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ICOM-Europe, In der Halde 1, 14195 Berlin, Germany

Chairman

Berlin, March 28, 2008

### **Pressrelease**

ICOM-Europe wishes to express its appreciation and support of the Night of Museums on May 17, 2008. Together with the International Museum Day on May 18, 2008 this event is designed to link museums in Europe in their joint will to foster dialogue and engagement for the sake of a better understanding between different cultures and peoples. In this sense European museums stand also for their social responsibility in order to give better access to an increasingly diverse audience. The broad variety of events and exhibitions are designed to react to modern European societies that are more and more respecting the contributions of all its citizens. In connection with the 2008 Year of Intercultural Dialogue launched by the European Commission this means to acknowledge the importance of migration for the cultural identity of Europe.

The Night of Museums is a perfect event to demonstrate how diversity has shaped European art and culture. As places of individual, social and cultural memory, museums in Europe can participate in reflecting the past for the benefit of the present and the future. By connecting individual interests with inspirations from the broad and rich field of universal heritage visitors of all generations will experience Europe's museums as a reservoir for their fantasy, enhancing hopes and wishes for a more peaceful world.

Udo Goesswald  
Chair ICOM Europe

