

GALA PROGRAM

WELCOME TO

The
Grand Europe
Ball NYC

Saturday, May 1st, 2004
The Waldorf=Astoria
New York City

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF

The Grand Europe Ball NYC

WELCOME AND HONOR YOUR PRESENCE AT

THE INAUGURAL GRAND EUROPE BALL NYC

Saturday, May 1st, 2004
The Waldorf=Astoria
New York City

MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JOHN B. RICHARDSON, HEAD OF DELEGATION,
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE UN

Depending on one's perspective, May 1 has long had symbolic importance, but as of May 1, 2004, it will always be invested with another meaning for Europe and the world, beyond ideology: it marks the first peaceful unification of Europe in human history, achieving in large measure the challenge set by a famous US President, of creating "a Europe whole and free."

This is certainly worthy of celebration.

The European Union's ten new Member States will not just be the latest members of a club: they are part of an historic process, one not only of elimination of frontiers and the broadening of markets, important as that is, but also of the spread and deepening of a set of values, values which Americans also recognize and promote – democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights and market economy.

This, the biggest and most complex enlargement in EU history, is also a great commitment for the future, for a Europe of peace and stability, for a Europe of equal opportunities, for a Europe of innovation, for a Europe strong in its diversity, with living traditions and cultures, for a Europe reliable to its allies and trading partners, representing hope and assistance for other, less fortunate nations.

1989 was only 15 years ago, but the face of our continent could not have changed more fundamentally. And it hasn't been easy. Yet the countries and peoples of Central and Eastern Europe have embraced the task, renewing their societies and offering themselves – and the EU – a new and better future.

It has been one of our great achievements, which May 1 will henceforth mark and be a measure for our fulfillment of its promise.

Sincerely,

Ambassador John B. Richardson

**MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR DR. GÁBOR HORVÁTH
CONSUL GENERAL OF HUNGARY
DINNER CO-CHAIR OF THE GRAND EUROPE BALL**

Today, on May 1, 2004, history is being written, as Hungary and nine other countries have joined the European Union.

This is a milestone of historic significance for Hungary. New opportunities are opening for progress. Not only we are entering into an economic integration with the developed market economies in Europe's West, our accession also exemplifies the commonality of shared values and aspirations. For Hungary, the prospect of joining the European Union has always equaled to modernization. The need to meet the accession criteria of joining the elite club of European democracies expedited our inevitable political, economic and social transformation.

This is also a milestone of historic significance for the European Union. For the first time, enlargement transcends the division line of the former Iron Curtain, constituting a determining step towards the irreversible democratic reunification of Europe. A larger European Union, with the dynamism and intellectual energy of its new members, will be stronger, more competitive, and will also make progress toward its political integration already under way.

And this is a milestone of historic significance for the United States too. Hungary's commitment to Europe and to the United States is not alternatives. For Hungary, more Europe will not mean less America, in fact, it could mean even more America. We support a strong and mutually beneficial Transatlantic partnership based on shared values, common goals, and, first and foremost, on mutual trust.

May I salute the first Grand Europe Ball in New York for bringing together the friends and the supporters of a strategic partnership between the enlarged European Union and the United States on this historic occasion worthy of celebration.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Dr. Gábor Horváth

**MESSAGE FROM ARCHDUKE GYÖRGY HABSBURG
AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY FOR EU INTEGRATION
DINNER CO-CHAIR OF THE GRAND EUROPE BALL**

Today will, for eternity, mark the long desired reunification of Europe. As Dinner Co-Chair of the first Grand Europe Ball in New York, please accept my felicitation for celebrating this truly historic event with grandeur and rejoice.

I am deeply convinced that this historic enlargement of the European Union with ten new members will be an example reaching far beyond Europe: that the brighter future of mankind rests on close cooperation among nations. Integration constitutes the strongest guarantee for peace and security, opens new opportunities for progress, and enables to jointly benefit from globalization while neutralizing its negative impacts.

