

Welcome Speeches

Dr. Uwe Haupenthal

Director of the Nordfriesland Museum and the Museum Association of North Friesland
Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests:

On behalf of the Nordfriesland Museum and the Museum Association of Nordfriesland I wish to give a warm welcome to each one of you. And I would like to wish you an interesting and successful conference.

The venue and date for your meeting in Husum have been chosen well. For quite some time now, we – together with our curator Dr. Paul Heinz Pauseback – have engaged ourselves with the emigration of Ludwig Nissen, later founder of the Nissenhaus, to New York. After a number of unsuccessful attempts, Nissen made a fortune in the New World, and we owe our museum to that very capital. Thus our house is causally embedded in issues of migration. Nissen's achievements are a story of success. In his days, hundreds of thousands of people from Schleswig-Holstein emigrated, too – although with much less economic success!

Certainly, the history of the USA has been a story of migration to this day – even if this fact is ignored by certain political circles nowadays. Migration is a dominant feature of human history. To the best of my knowledge, today more than 60 million people are fleeing from political and ecological catastrophes. This is a fact that until most recently had been barely of interest to the inhabitants of our allegedly safe Europe. But this changed dramati-

cally several years ago, even if it can be considered a balmy breeze here compared to the situation in other countries and on other continents. Suddenly humanistic values count for little, whereas political and economical burdens matter all the more. Uncertainty has been coming within reach everywhere in Europe overnight. This has to be hurdled in a democratic way within the next few years, without our open societies falling to pieces.

Meanwhile, the challenges are tremendous. No one should understate the problems – or, on the other hand, negate the chances that are opening up. After all, societies are always in motion, and culture depends on the disputes caused by unfamiliarity and otherness. Incidentally, this is what every museum is about!

We are all very anxious to hear the questions you will be asking during the next few days, how you reason them, and what approaches or solutions you will present. You are contributing not only to current political debates but also to the European idea, which should not be threatened by certain nationalistic tendencies.

I wish you every success with your conference. Thank you very much for your appearance, and again: Welcome to our museum!

Dr. Paul-Heinz Pauseback

Head of the Emigration Archive of the Nordfriisk Instituut

Ladies and Gentlemen – Friends from and of AEMI, let me put it this way: “A

dream has come true!”

After announcing this conference in Turin 2015 and offering an invitation to it in Santiago de Compostela last year, I am now opening the 27th Conference of the Association of European Migration Institutions hosted this year by the Nordfriisk Instituut and the Nordfriesland Museum Nissenhaus, where we are today.

Ahead of us lay three conference days full of papers, discussions, brainstorming and networking, and last but not least, of the fun and the delight of being together again with friends and colleagues – and of course of meeting new ones every year. My hearty thanks to all of you for coming here, and: “Welcome to Husum, welcome to North Frisia.”

Today will be our day of labor. We will hear 17 papers this first day, the even share of 15 minutes given to each speaker. The timekeeping will be rather strict; therefore the chairmen and chairwomen of the sessions have these yellow and red cards. Yellow means: still 5 minutes to go, red: one minute left, come to an end please. But nevertheless, we will take our time and will not hurry. There are breaks and refreshments enough, and we will take a walk to the harbor for lunch to get some fresh air. And you see this pipe: it is *not* the emergency break in case someone should happen to be color blind. I will use it before I or Mrs. Horschig would announce something technical to make sure that everybody is listening.

Let me now introduce to you Mrs. Horschig, who represents the Nissenhaus Museum as I represent the Nordfriisk Instituut. Like myself, she is also in charge of all matters concerning this AEMI conference. So feel free to ask either of us if any questions should arise or if anything

is missing. This is a good opportunity to thank her for her work and always ready support. (Let’s give her, her boss Mr. Hauptenthal and the team of the Nissenhaus loud applause). This goes too for Mrs. Marlene Kunz, the treasurer of the Nordfriisk Instituut, who cannot be here with us today, and for Thomas Steensen, our director, especially for his engagement in securing funds for this conference.

Let me now talk about two things we are all deeply concerned about. The first is migration, a basic human behavior with which we are all professionally connected in one way or another. And the second is Europe, a united, free, pluralistic, democratic and therefore strong Europe. Over the last years we have watched our dream fading, staggering, swaying right and left under heavy blows, trying to find its way into a common future. The only possible good future, I may add. And because the situation is so difficult, meetings like ours are so important. This is a European event. When we meet, we are part of Europe United. It is the initial goal of the founders of the AEMI that has become so important now: people from all over Europe coming together on friendly terms, working and having fun together. This fills the European Idea with life. Europe is not a distant vision then, symbolized just by as distant names as Merkel, Macron, Juncker or Tusk. No, when we meet, Europe gets a face, a voice, a name more familiar to us. Europe is Benan, the Basque, it is Maddalena from Turin, it is Emilia from Galicia, Maria Beatriz from Portugal – and Brexit or no Brexit – it is Brian and Paddy, our Irish friends. Yes, Europe on a personal level becomes a friend. And when we go back

home, we take this spirit with us – and that makes these annual meetings so very important.

