

Meeting with the Russian association of Dachas

Under the leadership of their president, Ing. Wohatschek, delegates from the Austrian allotment garden federation, made a short visit to the Russian capital city Moscow last December. The aim was not only to visit the highlights of Moscow, but as well to meet with the board of the Russian Dacha association.

It was interesting to learn during this visit that nearly every second family in Moscow owns a Dacha in or around Moscow, which means approximately six million Dachas. All over Russia you can multiply this number by ten.

These sites safeguard communal resources, which are for Russia an insurance policy of strategic value. In the Dacha - culture one continues the tradition of collective and individual self-supply. Around Moscow or St. Petersburg, the Dachas and their culture constitute social economic reserves. Thus many crises can be smoothed by the mere fact of the great number of garden plots. On basis of these resources no one would suffer very much from a lack of food even if the main provisional routes were blocked for months in Russia.

Nevertheless the conditions are changing here as well even if this is only happening very slowly. If one part of the owners is still growing fruit and vegetables on their Dachas, the recreational value has become the most important element for the other part. The model we all know very well is as well confirmed here by the Dachas owners: The better the living conditions the less fruit and vegetables there are in the gardens.

For the rest the meeting in the associative home of the Russian horticulture federation was informal and friendly. A short presentation of both federations was followed by a reception during which an intensive exchange of ideas took place. During the reception, Russian specialities produced by the Dachas owners were served. Both presidents agreed to organise a meeting in the neighbourhood of Moscow during the coming summer. During this meeting a partnership agreement will be signed by both federations.



From left to right: Our interpreter, who accompanied us during the whole journey, the president of the Austrian allotment garden federation Ing. Wilhelm Wohatschek, Oleg Walentschuk, president of the Russian horticulture federation and member of Parliament, Juri Schaliganov, director of the horticulture federation of Moscow and the director for public relations of the Russian federation.



The official part of the meeting was followed by an agreeable time during which both sides acknowledged that the gardeners not only have green fingers, but can as well celebrate feasts.