



Dear Friends and Fellow-Debaters,

On behalf of the **DEBATING SOCIETY GERMANY e.V.** may we extend a cordial  
invitation to the

**13<sup>th</sup> European Open**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

In past years we have hosted teams variously from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia, Spain, and the USA. In 2008 24 German and visiting teams competed. This winter we see the event as a chance to meet in the middle of Europe before the Worlds 2010 in the next year. It is also a good preparation for those debaters who will go to Qatar.

You will only have to pay your own fares to get to and from Stuttgart, and a very moderate participation fee of €65 per visitor for public transport etc. (= €390 per team of five plus one coach.). We will then accommodate, transport and feed you for the duration of the stay. Visiting teams will be accommodated by individual local schools. The coaches will be housed centrally in a hotel in Winnenden. Debating will take place in schools in and around Stuttgart every afternoon, following a programme of visits and receptions in the mornings.

Each team must be accompanied by an adult coach who will be fully responsible for the debaters' decent behaviour (see Code of Conduct on our website [www.schoolsdebate.de](http://www.schoolsdebate.de)). We have, in previous years, had bad experiences with foreign teams coming to Germany, who consider it a week of pushing boundaries in terms of alcohol consumption and behaviour. This will not be tolerated and, if a misdemeanour occurs, then the team and coach must be prepared to take any consequences which may arise. The host families are always very keen to host international guests and teams would do well to remember that this is a voluntary commitment on the part of the families and that should not be treated like a hotel.

The coach must also be ready and willing to judge in the competition, as we always experience a serious shortfall in qualified judges. We hope to have the Final Debate in a public building of central Stuttgart.

We will give you fair notice of set motions, including the final debate, and the motions for impromptu will be announced one hour before each debate. Format will be WSDC parliamentary, with points of information and with no cross-examination. Length of speeches will be eight minutes. All debaters will receive a certificate of participation and the winners will get a wee prize.

Please let us know asap (deadline for registration: 5<sup>th</sup> November) whether you are likely to come, and with what probable age groups. Please mail answers direct to Angelika at:

< [hoeness@t-online.de](mailto:hoeness@t-online.de) >

With best wishes,

Angelika Hoeness, president

David Whitehead, vice-president