



## La Europa del primer cuarto del siglo XXI – Europe of the First Quarter of the 21st Century

21st–25th June 2001



**E**uropean development over the next 25 years was discussed during the celebration of the 10th anniversary of town twinning between Toro, in the Spanish provins of Castilla y León, and the southwestern French town of Condom. The mayor and citizens of Toro had arranged a five-day long conference last year in June. Not only Condom, but also Grünberg in Germany, which has been town twinning with Condom for thirty years, was invited.

**T**he conference had the overall heading “Europe of the First Quarter of the 21st Century”. But, in order to make this very ambitious theme slightly more manageable, it was broken down into smaller, individual topics and the line of attack was to be primarily from a sociological point of view. There were thus on the first day of the conference talks and discussions in individual groups, chaired by experts and with simultaneous translation into three languages, on topics as diverse as health, child-care, conditions for the labourmarket, information society, environment, transport, emigration, food and agriculture, leisure and tourism.

**T**hese discussions were followed over the next days by more specific discussions on firstly the Mad-cows disease (BSE) as an example of a common European problem which can only be effectively dealt with by joint action of the EU. Secondly, another challenge facing the continent: the social integration of Moroccan, Sub-Sahara and South American emigrants into the Spanish and European societies. Providing a valuable chance to compare and discuss different national approaches at local government level as well as from Academia to the issue and to hear how the visitors from Germany were dealing with similar problems. Thirdly: matters concerning environmental policy and the EU, a discussion that was combined with a successful visit to the nearby “Lagunas de Villafafila”, a large EU-funded natural reserves for birds.

**S**ince Toro is situated in the heart of one of the world's top-quality vine-producing areas, the chance wasn't missed to visit some of the local vineyards, gaining insight into the production, economy and consumption of vine. A traditional Spanish paella was served in an old monastery, there was dance, music and song, as well as the many official visits and speeches in honour of the 10th anniversary of town twinning between Toro and Condom. The meeting will be followed-up by an Eurocamp this year in Toro, with visiting youngster from not only Germany, France and Spain, but also several Central European countries. And Grünberg will next year be celebrating its thirty-year partnership with Condom, as well as its ten-year partnership with Mragowo in Poland, whereto Toro has already been invited as guest of honour, following its very successful organisation of “La Europa del primer cuarto del siglo XXI”

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Countries involved : Spain, France and Germany

Persons involved : 170