

## **The Basel OSCE Forum**

### **Session 1: "Basel and the OSCE" (Welcome)**

**Andreas Nidecker  
President of the Basel Peace Office**

Honorable Representatives and Mayors,  
Honorable Cantonal President of Basel, dear friend Guy Morin,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

As President of the Basel Peace Office, together with our director Mr. Alyn Ware and the entire board, it is my great pleasure to open this symposium and welcome you in Basel. Basel over the centuries has repeatedly been a venue for important peace treaties and has stimulated many peace-related activities. Just to name a few:

- In 1499 the so-called « peace of Basel » terminated the war between Maximilian of Habsburg and the Suabian Union with Bishop Henry of Chur and the emerging young Union of then 10 cantons, which later became to be Switzerland.
- In 1795 the « treaty of Basel » between the king of Prussia, Frederick William II and France.
- In 1912 the Peace congress of the Socialist International
- In 1958 Carl Jaspers wrote his thesis on the „Nuclear bomb and the future of man“
- In 1989 the 1st Ecumenical Assembly under the theme « Peace, Liberty and integrity of creation »
- And lastly in 2010 « our » world congress of IPPNW the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

It is fitting, that in the year of the Swiss presidency of the OSCE we talk about cooperative security and tie this vision to a deep hope and desire of many people all over the globe: a world without nuclear weapons.- With you I am looking forward to interesting presentations and as organizers we thank all those speakers, who have come from many places in Europe and also from overseas as far as the US and even French Polynesia.

I wish you an interesting symposium with perhaps good new contacts and new facts, so far unknown to you.- At this stage I'd also like to introduce musicians from a group called « Play for Rights ». This is a group

of young musicians whose vision is to empower young artists and peace-workers, as well as a wider audience and us, to become aware of social conflicts that violate human rights. We first hear some pieces on a Marimba, accompanied by clarinet. Later on we will hear a quartet of brass players. During the 2nd set P4R will also tell us briefly about their work.