

Dear friends,

Since already 45 years now both the town of St. Cyr-sur-mer and Denzlingen stand for their twinning partnership what many of those who are present today can witness. Our twinning partnership expresses the intensity of our exchanges, the liveliness of our relationship, and it shows the importance of human relations between our communities within Europe.

Together, 25 years ago, we started our twinning partnership with Citta della Pieve, and since then we meet regularly and in alternating turns.

The fact that this anniversary, or even jubilee falls exactly on the "Europa-Fest" cannot but strengthen our mutual will to be open for our neighbour partners.

Whenever we meet we find each other in cordial friendship, in a merry and amicable way, eager to share and exchange ideas, and to get to know and to appreciate each other better and better.

Whenever we come together this is with a glass of beer in our hands or with wine from Umbria or with a glass of Bandol, thus strengthening the liveliness in our relationship.

Whenever we come together we want to share our experiences regarding overlapping topics like biological viticulture as discussed today, or about water-supply, about renewable energies or like yesterday about school time and holidays, problems across all borders which show the importance of the human factor towards machines, automation and techniques.

When we meet it is with the purpose of getting to know and appreciate each other's musical education and to applaud when we play music together. Music is an art, sports is a landscape without frontiers.

Whenever we meet our meetings show in daily life in a concrete and real way that Europe is not only an economic area with restrictive norms but also an area where we share the same values like freedom, solidarity, equality, respect against each other, and in which the experience of cruel actions in the past have turned into the cement of our unity and are the pillars that support peace.

Regarding freedom I don't want to miss to mention that in the heart of St. Cyr there stands a statue of liberty, an artwork by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. Liberty - what a beautiful symbol for us all! Freedom to think, to express, to criticize, to write, to make motion pictures and - don't forget the modern media - to twitter, freedom to move from one place to the other without any obstacles, walls, or frontiers, freedom to exchange and share ideas, to import and to export, freedom to choose, to elect our political representatives; freedom is a value of the republic, it gives a natural impetus to our partnerships, and it is the base-plate of democracy.

I want to end my laudation on freedom with an aphorism of a Greek statesman from Athens, Perikles, who lived in the 5th century before Christ, who said: "There is no happiness without freedom". In any case we must be happy and glad - no matter where we live - in St. Cyr, in Citta

della Pieve, in Denzlingen, in Europe; these fortunate circumstances that we share are improving more and more due to what we are doing together, today.

M. Philippe Barthelemy
mayor of St. Cyr-sur-Mer