

Senate approves overall concept to commemorate the Berlin Wall: Documentation, information, commemoration

From the Senate meeting on 20 June 2006:

The Senate, on the proposal of the Senator for Science, Research and Culture, Dr. Thomas Flierl, has
“Overall concept for remembering the Berlin Wall: documentation, information, commemoration”
decided.

The concept covers all the central locations of the Berlin Wall, assigns specific themes
according to their historical significance, relates these places to each other and links them with
various media and public transport. The main goal is to provide Berliners with
and Berliners as well as for the guests of the city to find these places and to discover history
to make it understandable and tangible. The central projects of the concept are:

- the extension of the Berlin Wall Memorial in Bernauer Strasse, the most eventful,
the most trace-rich and best-documented site of the Wall, which in the centre of the city, in the neighbourhood
of the main train station, also conveys the extensiveness of the Wall regime,
- the Brandenburg Gate underground station as a contemporary historical portal that illustrates the national role of
Brandenburg Gate in different eras,
- Checkpoint Charlie as a place that has gained international importance through the only direct
Confrontation between the two superpowers at the Iron Curtain won,
- the Wall at the Topography of Terror Foundation as a place of various historical
Layers from the imperial era to the fall of the Berlin Wall,
- the East Side Gallery and the Parliament of Trees by Ben Wagin as places of artistic
Dealing with the Wall after reunification.

These and other places are accessible via the Wall Trail around the former West Berlin,
through wayfinding systems, Internet offerings, electronic and other guidance systems.

The various measures of the concept are to be implemented by the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Wall on 13 November.
August 2011 with a budget of around €40 million, financed equally by the federal government and the state of
Berlin. The largest cost factor is the acquisition of numerous properties in
Bernauer Straße. By the end of 2006, Berlin will have invested around 10
million euros.

Senator Dr. Flierl: “I am very happy that the Senate has agreed on a very fruitful
for the first time, agree on an ambitious joint concept of cross-departmental cooperation
which not only brings the traces of the Berlin Wall back into the city’s consciousness,
but also their causes and effects in the context of other places of remembrance, memorials
and museums. In this respect, this concept is rightly supported by the Federal Government’s experts on the SED
History Association as a whole as a building block in its overall concept. Serious conditions have now been created
for the Federal Government to work on the basis of the Bundestag resolution of
30 June 2005, negotiations can be held on how he will participate in the financing of the
overall concept.”