My family's history has been that of Europe's, thus I am glad and emotionally touched by its newly found unity. Europe had seen a tumultuous history throughout the ages and centuries. Rivalries lead to wars, totalitarian regimes evoked tragedies, right until the middle of the 20th century. But after World War II, it was wisely realized that only economic and political integration in Europe could offer peace, reconciliation and prosperity. And European integration has become an ever broadening and deepening success. It is based on our common heritage, and marks the democratic reunification of Europe by its nations, of its nations and for its nations.

For the nations in Central and Eastern Europe after the systemic change in 1990, even the prospect of joining the European Union helped the profound transformation into democracy and market economy. Their accession to the European Union eloquently demonstrates the successful completion of their aspirations.

For me, the Grand Europe Ball in New York City also reaffirms that the reunification of Europe will open new perspectives for a firm Transatlantic alliance.

Sincerely,

Ambassador György Habsburg

MESSAGE FROM MS. ELIZABETH VILMIK
GALA COMMITTEE CHAIR AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR
OF THE GRAND EUROPE BALL

Dear Distinguished Guests,

The addition of ten new member states to the European Union today is a heartening and historic event for Europeans. While all residents will benefit from the expanded Union, it is young professionals who stand to gain most from the promise of this moment. Expanded opportunities to work and study in EU member states will not only increase the strengths and competitive skills of these individuals but also serve to sustain both the unique attributes of our nations and the economic ties between us.

I believe that the enlargement of the European Union will create significant synergies and increase benefits and opportunities for all member states. It also will prove the truth of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. After May 1st, young professionals of Europe will incorporate into their national identities a more cosmopolitan, grander, European one. They will be proud of their own countries, cultures and heritage, but will also have the broader view - that of partners in a great endeavor.

As a young professional of European descent, I have been both honored and thrilled to chair the Young Professionals Committee and the Gala Committee of the Grand Europe Ball. It is a pleasure to host the After-Hour Party for Young Professionals as well. New York is one of the most global and cosmopolitan of all cities, and thus a perfect place to celebrate this occasion.

Your attendance this evening is a testament to your enthusiasm for, and belief in, the future of the newly enlarged European Union. Thank you for helping us celebrate this historic event.

Sincerely,

Ms. Elizabeth Vilmik
Gala Committee Chair
Young Professionals Committee Chair

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Outstanding Program Development Assistance was Given by
Friends of The Grand Europe Ball and International Committee Members:

Ambassador Dr. Gabor Horvath and Mrs. Gabriella Lonkai Horvath
Mr. Mark Jaffe
Mr. Charles Kipps
Mr. George Lang
Ms. Gloria Starr Kins
Ms. Elizabeth Vilmik

The International Organizing Committee and Friends of The Grand Europe Ball

Gratefully Acknowledge and Thank

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

For Supporting The Inaugural Grand Europe Ball NYC

The International Organizing Committee and Friends of The Grand Europe Ball NYC

Congratulate

Ms. Catherine Alapont
President
Lapont International-USA, Inc.

Founder and Producer of The Grand Europe Ball

The Grand Europe Ball NYC Evening Program

Grand Opening Ceremony

Representation of the Olympic flame

Performance by Ms. Irene Aindili and Ms. Hara Karyami, Sydney 2000 Olympic Medalists

Featuring Spectacular Rhythmic Gymnastics to the music of "Never on Sunday" and "Zorba The Greek"

EU and American Anthems

Ms. Sylvia Tosun

Singer and Composer

Welcoming Remarks

H.E. Ambassador John B. Richardson

Head of The Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations

Greetings

Dr. Gabor Horvath

Ambassador Consul General of the Hungarian Republic

Mr. George Lang

Restaurateur and Writer

Mr. Charles Kipps, Writer/Producer

Master of Ceremonies

Mr. Mark Jaffe

President, Greater New York Chamber of Commerce

Presentation to Honorees

Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, Ed.D.