This year we have our meeting here in the Nissenhaus Museum. An institution that has been built from the fortune Ludwig Nissen earned as a successful immigrant in New York and in his last will bequeathed to his city of birth, Husum. He is an example of a very successful self-made man and of a perfect integration in his new home country. As a very self-conscious German-American member of the Anglo-American elite, he had to show all his qualities as a good fighter during the time of the German-bashing of World War I. You can learn more about him and his times in the exhibition on this floor. The first part of our conference dealing with migration to the USA represents a homage to him.

Beginning in 2015, we are now in the third year of the so called “Migration Crisis”. It has become more and more clear that we are at the beginning of a movement that will be the most important as well as the most crucial feature of the century, and we are also sure that we have no time to waste. Last year I cited Niall Ferguson, a well known Harvard and now Stanford historian. In an interview with the German newspaper *Die Welt* he had compared Europe with the United States. Migration from the South, he said, will make the US a more Latin-American and more Catholic land. Migration from Islamic countries, he added, will make Europe more like the Near East. So the problems Europe will have to solve in the future will in this respect be more like the ones in the United States. US President Trump had fared well in his campaign with the promise to build a solid wall

at the Mexican border to restrict illegal immigration. The EU struggles hard to find a way to get back the control over the outside borders, especially that vast border called the Mediterranean Sea. For the Schengen Area and the Dublin treaties will only work with an efficient border control and an even share of migrants and refugees for every member state.

Otherwise national borders will spring up again all over Europe, as Ferruccio Pastore showed us so impressively at the Turin meeting. I would not have believed in 2015 that this could be the case too at our next-door border with Denmark. But now this once vanished border has been closed again since 2016, now it is regularly guarded by the police again, who since last week have been reinforced by soldiers. After a visit to Hungary, the representatives of the People’s Party in Denmark are fond of a solid fence at the border. We will go on an excursion across the border to Tondern on Saturday – and maybe find out that on the West coast things usually are not as hot as elsewhere.

At the Turin conference we also learned that great parts of the African population are on the move. It will be a great challenge to cope with that *and* stick to our principles of freedom. No national state for itself can do that, only a new founded United Europe can be up to that task. In Santiago de Compostela I said it had become very clear that migration contains both positive and negative aspects, chances and dangers alike, as everything in real life does, depending on the people involved. Only in ideology and wishful thinking it is otherwise. Luckily this kind of idealism is on the retreat since then, but there is in my opinion still too much thinking of just that kind going on.

Therefore, migration policy should not be regarded as an attempt against the right political tendencies, or as a means to show that you are steadfast in your religious faith or of superior moral standards, and surely not as being used to polish up a certain bad national image. Migration policy is a value in itself; it does not need any additional and distracting impetus. It deals with human beings, affecting whole lives of millions of people, their fears, dreams and hopes – everything – and not always with a happy end. We know about the necessity and obligation to guarantee shelter to those whose lives and health are in immediate danger. But we have to accept that not all we want from others can come true, and that the more people come, the more will have to go back. So the main and only concern of migration policy should be the wellbeing of the humans it concerns: refugees, migrants and natives alike. And it should be pragmatic, quick, consequent and compatible in the whole of Europe.

We are far from that, I know. But what I also know is this. If this thing goes wrong, I am not so much worried about the migrants or refugees. It is not their fault that migration leads Europe into a crisis. They behave like all human beings – they are trying to save their lives and/or improve their living conditions. What I am afraid of is how we – the natives – might react, led by national egoism and driven by fear.

It is our job as researchers and scientists to speak up in time, to put forward facts and figures, our findings and our theories against the loud right-wing and left-wing ideologies, against maximum claims of pressure groups and against philanthropic naivety as well. Their usually loud and solidly founded opinions appear

to me – whatever noble motives they may have or claim to have – more like a part of the problem than like a part of a future solution. Surely we all have our personal preferences but as scientists we should try to avoid this trap. So we should be able to enlighten the way a little bit with our findings. Philosophy, science and democracy have the same ancient root in Athens. Since then we know that the important thing is not a monolog promoting one's own point of view. To defend one's own sacred opinion at any cost is undemocratic at heart. What really counts is the much more tedious and troublesome open dialog between equals honestly searching for a compromise, which is always the best solution to a problem. And that is also the way a real United Europe will surely work.

I now wish us all another great AEMI meeting. Unfortunately, the Governor of Schleswig-Holstein, Mr. Daniel Günther cannot be with us today to open this conference. He is hosting the President of the German Republic, who is visiting Schleswig-Holstein today. But he will write a foreword for our AEMI Journal comprising this year's papers. I suggest that we take this opportunity to express with a hearty applause how much we appreciate his support and interest in our work.

