

## Interview with Egon Bahr: the Warsaw Treaty (Metz, 10 June 2006)

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[François Klein] On 7 December 1970, the Federal Republic signed the Warsaw Treaty with Poland. What were the key points in that Treaty?

[Egon Bahr] The key point was that the formula for the border was taken over from the Treaty of Moscow. That means we determined where the border was — in this case the Oder-Neisse Line — and we said that that border could never be changed without the agreement or assent of all concerned. But we no longer made any territorial claims over the areas on the other side of the Oder-Neisse Line. In other words, we knew that the Germans would only be allowed the freedom to be reunified if it was clear that they would then make no further territorial claims. In short, the Oder-Neisse Line and our acceptance of the Oder-Neisse Line were a precondition for German reunification one day. Furthermore, of course, that also made it clear that de Gaulle's earlier recognition of the Oder-Neisse Line could not have had the same importance or carried the same weight as when the Federal Republic, which of course had no borders with Poland, said: we accept this border between Germany and Poland.