



# ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

Engelberg, 14th of October 2009

Academia Engelberg Foundation: Commencement of 8th Dialogue on Science

## **Violence in Human Society**

**We are confronted with multifaceted dimensions of human violence on a daily basis. For the most part, we get to know it through the media and, with less frequency, in our personal environment. No matter whether we are directly affected or we just observe it: Violence in its manifold expressions has caused enormous suffering for all affected persons.**

“Violence related to wars and political conflicts on large and distant scenes, or also domestic violence, is widely known and often analysed. But unmotivated violence by young people among us – which is becoming more and more brutal despite decreasing crime rates – is a completely new phenomenon”, as Dr. Klaus Hug mentioned in his opening speech of the this year’s Dialogue on Science of the Academia Foundation Engelberg held in the town of Engelberg. He encouraged the conference participants to further explore and analyze the issue in the coming days without remaining confined to it. Therapy is always more difficult than analysis, he stated and continued that the conference participants shall not hesitate to search for approaches to a solution, either in the smaller social environment or in a broader political dimension.

### **Request for a road map**

„In the pursuit of power, violence is a dominant factor. Within the last generations, mankind developed weapons which are much more effective than the people’s ability to control them. The 21st century is challenged by the imperative: If we want to survive, we have to find ways to curtail violence”, according to Prof. R. Spillmann. In addition, he called on the roughly 130 participants of the Dialogue on Science to develop a fundamental road map which will show ways to reduce violence. Until Friday, scientists, representatives from the industry, politicians and creative artists from ten countries will make their presentations and reflections and will critically discuss the current findings on causes and effects of violence from a scientific, psychological, medical, socio-political and cultural point of view in an interdisciplinary and intergenerational dialogue.

### **Bridge between science and society**

Fundamental scientific findings are likely to meet strong reservations and encounter mistrust among the general public. The Academia Engelberg Foundation contributes its share to the creation of a new foundation of trust through interdisciplinary dialogue between the scientific community and the general public. Every autumn, personalities from science, industry, culture, politics and society meet in Engelberg, Switzerland. [www.academia-engelberg.ch](http://www.academia-engelberg.ch) / Video transmission of the congress at [www.academia-engelberg.org](http://www.academia-engelberg.org).

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Images and texts on the conference are freely available at [http://www.academia-engelberg.ch/2009\\_1.php5/](http://www.academia-engelberg.ch/2009_1.php5/) You will find the video transmission at [www.academia-engelberg.org](http://www.academia-engelberg.org)

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