

## Mme Guigou's Closing Speech

Dear Heads of Networks, Dear valued partners

As we conclude our meeting today, I am left with this important conclusion; had it not been for your remarkable efforts as Networks and Heads of Networks, your relevant initiatives and your unique force and support of the ALF on the different levels, it would not have been possible for us to play the vital dual statutory role that we play in the region as a Network of Networks but also as a respected advocacy mediator for investment in intercultural dialogue.

Yesterday I was part of the institutional representation taking part of the Public Policy Forum. I enjoyed and was enlightened by all the interventions of our Heads of Networks who shared the debate. I was reminded of how our unique status as Network of Networks and as an intergovernmental institution allows us a very exclusive leverage when it comes to shaping and informing public policy in our region. Thank you to all of you who represented our Civil Society ALF Network for a glorious representation and meaningful recommendations.

Over the past days we have come together and touched on core areas of our partnership and collaboration. We discussed together the orientations for the ALF's programming for the next phase; a matter that would not have been possible without your input and feedback, our partners on the ground.

I believe the meeting was also valuable as it allowed us to touch on the practical areas of our cooperation as well. I hope you found the sessions dedicated to discussing the Networks Guidelines, the Networks Strategy, Funding, Communication, YMV, Erasmus + VE particularly relevant as we believe the insights you shared will help improve our cooperation and our day-to-day work in these areas and for our flagship initiatives.

We value our Networks, and we believe that our strength as an organization falls there. We hope this is what you are taking home from the session that was dedicated to the Virtual Marathon for Dialogue where the role of the Networks is central, if not vital. You are the creators and curators of the activities that will feed the Marathon. You are the proprietors and beneficiaries.

I hope our meeting met the objectives that were set out for it. I hope the meeting provided the needed open space for dialogue to allow us to plan well-ahead for

the next phase. I wish you all the best with all your endeavours and future projects and I always look forward to our collaboration for many many years ahead as a collective force for intercultural Dialogue.