



Páneurópai Piknik
Sopron 2009

The Speech of **Werner Fuhrmann** the President of Freundeskreis Europa Berlin
19 August, 2009, Sopronpuszta, Memorial Park of the Pan-European Picnic

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Mr. Foreign Minister, Carl Bildt, official president of the EU,
Excellency, Mr. Mayor, Dr. Tamas Fodor,
Dear Mr. EU Representative, Dr. Josef Szajer,
Dear Mr. Chairman of the Foundation Pan-European Picnic '89, Dr. Magas,
Dear Mr. Melocco, sculptor,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends of Europe,

We have gathered together today at this important place for the reunification of Europe, so that we can celebrate a special event. A thankful man stands in front of you from the re-unified Berlin, who is a happy citizen of unified Europe. In my career between 1962 and 1989, I had to experience the division of Europe every day and night looking through the Brandenburg Gate.

I remember even today the Revolution of 1956 in Hungary. I was 14 years old at the time. I heard the call for help from the people on the radio.

In the name of my friends, I want to say a warm thank you to all of the organizers that we are able to come to this dedication of the unique singular monument to freedom. The thought was born in Berlin, because the city wanted to make a sign to prevent us from forgetting the event, with the motto: "We Berliners in unified Germany want to express our thanks." We want to have a sign for our children! The thoughts behind the Freedom Monument we have brought to life together with the city of Sopron and the Foundation Pan-European Picnic '89.

I want to bow in front of the Monument today, and to warn everyone that never again in Europe should there be a border in Europe which we are not allowed to pass through.

Let us imagine the challenge of the 21st Century!

I want to express my heartiest thanks to the artist, Mr. Miklós Melocco, who has made the connection to Berlin, in which he built in a piece of the Berlin Wall in his monument. This Monument comes out of the Sandkrug Bridge from the area near the Berliner Kau. Thanks to the breakthrough of August 19, 1989, during the Pan-European Picnic it was possible that on November 9, the Berlin Wall fell.

We will never forget that, dear citizens of Hungary!

On May 13, 2009, the Mayor of Sopron, dr. Tamás Fodor, received a piece of the Berlin wall at Pariser Platz, at the Brandenburg Gate, in the presence of his Excellency Sándor Peisch, the Ambassador of the Hungarian Republic in Berlin.

On 16 May Miklós Melocco personally received this from the Mayor of Sopron at the laying of the corner stone of the monument.

Finally I want to say in the name of the Freundeskreis Europa Berlin, and of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, to express my thanks to all of the contributors who financially supported this singular monument.

We citizens will never forget the support of the Federal Minister of Culture, Mr. Bernd Neumann! I wish all of us a peaceful Europe in freedom and responsibility!

Thank you for your attention and ask the Lord to protect and bless all of us.

With the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union

