



Re- and De-Bordering in the Warndt

General information:

Organiser:

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Destination: Warndt (Saarland/Germany)

Date: 6th of October 2016

Time:

- Start: 10 am at Esch-Belval – Uni Luxembourg
- Across: 10:30 am at Luxembourg-City – main station
- End: 6 pm at Luxembourg-City – main station / 6:30 pm at Esch-Belval – Uni Luxembourg

Costs: 20 €(including Bus transfer & packed lunch)

Summary:

The Warndt, the ancient hunting ground of the princes of Saarbrücken, was repeatedly the object of political conflicts between Germany and France. However, it was also a region with intensive economic cooperation and transboundary interconnection between both states, especially within the energy industry. This made the Warndt a region with mutual re- and de-bordering. Early development of intensive commuter interconnection between Lorraine and the Saar region began during the mining of hard coal. After the two world wars, national borders separated the Warndt and the mining of hard coal in France took place below the border in the Saar region. The arrangement of the so-called "Warndt-Frage" was an essential part of the Saar-agreement that resulted in the re-annexation of the Saarland to the Federal Republic of Germany by law in 1957. Due to the intensification of the French-German friendship after the 1950s and the signing of the Elysée-Treaty in 1963, the mining companies in Saarland and in Lorraine had established a trans-border compound chemical industry. However, this compound industry was of a short duration. Although mining activities in Saarland and Lorraine have ended, today there are still different forms of cross-border relationships that can be attributed to a common economic history in the Warndt region. During the field trip the different forms of the re- and de-bordering in the Warndt region will be tracked.

The field-trip will start at the former "SaarLorChemie" industrial site near to the city of Völklingen (Saarland/Germany). The next stop will deal with the restructuring of the Rossel valley which has been damaged by mining (Saarland/Germany) and chemical industrial (Lorraine/France) activities. Next stops will be in the border village "Dorf-im-Warndt" and at the former coal mine "Bergwerk Warndt" which was the result of the Saar-agreement. Subject to weather conditions we will take a short to the vista-point at the sand pit ("Carrière") of Freyming-Merlebach right on the German-French border. We will see the chemical industrial complex of Carling, a part of the former trans-boundary SaarLor chemical industrial network, as well as the fermentation plant "Méthavalor" in Morsbach-Marienau (Lorraine/France) processing French and German bio-waste. The field-trip will end at Carreau Wendel, site of the former Wendel coal-mining complex, and today of the Wendel Museum "les Mineurs" ("The Miners").