Founding President

Italian American Museum

And

Ms. Irene Aindili and Ms. Hara Karyami

Sydney 2000 Olympic Medalists

Interlude of Operettas

József Csák and Ildikó Iván, Tenor and Soprano of the Hungarian State Opera

Emerich Kalman: Czardas Princess - Sylvia's Entrance Song (solo by Ildikó Iván)

Franz Lehar: The Land of Smiles - Su Tsong's Song (solo by József Csák)

Emerich Kalman: Czardas Princess - Do You Remember...? (duet)

Emerich Kalman: Czardas Princess - Dream, Sweet Dream... (duet)

Music and Entertainment throughout the Evening

Alex Donner and his Orchestra

After Hour Party for Young Professionals

Hosted by The Manhattan Hungarian Network

A vibrant, cross-cultural party for young diplomats and professionals welcoming the expansion of the European Union with ten new member states.

Evening Draw

A draw for a pair of business class round trip tickets from New York to Budapest on MALEV Hungarian Airlines.

THE GRAND EUROPE BALL NYC WELCOMES AND SALUTES

THE DIPLOMATIC HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

H.E. Ambassador John B. Richardson
Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Hynek Kmonicek
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations.

H.E. Mr. D. Laszlo Molnar
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Hungary to the United Nations.

H.E. Mr. Marcello Spatafora
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Johan L. Lovald
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

H.E. Dr. Janusz Stanczyk
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the Republic of Poland to the United Nations

THE GRAND EUROPE BALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES AND HONORS THE PRESENCE OF

Mr. Kenneth C. Allen
Consul General of Australia

Hon. Antonio Bandini
Consul General of Italy

H.E. Stephane De Loecker
Consul General of Belgium

Hon. Dr. Gheorghe Dimitrescu, MD
Consul General of Romania

Mr. Josef Dvoracek
Commercial Consul of the Czech Republic

H.E. Juan Manuel Egea
Ambassador, Consul General of Spain

Hon. Mr. Georges Faber
Consul General and Trade Commissioner of Luxembourg

Mr. Alexandre de Almeida Fernandez
Consul General of Portugal

H.E. Mr. Koichi Haraguchi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Dr. Gabor Horvath
Ambassador Consul General of The Hungarian Republic

H.E. Mr. Jean Marc Hoscheit
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

Mr. Anton Karlov
Acting Consul General of Bulgaria

H.E. Roman Kirm
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Andreas D. Mavroyiannis
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations

Mrs. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszweska
Consul General and Minister Plenipotentiary of Poland

H.E. Mr. Mihnea Ioan Motoc
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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H.E. Stephan Tafrov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations

**VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE GRAND EUROPE BALL NYC
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR VALUABLE SUPPORT:**

DINNER CO-CHAIRS

Mr. Henry de Vismes
Managing Director, Citigroup Asset Management

Archduke György Habsburg
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for EU Integration of Hungary

Dr. Gabor Horvath
Ambassador Consul General of the Hungarian Republic
and Mrs. Gabriella Lonkai Horvath

Mr. Mark Jaffe
President, Greater New York Chamber of Commerce

Mr. George Lang
Restaurateur and Writer

Mr. Sven C. Oehme
President, The European-American Business Organization, Inc.

Mrs. Gloria Starr Kins
Chair, Media Division, OCCAM - Milan, Italy

YOUNG PROGESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Ms. Elizabeth Vilmik – Chair

Mr. Sanj Drew Hingorani

Ms. Erzsebet Karkus

Mr. Jon Serbin

Ms. Vivian Soren

Ms. Claudia Stans

JUNIOR DIPLOMATIC COMMITTEE AND UN SECRETARIAT CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Iris Abraham

Mr. Sebastien Billon
United Nations – Department of Peacekeeping Operations

GALA COMMITTEE

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Chair – Gala Committee

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Campaign Associate, Jewish National Fund

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Seth Low Professor of History
Director, Institute for the Study of Europe
Columbia University in the City of New York

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Ms. Marina Wedell Lystos
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Mrs. Callioppi Efthvoulou-Mavroyiannis
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations

Dr. John S. Micgiel
Executive Director, Institute for the Study of Europe
Columbia University in the City of New York

Mrs. Anna Pelka
Consul
Consulate General of the Republic of Poland

Mrs. Fay Malouf-Vassilakis
Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations

