



Dear congress participants,

Vienna has just been voted the World's Most Livable City. There are wonderful buildings, parks and museums to see. It is the city of music, horse-drawn carriages and coffee houses. Many important people have lived in Vienna. One of them is Rudolf Steiner. His 150th birthday will be celebrated in the congress year. That is why we intend to follow a trail to retrace history in the city. All of that would be reason enough to travel to Vienna. Taking part in a big congress with 700 people from all over the world is even more exciting. Soon, it will be that time again! It will already be the 5th European "Living in the encounter" congress. 1998 in Berlin (D), 2001 in Dornach (CH), 2005 in Prague (CZ) and 2008 in Den Haag (NL), we celebrated encounter festivals together and experienced these special locations with their people and cultures. Now, in Summer 2011, we all intend to travel to Austria.

For many years, we have been organising these congresses for you and so far, it has always gone well. Whether it will go well this time depends on each and every one of us. When the programmes are sent around the world in autumn, everyone can register. When 700 people have done this, the congress will be fully booked. That is why a decision needs to be made very quickly and others need to be told that a congress is taking place again. At the previous congresses, we were always able to offer a low price for the congress ticket, accommodation and meals. Although the total price per person amounted to around €500, we requested less than half of this as a participation fee. Several sponsors were so inspired by the congresses, that they covered the other costs. Unfortunately, no sponsor has been found yet for Vienna. This means that due to lack of funds, we would need to end the congress series. That would be very sad for all of the congress fans.

But, there is still a chance. If we cannot find any big sponsors, then you will need to find small ones at home. If each congress participant finds one person, who will pay him/her the other half of the costs (€250), then we will have this Vienna congress. Perhaps it is easier to personally find people as supporters? One could talk about the congress idea, advertise, sell products, save and much more, in order to pay for the congress ticket. And, we still have more than one year's time. If we are successful, not only will the 5th congress in Vienna be secured, but also the future for the congress! This way, we are no longer reliant on big sponsors. The participants themselves make sure that their congress can take place, because they want it. Everyone who intends to participate in Vienna must actively help, so that that congress can take place. In many poorer countries, such as Serbia and Brazil, this has already worked! Let us jointly carry "Living in the encounter" further through Europe. Many pillars are already standing, but the bridge far from being finished! If 700 people have registered by November, who will pay €500.-, the congress is saved. We will split the total costs, €250.- on registration and the second half shortly prior to the start of the congress. If we find generous sponsors by then, we will reduce the second part.

Take action now, it is your congress! If you want to, we can continue and next summer, jointly bring "Living in the encounter" to Vienna. Until the 5th European Congress.

With hopeful regards,
Thomas Kraus