Netiquette

European Forum Alpbach

2020
The European Forum Alpbach

The European Forum Alpbach (EFA) is an interdisciplinary platform for science, politics, business and culture. Established in 1945, the annual European Forum Alpbach and our events throughout the year address the relevant socio-political questions of our time. We connect international decision-makers from all sectors of society with an interested audience and committed young people. Our goal is to create a dialogue across the generational, ideological and other lines that divide us.

Our Values

We ask attendees of the online European Forum Alpbach to respect the Forum’s core values. The EFA is an independent and non-partisan organisation that espouses tolerance, openness and diversity. It endeavours to spread enthusiasm and engagement for its concerns, and so strengthens social cohesion on a global scale. The European Forum Alpbach works on the basis of facts. It conducts its debates in a climate of tolerance, and respects opposing standpoints.

Amongst its other goals, the EFA aims to:

1. foster education, research and development;
2. make space for creativity, art and interdisciplinarity;
3. support the culture of independent action;
4. contribute to peace in the world, and especially in Europe;
5. encourage cross-generational dialogue;
6. support European integration;
7. further develop democracy at all levels;
8. and to contribute to a healthy balance between economy, ecology and social responsibility.

We kindly ask that you keep these goals in mind when interacting with other participants online.

Behind Every Name There is a Person

In cyberspace, it is often easy to forget that behind every attendee, there is a human.

1. Respect what other attendees are writing in the Global Chat or what they are contributing to the discussion.
2. Ask other attendees for clarification if you find a discussion posting offensive or difficult to understand.
3. Avoid sweeping generalizations. Back up your stated opinions with facts and reliable sources.
4. Understand that we may disagree and that exposure to other people’s opinions is part of the learning experience.
5. Be respectful of each other. We’re all in this together. Before posting a comment, ask whether you would be willing to make the same comment to a person’s face.
6. Keep in mind that everything you write; indeed, every click of your mouse is recorded on the network server. On the Internet there are no take backs.
7. Keep in mind that you are attending an online conference. Something that would be inappropriate in a traditional, in-person conference is also inappropriate in an online conference.

Online Communication

1. Be aware that typing in all capital letters indicates shouting.
2. Be careful with humor and sarcasm. Both can easily be misunderstood!
3. Review all discussion postings before posting your own to prevent redundancy
4. Check your writing for errors by reviewing what you’ve written before sending it
5. **Acronyms** (LOL, etc.) and **emoticons** (smilies) are commonly used online - be careful not to overuse them but they might also help deliver a nuance to what you want to say.

6. Do not post or share content that would be deemed inappropriate according to common sense.

7. Do not post any third-party links into the Global Chat unless prompted to do so by a session moderator. This will be considered spamming and, as a consequence, you will be muted from posting in the Global Chat.

Should it be deemed necessary, the EFA reserves its right to mute or, in serious cases, to ban an attendee from participating in the online conference.

Should you feel like you were the subject of an online attack or unfair behaviour, you can get in touch with the Ombudsteam: ombudsperson@alpbach.org