MENU

Traditional Tomato Provencale

Of Prosciutto di Parma, Mozzarella and Our Basil Oil

The Waldorf's Great Tournedos of Beef

With Baton Asparagus, Cipolline Onions, Chanterelles and a Noble Brandy Sauce

Chocolate Raspberry Cadeau

With Ten Glorious Ingredients

Coffee

*

Decaffeinated Coffee

*

A Selection of Teas

Wine

Sauvignon Blanc, Columbia Crest

Washington State

EUROPE—WHOLE AND FREE EU Enlargement and the United States



On May 1, 2004, the European Union enlarges to twenty-five member countries, a momentous achievement that signals Europe's unification after 50 years of division, while simultaneously creating a new political order that for the first time in contemporary history is based on common values and a shared desire to construct a space of security and peace. This enlargement can be compared with the historic foundation of the European Union and its institutions in the 1950s, not only in dimension—it is the first time ten nations join the EU simultaneously—but also in its political impact. Indeed, this process has led to a profound transformation in the political, economic, and judicial systems of these nations.

EU enlargement is a historic step toward the long cherished goal, on both sides of the Atlantic, of a Europe "whole, free, at peace, and growing in prosperity", as articulated by successive Presidents of the United States.

"My nation welcomes the consolidation of European unity, and the stability it brings. We welcome a greater role for the EU in European security, properly integrated with NATO. We welcome the incentive for reform that the hope of EU membership creates. We welcome a Europe that is truly united, truly democratic, and truly diverse -- a collection of peoples and nations bound together in purpose and respect, and faithful to their own roots."

President Bush addressed Warsaw University on June 15, 2001.

EU MEMBER STATES

Austria • Belgium • Denmark • Finland • France • Germany • Greece • Ireland • Italy • Luxembourg
The Netherlands • Portugal • Spain • Sweden • United Kingdom

WELCOMING THE NEW MEMBER STATES

Czech Republic • Estonia • Hungary • Latvia • Lithuania • Malta • Poland
Republic of Cyprus • Slovak Republic • Slovenia

ENTERTAINERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Ms. Irene Aindili and Ms. Hara Karyami are performing the Grand Opening Ceremony this evening. Both are medalists from the Sydney 2000 Olympics in Rhythmic Gymnastics and winners of 200 medals including seven Gold Pan European and six Gold International World Championships. We are honored to have them performing this evening courtesy of Mrs. Fay Malouf-Vassilakis, Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations and Mrs. Helen Skarla, President of the Hellenic-American Ballet Theatre.

Sylvia Tosun comes from a long line of artists and musicians – a grandfather who was a renowned composer and concert pianist throughout Europe. Due to her dedicated and extensive volunteer work, The United Service Organization appointed Tosun Miss USO, as well as an Ambassador of Goodwill for an unprecedented two-year term. Most recently, she was responsible for bringing thousands of servicemen home to their families for the holidays before they were set to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan coordinating with the generosity of the *NY Daily News* in a project entitled, "Operation Reindeer." Her efforts resulted in receiving a National Certificate of Merit from USO. Tosun's upcoming full-length album "All This Time" is due out in Spring 2004.

Ildikó Iván is a popular soprano of the Hungarian State Opera, regular guest of various opera companies, oratorio soloist and noted performer of contemporary music. In Europe, she gained a reputation as a soprano of the Bonn Opera, after winning the Karlovy Vary Singing Competition and the Grand Prix of the Cziffra Foundation. She debuted with success in New York in 2003. Her vocal partners on stage include Giuseppe Taddei, Edita Gruberova, Juan Pons, Graham Clark and Gössta Winberg, and worked with notable conductors as Gianfranco Massini, Udo Zimmermann and Dennis Russel Davies. Her repertoire includes Gilda, Lucia di Lammermoor, Olympia, Fiordiligi, Melinda and Micaela. She played the leading role in several operatic films (*Così fan tutte*, *Countess Marica*). Her CD recordings of Letter Arias and Anna Arias are highly acclaimed.

