

# FORTE CULTURA ANNUAL CONGRESS 2024

Cultural Heritage Fortified Monuments -  
a building block in the history of the DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT in Europe

**8 - 10 APRIL 2024**  
**STRASBOURG, FRANCE**



Program

Register by **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at the latest:**  
<https://forte-cultura-AGM2024.eventbrite.de>



### Cultural Heritage Fortified Monuments - a building block in the history of the DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT in Europe

The history of democracy is the history of upheaval, revolution, the struggle for freedom and self-determination, the struggle for participation and the involvement of all in political decision-making.

Fortified monuments often provided a backdrop for the democratic movement, for instance when thick walls protected Italian city *republics* in the 12th/13th century, when the fortresses of aristocrats resisted revolutions, when Napoleon spread democratic ideas from fortress to fortress with the *Code Civil*, when the heavily fortified former Rhine Confederation states became strongholds of early liberalism and when the *Hambach Festival* in the ruins of the fortified Hambach Castle in 1832 became the cradle of democracy in Germany.

The fortresses were central to the battles between revolutionary groups and the military, they were prisons for revolutionary prisoners or final retreats for entire revolutionary armies. Europe is rich in these monumental fortifications, which represent European history in its various eras.

Today, the historical fortresses, once built as military defences, are places of peace and culture for all people. As European cultural route, FORTE CULTURA tells the story of this cultural heritage and thus also the history of democracy.

The *European Fortress Summer*, organised by FORTE CULTURA for the first time in 2018 to mark the European Year of Cultural Heritage, combines events in fortresses throughout Europe under the motto: What once separated people, brings them now together. For a living cultural heritage of fortified monuments in a solidary, democratic and peaceful Europe. We are in!"

Fortresses are therefore still places of democratic history today, because they tell the important story of the democracy movement, because they are places for encounters, education and international understanding, because they once again protect people and goods in Ukraine from the attacks of dictatorial systems of power.

As a European cultural route, FORTE CULTURA wants to preserve the important cultural heritage of the fortified monuments and make it accessible to everyone.

The FORTE CULTURA Annual Congress 2024 in the EU Parliament in Strasbourg with the theme "**Cultural heritage of fortified monuments – a building block in the history of the democracy movement in Europe**" is intended to underpin these goals.

FORTE CULTURA would like to send a further signal in favour of safeguarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The cultural heritage of the fortified monuments is an impressive testimony to Europe's martial history, which today stands as a cultural and educational centre for the promotion of international understanding, international sentiment and tolerance.

# FORTE CULTURA

## Annual Congress 2024

hosted by the EU Parliament

European Parliament : Allée du Printemps, B.P. 1024 F-67070, Strasbourg, **Room S 1.5**

**Preliminary Programme** (18.03.2024)

9 April 2024



**08.30**

### Entrance and security check EU Parliament Strasbourg

*!! Attention: We ask you to arrive punctually at 8.30 am. at the entrance of the building. Late participants are not entitled to admission!*

**09.30**

### Welcome

Frauke VOS-FIRNKES, Vice President FORTE CULTURA

Dirk RÖDER, Vice President FORTE CULTURA / EFFORTS Europe

**10.00**

### History of international law and state relations in the 17th and 18th centuries

PD Dr. Bernd KLESMANN, University of Cologne/ Director Theodor Zink Museum Kaiserslautern

**10.30**

### The World Heritage of the Vauban Sites

Camille THOMAS, Directrice, Resau des sites majeurs de Vauban

**11.00**

### Coffee Break

**11.40**

### The French Revolution and its consequences for Europe

PD Dr. Wilhelm KREUTZ, University of Mannheim/ Chairman Hambach Society

**12.10**

### The German Confederation and its fortresses

Frauke VOS-FIRNKES M.A., Director Germersheim Town and Fortress Museum/ Historical Association of the Palatinate

