

## Werk

**Titel:** Welcoming speech

**Autor:** Semprún, Jorge

**Ort:** Bremen

**Jahr:** 1989

**PURL:** [https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?514822910\\_0035|log7](https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?514822910_0035|log7)

## Kontakt/Contact

[Digizeitschriften e.V.](#)  
SUB Göttingen  
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1  
37073 Göttingen

✉ [info@digizeitschriften.de](mailto:info@digizeitschriften.de)

# Welcoming Speech

JORGE SEMPRÚN  
*Minister of Culture, Madrid*

Mr President of LIBER and esteemed friends: just a few words to welcome you to Madrid here in the National Library and to wish you success in your work.

As the President of LIBER mentioned a moment ago, the creation of the event began taking shape during the sixties in answer to the need for European libraries to communicate and get to know one another. The growth in other international bodies having to do with libraries or librarians - for example, IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations - made it clear in time that there was a need for library groupings based on regional criteria or on the specialization and use of each institution.

In March of 1971 we saw the celebration of the founding congress of LIBER in Strasbourg under the auspices of the Council of Europe. It was the first focusing of attention on this information-library issue which at this point involves some 1,200 million books, 75,000 libraries and 250,000 working personnel. (The figures indicate the EEC countries). This is something more than a cultural *heritage*. It is also a clear demonstration of scientific, technical and economic development. It is without a doubt an expanding social sector of importance to the economy and the work force.

The awareness of this reality on the part of political authorities dealing with scientific and cultural matters has emerged in an Action Plan for Libraries in the EEC. Its spirit and ends can be summed up as follows:

- The use and availability of modern methods;
- The penetration of new technologies in the field of information with all consequences regarding training and experience for professionals and users;
- The regulation and bringing together of national policies in the area of information.

There is no necessity to repeat what has been said by the President of LIBER and our State Secretary on the importance of these two Ministries in the undertakings. But I would like to end by mentioning the importance of the problems posed by books and libraries for us. This, concretely for the Ministry of Culture, in this period when Spain is presiding over the European Community. The Ministers of Culture of the Community, at the informal meeting in Santiago de Compostela which has just taken place in the presence of several Directors General of Ministries - in our case, the General Director of Books, Juan Manuel

Velasco - have convinced the Commission of Brussels to bring into play an Action Plan for Books and Libraries closely linked to activities of the Community this year and in coming years. This will free up, stimulate and reactivate several programs foreseen and others which have lain dormant. Now serious attention will be paid to them.

In October - or at any rate in the autumn - Valencia will host the Third European Conference on book problems. The problems of libraries will be key to our concerns. It is certain that we will work out at the formal meeting in Brussels in May the approval by the countries and the Ministries of Culture in question of a directive - formal and concrete - which will free up and help solve book and library problems which perhaps do not have specifically to do with you but which encompass the concrete problems of university information and research libraries as well as problems of European interconnection of these libraries, which are fundamental.

In this sense, I think the best we could do for the Ministry of Culture under the Spanish presidency is to work out a concrete directive to reanimate, free up and advance. This, mainly, with the help of the Brussels Commission and aimed at the problems of interconnection and multilateral relations among European libraries during this period.