

GREETINGS FROM THE FOUNDER

It is just 30 years since founding the academy. Bringing the academy to life, I recall the great enthusiasm of everyone. Especially Cardinal König, who has been a great driver with Nikolaus Lobkowitz. Both supported the academy and have been present at most of the annual festive events.

The basic idea behind the academy has been the interdisciplinarity building of bridges. Many projects started from this idea; at least the project on tolerance found its ground. In the last 30 years the academy gained many members, currently around 2000. This requires a new strategy. My impetus has been finding acceptance in the academic world as well as in the political world.

Numerous meetings have been necessary.

In many meetings we achieved our goals. Most parts of Europe were very supportive. After 30 years we had meetings in most all European countries. We enjoy having delegations in all countries, which is also very helpful. My task has been motivating our colleagues for meetings and to find proper locations with no costs. Mostly we had our meetings at the National Academies. The Danube Academies Conferences is a typical example. The last one was in Prague.

My largest problem has been financing the whole enterprise. This took a lot of my energy and was often frustrating. But we managed it.

I am pleased that Klaus Mainzer from Munich has been elected as upcoming president. I feel that the academy is in good hands and I wish him and his team composed of Brigit Harreß, Wolfango Plastino and Ursula Schmidt-Erfurth all the best. They will push the academy in future perspectives. When I describe the transition with a picture out of the concert world: I built the stage and set the piano on it. Now it is the new team playing the tunes for the Future running of the academy.

I would like to thank all who supported me and the academic idea. Together the academy will have a strong European voice. There are so many hundreds of believers and supporters. But there have been some critics and I hope the new team will convince and contribute positively.

At the end
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Felix Unger