**12.40**

### Democracy and the dissonant legacy of fortresses

Rafaël DEROO, Secretary general, EFFORTS - European Federation of Fortified Sites

**13.00**

### Group photo in the EU Parliament

**13.10**

### Lunch in the EU Parliament

**14.10**

### Travelling Exhibition:

### FORTE CULTURA Cluster Fortified Monuments Upper Rhine



### **Preliminary Programme** (18.03.2024)

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**14.30**

#### **The call for freedom - Revolution in south-western Germany 1848/49 and the fortification of Rastatt**

Dr. Alexander JORDAN, Director, Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt

**15.00**

#### **Königstein Fortress - a place in the history of European democracy**

Dr. Marie PRETZSCHNER, Fortress Königstein gGmbH

**15.20**

#### **Caesarism and democratic dictatorship in the 19th and 20th centuries**

PD Dr. Markus J. PRUTSCH, Administrative Manager European Parliament

**15.50**

#### **Coffee Break**

**16.30**

#### **Remembrance tourism for the 20th century**

Marc LEVY, Alsace Destination Tourisme

**16.50**

#### **The Western Wall as cultural heritage - a touristic valorisation**

Martin Eric LANG M.A., West Wall Bunker Besseringen

**17.10**

#### **Democracy and the war in Ukraine**

Oleg POGORELETS, Director State Historical and Cultural Reserve "Medzhybizh"  
(requested)

**17.30**

#### **FORTE CULTURA: European Cultural Route of fortified monuments as a contribution to peace and democracy in Europe**

Dirk RÖDER, FORTE CULTURA / EFFORTS Europe / Liberation Route Germany

**18.00**

#### **Conclusion**

**20.00**

#### **Official Dinner**

The location of the restaurant will be announced shortly.

10 April/avril 2024 Part 2: 2.30 - 5.00 p.m.



### **Fortress Kaiser Wilhelm II (Fort de Mutzig) Prussian fort of superlative**

254 ha, 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> underground area for 7,000 men, built in 1893-1915 as the first concreted, armoured and electrified fortress.

The fortress of Mutzig is ideally located on a hill in the Vosges mountains to control the Alsatian plain and the exit of the Breusch valley and the roads and railway lines between the Vosges and Strasbourg.

### **Forteresse de l'empereur Guillaume II (Fort de Mutzig) Fort prussien superlatif**

254ha, 40.000 m<sup>2</sup> de surface souterraine pour 7.000 hommes d'équipage, construite entre 1893 et 1915 comme première forteresse bétonnée, blindée et électrifiée.

La forteresse de Mutzig est idéalement située sur une colline des Vosges pour contrôler la plaine d'Alsace et la sortie de la vallée de la Breusch ainsi que les routes et voies ferrées reliant les Vosges à Strasbourg.

### **Feste Kaiser Wilhelm II (Fort de Mutzig) Preußische Feste der Superlative**

254ha, 40.000 m<sup>2</sup> unterirdische Fläche für 7.000 Mann Besatzung, erbaut 1893-1915 als erste betonierte, gepanzerte und elektrifizierte Festung

Die Feste von Mutzig liegt ideal auf einem Hügel der Vogesen, um die Elsässische Ebene und den Ausgang des Breusch-Tals und die Straßen und Eisenbahnlinien zwischen den Vogesen und Straßburg zu kontrollieren.

Guided tour / Visite guidée / Führung ca. 90 min



forte-cultura.com  
forte-cultura.network

# **FORTE CULTURA Annual CONGRESS 2024**

Strasbourg (FR) 8 - 10 April / Avril



## **Excursion programme Programme d'excursions Exkursionsprogramm**

With the kind support of the FORTE CULTURA regional network „Fortresses and defence history museums 1870 to 1999“ and the working group „Historical lines and fortresses on the Upper Rhine“

Avec l'aimable soutien du réseau régional FORTE CULTURA „Forteresses et musées d'histoire de la défense 1870 à 1999“ et du groupe de travail „Lignes historiques et forteresses du Rhin supérieur“.

