

## THE “COMMITTEE OF CIVIL SOCIETY OF CHILE PRO-FORUM BARCELONA 2004” PRESENTS “LA PALABRA DEL SUR DEL MUNDO”

As part of the Dialogue “New Ignorances. New Literacies”, which is being held at the Forum from September 6 to 8, representatives of Forum Pirque 2004 of Chile contribute their vision of Latin American and present a manifesto with agreements signed by leaders of different cultural communities participating in the event in the small, rural town of Pirque.

Barcelona, September 7, 2004

The vice-president of Comité de la Sociedad Civil de Chile Proforum Barcelona 2004 (Committee of Civil Society of Chile Pro-Forum Barcelona 2004), Francisco Estévez, presented Forum Pirque 2004, which was held in a small, rural town just a few miles away from Santiago de Chile in order to hold a meeting with representatives of different cultures.

Estévez explained that they seek “to connect this local dialogue with what is going on here in Barcelona and spread the word of the South”. Some one hundred leaders of organizations representing different communities in Chile participated in the event during which the manifesto was drawn up. The document includes the conclusions reached at five dialogues that run based on the subjects of on peace, creative social citizenship, visions of the world and healing arts, diversity and non-discrimination, and the development of renewable energies.

The representatives of the Comité de la Sociedad Civil de Chile will appear at the Speakers’ Corner at the Forum tomorrow at 7:00 pm to present their proposals. Estévez stated that, “we wanted to participate in the Forum from the point of view of the Latin American logic” and added that the agreements reached “are local conclusions that have universal meaning”.

There is a tie between Chile, where Pablo Neruda—who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971--, and Catalonia “created by their histories and ‘cosmovision’”, stated Estévez, who insisted on “the need for culture to become an element of universal development” and added that “culture plays a specific role in the development of society”.

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Estévez brought the event to a close by stressing the importance of democracies' acknowledging diversity and multicultural rights and explained that he hopes "to bring the conclusions reached here in Barcelona to Chile to motivate civil society".