

05. July 2006

World Heritage certificates for Limes handed over

Today Baden-Württemberg's Head of Government Günther Oettinger, Rhineland-Palatinate's Premier Kurt Beck, Bavaria's Minister of the Interior Dr. Günther Beckstein as well as Prof. Dr. Joachim-Felix Leonhard, State Secretary in the Hessian Ministry for Science and Arts received the certificate from the Minister of State for Europe, from the Department for Foreign Affairs, Günter Gloser.

Mayor Martin Gerlach welcomed the guests in the town hall. In his welcoming speech he returned to mind that the Lime museum was enlarged with the aid of around 1,5 Million Euro of the federal state of Baden-Württemberg and the foundation of the federal state, and that the UNESCO Heritage of Limes poses a challenge. Following the reception, the high-ranking guests signed the Golden Book of the city.

"This is a great day for our four federal states. After ten years of corporate hard work we finally achieved the acknowledgement of the Limes as a World Heritage Site", announced the Head of Government, Mr Oettinger, at the ceremonial act. He thanked everyone who took part in the achievement and had worked hard to successfully reach the aim. "The trouble was worth it. Germany has been enriched by a major culture attraction. The Limes, being one of the most outstanding archaeological monuments of Europe, therefore at last receives its international due approval."

Prof. Mirjana Sander from the University of Zagreb took the guests with her speech "About the Roman Empire and its boundaries" onto a journey along the upper germanic-rhaetian Limes. The speech was followed by a panel discussion presented by Susanne Offenbach with the Head of Government Mr Oettinger, the Premier Mr Beck, the Minister of the Interior Mr Beckstein and the State Secretary Mr Leonhard. All the participants agreed upon the role of the World Heritage Site Limes as an important connecting element in Europe.

The "Upper germanic-rhaetian Limes", as Germany's biggest archaeological monument, has been part of the 31 World Heritage Sites in Germany since the 15. of July 2005. The Limes is with the "Maulbronn Monastery Complex" (1993) and the "Monastic Island of Reichenau" (2000) the third World Heritage Site in Baden-Württemberg. With its length of nearly 550 km it runs from the Rhine to the Danube crossing the four states Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.

Documented by Peter Kruppa (Photos) und spokesman Bernd Schwarzendorfer

Information about the german heritages can be found here: [www.unesco-welterbe.de](http://www.unesco-welterbe.de) .

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