



### **Activities of the Hungarian-German Center of the Geopolitical Council in 2009**

The Hungarian - German Center of the Geopolitical Council Public Benefit Foundation was established on the basis of a board of trustees decision.

Its aim is to channel the existing and diversified foreign, security policy, economic and social relations capital of the German-speaking world, including Germany in particular, to explore further opportunities for co-operation and to monitor Germany's foreign, internal affairs and security policy processes, in particular with regard to the Hungarian-German bilateral relationship and Germany's leading role in the European Union.

Hungarian - German relations have traditionally been excellent, both politically, diplomatically and economically. The two countries are actively involved, within both the EU and NATO, in all tasks aimed at continuously renewing and strengthening Euro-Atlantic cooperation.

When the Hungarian-German Center was established, it set three goals, with which it intends to contribute to these processes at the level of civil cooperation:

1. In addition to maintaining the existing network of contacts, exploring new opportunities for professional cooperation in Hungary and Germany,
2. The most important: preparing studies about the two countries, the functioning of the European Union and about the security policy level, based on their roles in NATO, that are the result of high-level, professionally supported research and analysis from the civil sphere and can be used for research purposes, but also for decision-makers,
3. Call for proposals providing opportunities for publication, on a strictly professional basis, for all researchers, graduate students or those with a postgraduate degree (PhD) who are interested in the subject at some level, or whose career in the future is related to any level of Hungarian-German relations. Extensive and continuous publication of the most successful studies.

Last year 2009 was an election year in Germany. It is safe to say that the country operated as an election “big plant”. In addition to the local and provincial elections, the Federal Parliamentary elections, traditionally held at the end of September, deserved special attention.

We have had many coordinations with professionals who, based on their decades of professional experience and their advice, have contributed to the most effective operation of the Center. Outstanding among these is the personal meeting with the German Ambassador accredited to Budapest, as a result of which we were able to experience the ambassador's interest in our activities.

We had a fruitful conversation with Mr. Sándor Peisch, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Hungary to Berlin, concerning the professional future of the Center. This exchange of views has provided a wealth of new information that can be used to carry out the Centre's tasks effectively. We received a number of suggestions from the Ambassador for contacts with experts, university professors and diplomats moving in a bilateral and multilateral system, which is also embedded in EU cooperation.

By the year 2010, we want to make our project even more active in four areas, taking into account the tasks defined when the Center was established:

1. Expansion of the network of contacts at home and abroad (Germany, Austria, Switzerland) both at the personal and institutional level,
2. Establishment and further development of relations with press correspondents accredited to Hungary, organization of round table discussions on the topic's current and interesting issues,
3. Cooperation with (co-) foundations in research, studies and training,
4. 4. Between January and June 2011, Hungary will hold the rotating presidency of the EU. The experience of Germany is also important for us, its review and utilization is important for Hungary as well, we would like to make proposals about it with the existing tools as a non-governmental organization.

In 2010, we aim to "socialize" the topic, bearing in mind that professional workshop work is a top priority.

***Budapest, February 2, 2010***

**Eörs Pálffy**  
***Director***