

## Hungary between Times and Worlds

International Scientific Symposium, Photo Exhibition, Podium Discussions, and Talks with Contemporary Witnesses on the Occasion of the European Culture Days in Karlsruhe



*The fence collapses: On June 27, 1989, foreign ministers Alois Mock and Gyula Horn cut the barbed wire at the Austrian-Hungarian border. (Photo: Photo archive of the Hungarian News Agency (MIT))*

**The scientific symposium “Hungary between Times and Worlds” from April 30 to May 2 will cover topics in the fields of politics, society, and culture of Hungary. This international symposium will be organized by ZAK I Center for Cultural and General Studies of KIT on the occasion of the 2010 European Culture Days in Karlsruhe. ZAK cooperates with the Karlsruhe Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the ZKM I Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, the Karlsruhe Baden State Theater, and the City of Karlsruhe.**

Journalists are cordially invited. Kindly register at [s.heneka-peters@zak.kit.edu](mailto:s.heneka-peters@zak.kit.edu) or by phone +49 (0) 721 608 8027. The venue will be the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Karlsruhe, Saal Baden, Lammstraße 13-17.

On Friday, April 30, the international symposium will be opened by a reception for the photo exhibition “Freedom and Democracy - Hungary – From the Fall of the Iron Curtain to Joining the Schengen

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States". The exhibition will focus on the events relating to the pan-European picnic on August 19, 1989, during which hundreds of GDR citizens fled from Hungary across the border. The process of political liberation will then be dealt with by the Hungarian writer and historian György Dalos in his presentation from 19 hrs. Dalos is living in Berlin and was recently awarded the 2010 Leipzig Book Award for European understanding.

After this, a podium discussion at 20 hrs will cover the status of current Hungarian democracy. Hungarian scientists and politicians – Professor Máté Szabó (Parliamentarian Ombudsman for Civil Rights, Hungary), Professor György Schöpflin (Member of the European Parliament), Professor Ferenc Miszlivetz (Institute for Social and European Studies, Hungary), and Professor Ellen Bos (Andrassy Gyula German-speaking University of Budapest) – will discuss causes and solutions of the present crisis of democracy.

#### Presentations Relating to Hungary's European Policy Agenda

On Saturday, May 1, from 9.30 hrs, the economic crisis in Hungary will be discussed. Professor Martina Eckardt (Andrassy Gyula German-speaking University of Budapest) will talk about possible causes of the economic crisis in Hungary. Dr. Noémi Alexa from Transparency International Hungary will speak about "Transparency Measures against Corruption in Hungary". The regaining of strength of far-right ideologies during the political and economic crisis is the subject of the presentations by Professor Gáspár Miklós Tamás (philosopher) and Dr. András Tóth (Hungarian Academy of Sciences). Dr. Ernő Kállai, Parliamentarian Ombudsman for Ethnic and National Minorities, and Professor Katalin R. Forray (University of Pécs) will then talk about the alarming situation of the Roma minority in Hungary and about social and (education) policy measures for its integration. Hungary's European policy agenda – the country will take over the presidency of the EU council in the first half year of 2011 – will be the subject of the presentation by Professor Attila Ágh (Corvinus University of Budapest).

#### Contemporary Witnesses at the Final Podium Discussion

Sunday, May 2, will focus on contemporary art in Budapest and its possibilities of influencing the political and social development. This topic will be discussed from 11 hrs by Dr. Mária Meyer-Szilágyi (Contemporary Drama Festival Budapest) and the artist Alexander Schikowski.

The symposium will be completed on Sunday afternoon, 13.30 hrs, by a podium discussion on Hungary's role in overcoming the division of Europe. Scientists and German and Hungarian contemporary witnesses will discuss the significance of the "first crack" of the iron curtain.

**Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation and state institution of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. KIT focuses on a knowledge triangle that links the tasks of research, teaching, and innovation.**

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