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Lack of Understanding at Sulmona

The Cancellation of the Efforts for Town Twinning by the Mayor of Alsbach-Hähnlein Causes Criticism

Alsbach-Hähnlein. After the Mayor of Alsbach, Mr. Sebastian Bubenzer had unexpectedly cancelled some weeks ago town twinning with the Italian city of Sulmona which had been officially pursued for a long time, Mr. Hans Herrmann, the Chairman of the local partnership association PVAH travelled to Italy in order to discuss the situation and the future of this relationship with the local interlocutors.

"All interlocutors showed their lack of understanding for Mr. Bubenzer's decision to end the relationship to Sulmona suddenly in spite of the mutual, for more than 10 years existing contacts," Mr. Herrmann explained. "Mr. Bubenzer's behaviour in this matter was judged as arrogant and boastful by his Italian counterparts and by the staff in the municipal administration", explained Mr. Herrmann.

Reference was made to the long years' relationship already before Mr. Bubenzer's term of office as of 2019 as well as to the letter of intent signed by the then Mayors Mrs Annamaria Casini and Mr. Georg Rausch, which was at Mr. Bubenzer's disposal when he took office.

Nobody could understand either why Mr. Bubenzer since starting his term of office in 2019 had not made any efforts to make the existing good relationship official. Two years ago, in his place, the Parliament had finally made a majority resolution without any dissenting vote in favour of such a decision following a request of SPD and Luhas. "My official interlocutors at Sulmona also pointed out that during the years since starting his term of office they had on several occasions during their visits to Bergstrasse submitted drafts of treaties ready for signature to Mr. Bubenzer on the basis of the letter of intent, which had not been signed by Mr. Bubenzer without giving reasons", Mr. Hans Herrmann continued.

During his visit to Sulmona he had not only spoken with his various interlocutors from the municipal administration about the situation which had arisen in the mutual relationship due to the cancellation by Mr. Bubenzer. "It goes without saying that we also focused on the future of the friendship between both communities," he reports.

In this context, he was informed that the existing friendship between both communities by Mr. Bubenzer's cancellation had not at all ended, but that to the contrary Sulmona will keep up the good and long lasting relationship. "People hope that we will rethink our position in order to officially seal and continue the relationship," reports the PVAH Chairman.

He had been assured that also without an official confirmation of this amicable relationship the citizens of both communities would continue to keep up the contacts as before and cultivate them. "Even after the cancellation by Mr. Bubenzer a different partnership is out of the question for both communities", Mr. Herrmann continues. Therefore, on this occasion further new joint projects and initiatives for the future had been discussed by which the friendship should be further intensified.