Now let us start our meeting with my introducing the keynote speaker of this year's conference: Professor Thomas Steensen, the director of the Nordfriisk Instituut.

He will now tell us what it means to be a Frisian, what it requires to become a member of this minority and what history, culture and language have to do with it. And he will tell us about our special inclusive approach to minority affiliation,

which is so totally contrary to the exclusive national one. Maybe it could work not only for a minority but at the European level as well?

Daniel Günther

Minister President of Schleswig-Holstein

Migration and integration are salient themes for Schleswig-Holstein. That is why I am so pleased that these proceedings of the Association of European Migration Institutions (AEMI) are now published. Results of an event so important for Schleswig-Holstein are documented here: results of the Husum Conference titled “At Home or Uprooted” that was co-organized by the Nordfriesland Museum – Nissenhaus and the Nordfriisk Instituut in cooperation with AEMI.

Schleswig-Holstein can contribute a lot when we speak about European migration movements. Besides the immigration of our people to the United States of America, our state also knows the consequences of the flight from a war and its aftermath – be it after the Second World War or nowadays. Through its Emigration Archive, the Nordfriisk Instituut has very well illustrated the topics of migration and integration.

As the Minister President of this state, I am extremely pleased when migrations in a wider European context are the subject of discussion in Husum. AEMI is a network of currently forty organizations in twenty European countries due to which it is bound to present this topic to European publics in a positive way. In doing so, AEMI has been making a valuable contribution to the united Europe, and the many speakers and conference guests have played a significant part in it.

I wish AEMI a lot of success with the

coming conference as well, and I wish the participants many informative and stimulating lectures and discussions.

(Translated from German by J.Ž.S.)

Dieter Harrsen

Landrat / Chief Executive of the District of North Frisia

You may not have noticed at first glance, but I have a kind of migration background myself. A long time ago, at the age of sixteen, my great-great-grandfather emigrated from the island of Pellworm, where he was born, to the USA. There he managed to make a small fortune, and in the year 1900, when he was thirty-four years old, he came back home. Now he had enough money to buy two farms including farmland on Pellworm.

When my great-great-grandfather went to New York, it was normal to do so. The United States was an immigrant country, and no president would have thought of building a wall against Mexico or other countries.

But the world has changed, and we are facing different challenges today. More than 60 million refugees have left their home countries. About 1.3 million have arrived in Germany since the year 2015 and about two thousand have been put up in Northern Frisia. Here they found a lot of people willing to help them; many people partly acted for the public authorities. Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, whom I am going to meet in Husum castle tonight, gave a speech on this year’s commemoration day for the German unity on Tuesday. There he pointed out that we Germans have not yet answered a rash of questions.

In his speech, Federal President Steinmeier said: “Other people’s hardship must

never leave us unconcerned.” But Steinmeier also said that we have to try to bring in line the realities of the world and the possibilities of our country. This difficult discussion now lies before us. We will need a special law with which we will be able to manage and control immigration depending on our own standards. It will be one of the most important tasks of the next German federal government to start this discussion and involve the people in it.

Scientific support can help us deal with these challenges, and thus I wish you good results out of your conference.

Thank you for listening!

Uwe Schmitz

Mayor of Husum

Dear Mr. Storhaug, ladies and gentlemen:

I am very pleased to welcome you to the 27th AEMI conference here in Husum, in the Nordfriesland Museum Nissenhaus. I am grateful to Paul-Heinz Pauseback from Nordfriisk Institut, who asked me if I could address a few words to the participants of this meeting, and said that I should do this preferably in English. I have to admit that my schooldays were over a long time ago and that I usually use English for ordering food and drinks during the holidays. For this reason, I hope you agree I should not talk too long.

At first I would like to say that it is a great honor for Husum and me as its mayor that this conference is taking place in our little town this year, especially because I have heard where it took place in former years. I think that the topic you are engaged in has always been of fundamental importance for the whole of mankind, and is still very important these days.

When Ludwig Nissen left his hometown in 1872, he strived for a better life in a better world. These days, millions of people try to reach other countries because of poverty, political persecution and fear of war, and unfortunately we must admit that the rest of the world hides behind its own smaller problems. I am convinced this behavior is wrong, and so I am thankful that scientists like you deal with this topic, so that a united Europe has a chance to come true.

I suppose a certain question is going to be important during this conference: What does ‘a home’ mean? A place, a language, family, neighborhood or friends, religion, customs and traditions, and so on ... But to leave you enough time to discuss all the aspects of your theme, I will come to the end now.

I wish your conference a lot of success, and I will be happy if you have the opportunity to spend some time to visit Husum’s attractions, for example the harbor or the historic center. Have a good time and thank you for listening.