

Speech by Bundesrat President, Michael Müller, at the reception hosted by the Honorary Consul, Professor Rosemann, to mark the Day of German Unity in Brisbane on 11 October 2018 at 8:30 p.m.

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Honorary Consul Rosemann.

Excellency,

Minister Dick,

Mr. Rosbrook and the members of the Queensland Youth Orchestra

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you, Honorary Consul Rosemann, for this warm welcome.

We feel very much at home here in Brisbane celebrating the Day of German Unity.

As President of the Bundesrat, I was able to host Germany's official celebration in Berlin this year. And as Governing Mayor of Berlin, I was especially pleased about that.

After all, like no other city in Germany, Berlin stands for German reunification. We stand for the freedom that was regained and for the end of a dictatorship. People in Berlin literally tore down walls. Now, in 2018, the Wall has been gone for as long as it stood. Finally.

Berlin is a city of freedom. A freedom that was defended by the Berlin Airlift in the dark days of the Cold War, when the confrontation between East and West reached a peak. Back then, airplanes ensured the city's survival. Today Berlin is – again – a safe haven for people who want to live their dreams and build something new.

It's no wonder that Berlin has long since become a haven for higher education and research, too. The outstanding delegation here with me is proof of that. They represent business, higher education, and research in Berlin. I hope that those of you from Australia and those from Berlin will have a productive evening of

exchange and new ideas. I would be delighted if our discussions tonight were to lead to new cooperative projects.

Berlin is not only an excellent environment for higher education and research, it's also the only Landing Pad in Europe for Australian start-ups. We are very proud of that. We want to have even more of the creative energy that inspires our economy and our entire society.

Ladies and gentlemen,

When we celebrated the Day of German Unity in Berlin on October 3, our motto was "Only with you" (Nur mit Euch). That was our way of saying that everyone in our society is welcome.

We are delighted to be celebrating the Day of German Unity here in Brisbane now, too. Or to put it another way, "Also with you" (Auch mit Euch)!

Thank you, Honorary Consul Rosemann, and Porsche, the primary sponsor of this event, for your invitation. I look forward to hearing the young musicians of the Queensland Youth Orchestra!