



For Immediate Release  
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## **EUROPEAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION HOSTS LAUNCH EVENT**

Washington DC: The European-American Cultural Foundation (E-ACF) hosted a spectacular event at the Library of Congress, featuring keynote remarks by Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of the European Union Delegation to the United States, a first-ever seen video about the E-ACF introduced and produced by Susan Carmel Lehrman, Founding Board Member of the E-ACF, a concert duet featuring pianists David Lively and Nima Sarkechik, and a signature dessert created especially for the event by Chef Daniel Boulud.

The European-American Cultural Foundation is a newly created organization focused on strengthening cultural bonds and collaboration between the European Union and EU Member States with the United States.

"Culture is the tie that binds people and countries," said Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of the European Union Delegation to the United States. "It highlights common values and aspirations, creativity and innovation, and sustains and promotes political, economic, and commercial relations. This Foundation aims at facilitating and enlarging the possibilities for cultural interaction between Americans and Europeans, supporting the diverse initiatives already undertaken by national administrations, embassies, cultural agents, and business on both sides of the Atlantic."

Said Susan C. Lehrman, Founding Board Member, "The cultural efforts I find most compelling have a fundamental focus on helping to make the world a better place, and for me that means having a particular emphasis on young people and future generations. I truly believe that subsequent generations in particular will need to find a better way to understand and accept different cultures and backgrounds. Cultural understanding will help younger generations to achieve an open mind rather than resorting to stereotypes. The E-ACF will help to share, preserve and strengthen our respective cultural heritages."

Kimberly Heatherington, Executive Director of the E-ACF, emphasized the importance of cultural relations by adding, "Culture, the arts, and dialogue are not optional extras -- they are essential elements of expression and exchange, and they influence almost every sector of society. The new European-American Cultural Foundation recognizes that reality in the historically rich context of an enduring transatlantic relationship. This is not simply about a shared history. It is also about a dynamic future in which culture plays a leading role, because culture has the capacity to create deeper understanding."

For more information about the E-ACF please visit us at [www.E-ACF.org](http://www.E-ACF.org)

Please see attached link for photos from the event: [www.imagelinkphoto.com/eacf\\_press](http://www.imagelinkphoto.com/eacf_press): 1. Hon. and Mrs. Bart Gordon, Rear Admiral. Susan Blumenthal, Mrs. Susan DiBona 2. Hon. Selwa S. Roosevelt, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, 3. Crowd at LOC, 4. Amb. João Vale de Almeida, 5. Pianists, 6. Bakery, 7. Award presentation to Amb. João Vale de Almeida, 8. View of event 9. E-ACF Founding Board Member Douglas W. Charnas, E-ACF Founding Board Member Susan Carmel Lehrman, E-ACF Executive Director Kimberly Heatherington, E-ACF Senior Advisor Roland Celette, Annie Seys, President of the Board, Alliance Francaise, DC