

OPENING SPEECH AT THE XXIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES

Magnificence Rector of Adam Mickiewicz University

Dear President of the International Committee of Historical Sciences,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

International congresses of historical sciences are sometimes a reflection not only of new phenomena and historiographic tendencies, but also of history itself: the one that happens on an ongoing basis. The congresses planned for 1918 in St Petersburg and for 1943 in Rome did not come to fruition; the latter raised great political and ethical questions in advance. Undertaken after the Second World War, the five-year rhythm lasted for several decades, after which it was disturbed, fortunately in a less drastic and profound way. The Covid pandemic has caused a two-year postponement of the congress that we are inaugurating today: delighted that it is happening after all, but also aware of the various losses, including human ones, that this event of global dimension has brought to our project.

The shadow of war was also drawn in discussions and even decisions about the impossibility of participation in some congresses of historians from certain countries. Such a shadow also falls on the 23rd Congress, contributing to the complexity of the feelings with which we begin it.

At this present moment, however, speaking on behalf of the Organising Committee of the Congress, I want to express one feeling: gratitude to all those whose committed work has brought today's success. It is my pleasant duty to thank the International Committee of Historical Sciences Board for the last two terms, and the Organising Committee. I would like to address personally Professor Andrea Giardina, President of the ICHS and currently Honorary President, and Professor



Catherine Horel, Secretary General and now President of the ICHS, as well as the successive Rectors of Adam Mickiewicz University, who ex officio were co-chairs of the Organising Committee – Rector Bogumiła Kaniewska is the third person to hold this position.

In our work, we have received valuable support from the authorities of the Wielkopolska region and of the City of Poznań, as well as from numerous institutions, for which I also express my sincere thanks.

With particular emphasis I express my gratitude to the Executive Department of the Organising Committee, whose work began in fact eight years ago, at the stage of preparing the candidacy of Poznań, adopted in 2015. Under the leadership of Professor Krzysztof Makowski, it has been a real General Staff overseeing, day after day, the setting, preparation, and execution of the countless tasks that made up the great whole that is now materialising.

I believe that the coming days will go down well in the memories of the participants of the Congress as rich in scientific experiences, as well as in every other respect. I wish this with all my heart to all those who have gathered in our city due to this great event.

Tomasz Schramm
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań