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14-09-2017



Last Friday four members of the European Parliament [L-R pictured **Martina Dlabajová**, **Silvia Costa**, **Petra Kammerevert**, **Doris Pack**, introduced by **Giorgio Gosetti**] met with the 28 Times Cinema ^[1] participants at the Giornate Degli Autori ^[2]'s Villa, in the framework of the Venice Film Festival ^[3].

“If you want to understand Europe, you have to tell European stories. What better way to do this than through film?”, as said by **Doris Pack**. I couldn't agree more on this. The speakers presented the importance of their cause, the meaning of the LUX Prize ^[4], and the vital role the European Parliament plays in supporting European culture. “It's better to solve problems together, instead of alone. It's important to have an own national identity, but also have a European one.”

The LUX Prize is the only prize awarded by a parliament. The selection of these films is not easy: it takes one year of debating and discussing before they decide upon a selection of the the three films they value as culturally relevant. They emphasize on the importance of cinema, which gives an identity. Cinema is the memory of the past, and for the generation of the future. All the films selected for the LUX Prize are subtitled in all European languages, which makes them able to cross borders and reach as many people as possible. This special prize should enhance cross cultural understanding and provoke discussion on European identity.

There's a famous quote by Winston Churchill, when asked to cut arts funding in favor of war effort, he replied: "Then what are we fighting for?" As quoted by Martina Dlabajová. "We need to put money in culture. You will have my support", she said. They are currently fighting for more money to make European films, since cinema is also the cultural heritage of countries which we have to save for the future. The discussion evolved in naming concrete issues in the European cultural sector that need to be tackled.

Their expectations towards the young generation was also expressed. Quoting Petra Kammerevert, speaking directly to us youngsters, "I expect that you make Europe better than it is now. Help us to make sure that is has not only a past, but also a future. Your future." Amongst us are creators, the ones who will share their stories in the future. We will change Europe, each one of us in their own, creative way.

Read more on <http://webreporters.cineuropa.org/> [5]

by Esmee van Loon

Source URL (retrieved on 24-11-2017): <https://luxprize.eu/news/28-times-cinema-meets-members-european-parliament>

Links:

[1] https://www.facebook.com/pg/cineuropa/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10155883062109739

[2] <http://www.venice-days.com/>

[3] <http://www.labiennale.org/it/cinema/2017>

[4] <http://www.luxprize.eu/>

[5] <http://webreporters.cineuropa.org/>