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**European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research**  
**Europäisches Institut für vergleichende Kulturforschung gGmbH**  
**Institut Européen de recherche comparative sur la culture**  
**Instituto Europeo de Investigación cultural comparativa**  
**Европейского института сравнительных исследований культуры**

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25.7.2011 ajw/EK - 30

Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland  
Secretary General, Council of Europe  
Avenue de l'Europe  
F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Dear Mr. Jagland,

As an admirer of the Norwegian way of life since my childhood, let me please express my heart-felt sympathy with you and your fellow citizens regarding the attacks of a terrorist through which so many people lost their lives.

In your first reaction you said: "We must not be intimidated." Indeed, it is important to stand up for an open society like the one in Norway, which is both tolerant and faithful to its principles.

We cannot exclude that scatterbrained fanatics misuse the freedom provided in these societies, but we should do all we can to make violations more difficult for them and to discourage followers! Promoting respect for cultural diversity and a true intercultural dialogue can be seen as an important step towards achieving that goal.

Therefore, we at the ERICarts Institute and our colleagues in over 40 countries are proud to collaborate, since 1998, with the Council of Europe in preparing and publishing the "Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends in Europe". This Internet platform, which has developed into an acknowledged resource and a tool for policymakers, is dedicated to such aims as well as to setting standards for the democratic governance in the domains of culture and the media, based on human rights and the rule of law.

With my best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. J. Wiesand".

Prof. Dr. Andreas Johannes Wiesand  
(Executive Director, ERICarts Institute)

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**Founding Bodies (Gesellschafter gGmbH):** European Association of Cultural Researchers e.V. (ECURES), in co-operation with Boekmanstichting (Amsterdam), CUPORE (Helsinki); Observatorio das Actividades Culturais (Lisbon); Zentrum für Kulturforschung (Bonn/Berlin).

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