human has to play certainly a role, all doing is centred to man. In the finance-economy all serves the money. This results in an edge for jobless people falling into poverty.

In the way of "living together" we have a virtue: the tolerance. Tolerance can be educated. You as well educated man is giving a good example directly. It is necessary to recognize and to respect the meaning of the others and to discuss opposite positions. Mostly in discussing opposite positions you learn a practicable new position as a new way to improve the "Culture of Living". I see that all our doing - sciences as well - have to serve man in his existence. All other things lead to the dance around the "Golden Calve" in a finance-economy quickly resulting in an exploitation of all, the human resources and the nature as well.

Being life orientated needs a new form of education. I have to stress again that an important way of living together can start only with the recognition of all our values where we keep life as highest value, in respect to the other one, in treating the other respectfully and in avoiding any exploitation of the others. We have simple to motivate us to the life and act toward a contribution to life. In motivating we bring all to a new human dimension



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future directed. This I understand as an innovation way improving the present "Culture of Living".

Those meetings are indispensable to rethink the human position.