

10 years of co-operation between Meppel and Most

Most, 30 October 2009

10 years ago, we signed an agreement of mutual co-operation. This was perfectly in keeping with the optimistic mood at the turn of the century. In the period prior to that, Europe had been founded anew, as it were. Whereas strict borders between nations had for years made getting to know each other and understanding each other difficult, curiosity and the desire to learn from each other formed the basis for many surprising encounters. We have learned a lot from your community, thanks to the warm reception that the people of Most have given us time and time again. Your approach to development in the fields of culture, education, healthcare and sport have left a strong impression on us.

Naturally, our co-operation is about big objectives, like the free exchange of thoughts and opinions, but that is only possible if we practically examine how we govern at a local level; how we try to strengthen our economies, and especially how we can live together in harmony – in our municipalities, in Europe, and with other people from all over the world. This is why the inhabitants of our cities will simply have to continue to meet up with each other, listening to each other, asking each other questions. In this way, the story that we share will continue to develop. Our story – already now our shared history, and in future, the future of our children – will be surprising and new all the time, because the world in which we live is constantly changing.

This only makes our co-operation more interesting. It is not for nothing that our municipal council has regularly requested that our co-operation be put on the agenda. This indicates that the people of Meppel feel strongly about there being a dynamic relationship and new subjects to keep this exchange alive. Because this is what is necessary in this day and age, in which people's interests can change quickly, in this time in which information is more accessible and has become more attractive – when it is with genuine interest in each other, with a warm affection for all the beautiful cultures in our growing surroundings. This in particular is the reward of 10 years of co-operation between Most and Meppel! This is why it is with much pleasure and with much respect for the organisers of our exchange that I will be signing our new agreement.

Mr J.C. Westmaas
Mayor of Meppel