

## The Enlargement

### **Moderation**

Borders are opened, there are new markets and workers push into Franconia. Still it's the language that separates them. But it's all growing together.

On May first 2004 we will welcome the new members: The Baltic states, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus. Is it a good chance to have these new friends? Or does it mean an increase of risks for our region? We'll try to give you an outlook onto the east.

Film content:

To sing a Czech nursery rhyme is no problem for the children of the Kindergarden in Schirnding. They are brought up bilingual. 8 children from the Czech Republic visit the Kindergarden. An orange is called "Pommeranz", a paprika is a paprika and an apple is a... "Japelko", that's right.

The EU supports the pilot project of cross border Kindergardens with grants, just like a host year in school. 4 Czech girls visit the Christian Ernestinum Gymnasium in Bayreuth until the end of the term report. They live in host families of their Franconia classmates. At first they had some problems with the Germans but in the meantime they enjoy being here.

O- Ton Lucie Musilova

Every country is different, but normal life is just like at home in Czech.

O-Ton Karolina Bastarova

I have two host brothers, Jonas and Felix, I like it.

The "Vogtlandbahn", a train that goes from Marktredwitz via Cheb in the Czech Republic to Zwickau. After the east expansion there will still be passport controls

Once the borders to Ukraine and White Russia are securely protected the controls will be no longer necessary. Maybe in eight or ten years. But the tax collectors will be unemployed next year as the import and export of goods will be free.

The police will take over the border controls for drugs and other illegal goods.

The customs officers and the police already work hand in hand.

Politics and the economy are mainly concerned about the infrastructure.

The road- and train system from east to west is still, 15 years after the fall of the iron curtain, not fully developed.

The museum in Cheb is celebrating its 130th birthday. Among the guests: Birgit Seelbinder, mayor of the German neighbouring town, Marktredwitz.

As a chairperson of the "Euregio Egrensis", for ten years now she's been very committed to the progress of growing together

O Ton B. Seelbinder

"Euregio Egrensis" tries to make people deal with that matter. We want people to get to know each other.

The automobile supplier "Ideal Automotiv" has a factory in Bor, at the "Autobahn" to Pilsen. The main construction was manufactured in Germany. The Franconian manager Wolfgang

Lukas, on the right, is talking to Hans Sell from Helmbrechts. His company looks after the automobile supplier in Germany and maintains their pneumatic and coolant conductings. "Ideal Automotiv" relies on the service industry from Germany, although it would be much cheaper to engage a Czech company.

O-Ton Hans Sell

We have to sell our services, we can't sell our hourly wages. If we start selling hourly wages, we're in a difficult position. If we sell our services we have the chance to maintain our hold on the market without any special preventive measures.

But still many service industries are worried. Advertising signs in Cheb:

Lunch for 5 Euro, bargain on glasses, a perm for 13 Euro.

Anyway: The last hairdresser before the border. Here no one is afraid of new competitors.

Two years ago the owner; Doris Jäckel, bought a shop in Selb. She believes in quality and good service

O Ton D. Jäckel

We still stand out because of our haircuts of good value, and our hair-extension, which is hardly ever offered in the east or if so, its of no good quality.'

That's why a lot of customers who in the 90ies went to hairdressers in the Czech Republic are now regulars in Selb again.

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