József Csák, tenor, is a well-known member of the Hungarian State Opera. Although he is a graduate of architectural design, and still teaches at the University of Technical Sciences, his remarkable voice brought him immediate success. After his first audition with the Opera House, he was given, a role in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, and also in his first season he debuted in the main roles in operas by Verdi. Then he started his studies with well-known masters, and by now he performed the main roles in almost 40 operas in Hungary and abroad. He is also a popular oratorio singer, and his repertoire in operetta recitals is critically acclaimed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RECOGNITION

The International Organizing Committee of The Grand Europe Ball NYC
Congratulates the Following Companies, Organizations and Individuals for their Support:

Manhattan Hungarian Network

The Grand Europe Ball wishes to thank the Manhattan Hungarian Network for hosting the After Hour Party for young professionals and diplomats.

MALEV Hungarian Airlines

The Grand Europe Ball wishes to thank MALEV Hungarian Airlines, the one and only air carrier that flies Budapest - NYC nonstop with daily frequencies in the summer, for its generous support of tonight's event by offering two complimentary business class round trip tickets for the evening's draw.

The First Hungarian Literary Society, a 115-year old Cultural Institute in New York City, was formed by the Members to preserve their cultural heritage in the United States and is located on 223 East 79th Street.

Best Wishes to The Grand Europe Ball NYC from distinguished guests in attendance:

Mrs. Mimi Mautner, Vice-President

Mr. Emery Seller, Mr. Louis Allen, Former-President and Mrs. Agnes Allen

Food Research Inc, an organization that addresses environmental issues and creates tools for underdeveloped countries in order to provide nutritional products for the well being of mankind.

Best wishes and congratulations to The Grand Europe Ball NYC and we look forward to continuing our support for years to come.

Mr. David Mc Millan - COO Food Research Inc.

Kaye Scholer LLP, and its Technology, Intellectual Property & Outsourcing Group celebrates the expansion of the European Union and wishes the Grand Europe Ball much success in New York. We are looking forward to continuing our work with European companies in an expanded European Union.

The Grand Europe Ball website was designed by Mr. Sarper Kocabiyik, Domino USA

Special Event photography by Mr. Kenneth R. Fields

Mr. Ellis Nassour

Stage Production Assistance

Ms. Martha Weinman

Program Development Coordinator

For her diligence and dedication throughout the entire program

This evening's fashions were presented by Ms. Holly Kristen. This New York designer has taken the fashion world by storm. Cosmetics giant Sephora discovered Ms. Kristen for Fashion Week New York, where she launched her Spring 2004 line.

BEST WISHES AND CONTINUED SUCCESS

To

**The International Organizing Committee of
The Grand Europe Ball NYC**

From Mr. Mark Jaffe, President
Greater New York Chamber of Commerce



Thank you for your continuous support throughout the entire program development of

The Grand Europe Ball NYC as our strategic partner

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Website: www.grandeuropeball.com

Thank You to all our Guests for Joining us this Evening

For and On Behalf of the Grand Europe Ball NYC International Organizing Committee

**MESSAGE FROM MS. CATHERINE ALAPONT
PRESIDENT OF LAPONT INTERNATIONAL-USA,INC
FOUNDER AND PRODUCER OF THE GRAND EUROPE BALL**

An Important Message of Transatlantic Friendship, Success and Shared Cultural Heritage.

The 12th Grand Europe Ball, an international event for over a decade, moved to New York City this year in honor of all of the people and our shared history.

Why is New York the perfect city for The Grand Europe Ball ? This is a question that is often asked... It is perfect that this gathering takes place in New York City this year simply because the Big Apple is home to the United Nations, home to millions of Americans of European descent, and is a melting pot of all nationalities. New York is, of course, home to the financial world, home of new ideas, home of art and music and fashion, and, in this new century it is indeed the undisputed capital of the world.

New York is also a city of firsts. The first Grand Europe Ball NYC takes place on a significant day, Saturday, May 1st, 2004 which will mark the historic expansion of the European Union.

This unique new initiative is to become a regular New York event in the years to come, created to bring together leaders in the diplomatic, business and cultural communities. This metropolis is a cultural crossroads that has long embraced and benefited from European influences.

We are most honored, and in awe of the opportunity to hold this event in America's greatest city.

Thank you to all our guests, and citizens of the world, for joining us this evening and supporting The Inaugural Grand Europe Ball NYC.

Sincerely,

Ms. Catherine Alapont
Founder of The Grand Europe Ball

This International Event was proudly organized in association with

