

## Belgrade Circle

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Mahmutćehajić. I have participated especially actively in a series of International Conferences on 'Unity and Plurality in Europe' organized annually since 2005. This has proven the best opportunity available to us in the Balkans to articulate and exchange critical ideas on Eurocentric Europe and, just as importantly, on philosophical and political dreams of a new, different, cosmopolitan Europe, a Europe yet to come. Only in a peaceful and tolerant Europe can Bosnia and Herzegovina live in interfaith peace and intercommunal harmony. This is the main philosophical, theological and political vision of *International Forum Bosnia's* founder, Prof. Mahmutćehajić.

Personally speaking, I am particularly impressed by his profound interest in the postcolonial critique (Edward Said, Homi K. Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak, etc.) of an 'orientalized Balkans' and of Bosnia too, of course. Prof. Mahmutćehajić has shown a greater awareness than any other scholar in the former Yugoslavia that the orientalization of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of the entire Balkans, belongs to the long history of 'discursive colonization' of the Balkans.

In conclusion, I shall stress that Prof. Mahmutćehajić is a great messenger of a new, cosmopolitan Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country based on the idea that real democracy is neither the power of the majority nor the voice of the minority, but the *political production of differences*.

Prof. Mahmutćehajić is a person of unusual human qualities, always already demanding unconditional political friendship and moral solidarity. I am more than confident that Prof. Mahmutćehajić deserves, more than any other, to receive your prestigious prize.

With kind regards,

Obrad Savić

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