

Megalithic culture: A reminder of our common European cultural heritage

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The phenomenon of megalithic cultures can be found right across the European continent and in the majority of the 28 member states of the European Union. These cultural places, many more than 5.000 years old, reveal a common background and serve as a reminder of our common European cultural heritage. It is our responsibility as Europeans to guard these megalithic monuments and to teach the characteristics and purposes of these megalith-building cultures in order to frame this part of our history for future generations.

In order to raise awareness of megalithic cultures, the project "Megalithic Routes e.V." was brought into being. The intention behind the initiative is to not only explore and protect the monuments, but also to rediscover the touristic value of the findings. This idea to develop a cultural path that runs through megalithic sites in several European countries is the only one of its kind, and is of immeasurable value. It is therefore for good reason that the Council of Europe rewarded this project by officially adding it to the "Cultural Routes of the European Council".

This remarkable aim would have been unthinkable without the tireless efforts of volunteers and dedicated individuals. I am deeply honoured to be patron of "Megalithic Routes e.V.", which can help us grow closer together as Europeans. I am convinced that only by knowing our common European past, we Europeans may know who we are and may decide where we want to go in the future.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans-Gert Poettering". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

Dr. Hans-Gert Poettering
President of the European Parliament ret.
Chairman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung