

PRESS RELEASE

First German World and European Day of Organ Donation Large Public Event on October 4, 2009 in Berlin

German President Horst Köhler calls on us to think about organ donation

Berlin, September 30, 2009. On the occasion of the World Day and European Day of Organ Donation on October 4, German President Horst Köhler calls on us to think about organ donation, stating: “We should be aware that each of us can become a lifesaver by signing up to be an organ donor.” Politicians worldwide will be promoting the cause of organ donation on this day, with the aim of raising public awareness and alleviating the worldwide shortage of donor organs. The World and European Day of Organ Donation will take place for the first time in Germany this year. A unique event highlighting organ donation has been organized to attract Berliners and visitors to the Brandenburg Gate on October 4, 2009. Famous artists, bands and celebrities will entertain the audience and numerous booths offer information and activities for kids and adults. The motto is: “You have the power to donate life – be an organ donor“.

The main attraction will be an open air concert in front of the Brandenburg Gate featuring famous musicians and bands like John Lees` Barclay James Harvest, Karat, Jeanette & Band, Stanfour, and Markus & die NDW Revue. The musicians will entertain the audience, showing their support of organ donation. Singer Jeanette will be the first to set an example by signing an oversized organ donor card on stage. The programme will be presented by well-known German TV hosts Cherno Jobatey and Dennis Wilms. The musical programme will be interspersed with short live talks, interviews and video statements by experts, transplant recipients, donor families and celebrities. The public event in Berlin is organized by the Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation and its international partners, among them the World Health Organization, Fairtransplant, and the Council of Europe. Our aim is to raise public awareness about organ donation and motivate everybody to make a decision. The programme will offer entertainment and information as well as active participation. There will be sports activities and huge walk-in organs – a heart and a lung. Numerous organizations and patient self-help groups will have information booths along Straße des 17. Juni and will be happy to answer all your questions related to organ donation and transplantation.

The Fifth World Day of Organ Donation and the Eleventh European Day of Organ Donation aim at drawing attention to the worldwide shortage of donor organs. On the other hand, the event will also provide a platform for experts from all continents to

exchange ideas and identify new strategies to promote organ donation through improved coordination of activities and cooperation on an international scale. While the venues were in Asia and South America in recent years, the focus is again on Europe after Geneva hosted the event in 2005. The celebrations of the World Day of Organ Donation culminate on October 5 with the opening ceremony of the International Organ Donation Congress in the Berliner Congress Center. The scientific programme then begins afterwards and will end with the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation.

Organ Donation Day Celebration, Brandenburg Gate, Oct. 4

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- Organ donation information booths
- „Walk-in organs“

Starting at 11:00 a.m.

- Berlin cycle tour with transplant athletes
- Giant puppet parade by „The giants are Coming – A Fairly Tale for Berlin“ street theatre spectacle

Starting at 3:00 p.m.

- Free concert featuring:
 - John Lee's BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST
 - KARAT
 - JEANETTE & Band
 - STANFOUR
 - MARKUS & die NDW Revue
 - Nele
 - Bo Flower
 - McKinley Black
- Live talks and video statements by celebrities

www.organspendetag.de or www.wdod.org

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