



GEORGE BUSH

May 26, 2015

I send my warmest congratulations to everyone gathered in Hungary on June 10 and 11 to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe. I remember fondly my visit to Budapest in the summer of 1989 and the warm welcome Barbara and I received. During that visit, I pledged America's support for promoting environmental stewardship to reverse decades of neglect of the magnificent forests, rivers, lakes, and pastures of Central and Eastern Europe.

I was proud to stand with a generation in Europe in 1990 seeking to realize their dreams of freedom and opportunity. I was equally proud to collaborate with our friends in Hungary and the European Union to establish the REC in Hungary. The mission of the REC is to bring officials, businesspeople, citizens, and advocates together to work effectively towards the common goal of protecting the environment and building a sustainable future. That goal is as important today as it was twenty-five years ago. I applaud the generation who helped build the REC, and I challenge this generation to fully realize the dream of a Europe whole, free, at peace, and in harmony with its environment.

Congratulations again, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.