Mit freundlicher Unterstützung des FORTE CULTURA Regionalnetzwerks „Festungen und wehrgeschichtliche Museen 1870 bis 1999“ sowie des Arbeitskreises „Historische Linien und Festungen am Oberrhein“

tarnbunkerneumuehl.de  
museumbunker-emilie.de  
fortpodbielski-ducrot-mundolsheim.fr  
fort-mutzig.eu



8 April/avril 2024

6.00 - 7.15 p.m.



Batorama landing stage „Cathédrale“

Batorama embarcadère „Cathédrale“

Batorama Anlegestelle „Cathédrale“

Pl. du Marché aux Poissons  
67000 Strasbourg

### Boat tour „Strasbourg, 2000 years of history“

From the city centre to the imperial district of Neustadt and the European Parliament.

#### *Promenade en bateau* „Strasbourg, 2000 ans d'histoire“

*Du centre-ville au Parlement européen, en passant par le quartier impérial de la Neustadt.*

#### Bootsrundfahrt

#### „Straßburg, 2000 Jahre Geschichte“

Von der Stadtmitte über das kaiserliche Stadtviertel der Neustadt bis zum Europäischen Parlament.

10 April/avril 2024

Part 1: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



### Fort Podbielski-Ducrot, Mundolsheim (FR)

guided tour / *Visite guidée* / Führung ca. 90 min

Built by Prussia in 1879-1882 as the last fort of the Strasbourg belt and extended, reinforced and integrated into the Maginot Line until 1936.

*Construit par la Prusse en 1879-1882 comme dernier fort de la ceinture de Strasbourg et agrandi jusqu'en 1936, renforcé et intégré dans la ligne Maginot.*

Durch Preußen 1879-1882 als letztes Fort des Straßburger Gürtels erbaut und bis 1936 erweitert, verstärkt und in die Maginot-Linie eingebunden.

### „Bridge walk“

#### from Alsace across the Rhine to Baden

Strasbourg November 1944 + Rhine bridges + Southern battery (German Confederation) + Resistance in Alsace 1940 to 1944 + Grand Duke Friedrich barracks (Imperial era + First bridgehead 1919 to 1930)

#### „Promenade des ponts“ de l'Alsace au Bade en passant par le Rhin

*Strasbourg novembre 1944 + Ponts sur le Rhin + Batterie Sud (Confédération allemande) + Résistance en Alsace 1940 à 1944 + Caserne Grand-Duc-Frédéric (époque impériale + Première tête de pont 1919 à 1930)*

#### „Brückenspaziergang“ vom Elsass über den Rhein nach Baden

Straßburg November 1944 + Rheinbrücken + Südbatterie (Deutscher Bund) + Widerstand im Elsass 1940 bis 1944 + Großherzog-Friedrich-Kaserne (Kaiserzeit + Erster Brückenkopf 1919 bis 1930)



Walk / *Promenade d'environ* / Spaziergang ca. 45 min

### Sculpture park + Neumühl camouflage bunker

Westwall (Siegfried line) Regelbau 10a with attic for camouflage as a residential building (rebuilt 2023-2024)

#### Parc de sculptures + bunker de camouflage Neumühl

*Westwall Bâtiment réglementaire 10a avec combles pour le camouflage en tant que bâtiment d'habitation (reconstruit en 2023-2024)*

#### Skulpturenpark + Tarnbunker Neumühl

Westwall Regelbau 10a mit Dachgeschoss zur Tarnung als Wohngebäude (2023-2024 neu errichtet)



Guided tour / *Visite guidée* / Führung ca. 45 min

### Emilie museum bunker

#### Bunker du musée Emilie

#### Museumsbunker Emilie

(Westwall / Siegfried-Linie)

Guided tour including lunch / *Visite guidée, déjeuner inclus* / geführte Tour, inklusive Mittagessen ca. 75 min

