

The Bavarian State Minister of Justice

Dr. Winfried Bausback



Welcoming Address

by State Minister
Dr. Winfried Bausback

at the Reception

of Delegates of the Global Cities Initiative Germany

on November 19, 2014

in Munich, Germany

Check Against Delivery

I would like to welcome the United States
Ambassador to Germany,
Mr. John Emerson,

the US Consul General in Munich,
Mr. Bill Moeller, as well as

our esteemed guests from the USA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome

It is a great pleasure for me to **welcome** you to
the Bavarian State capital—on behalf of the
Bavarian State government and our Prime
Minister, Mr. Horst Seehofer, and of course
personally as well.

Introduction

Some of you come from **Chicago**, which comes **across impressively on TV, thanks to its skyscrapers and urban ravines**, while others present here today come from San Diego, which has the wonderful nickname **“Sportstown USA,”** and from the **“Music City” Nashville.**

Munich, the
Cosmopolitan City
with a Heart

Munich has a nickname as well: it is often called the **“Cosmopolitan City with a Heart.”**

Of course, this is a little **tongue in cheek**, as Munich is **fairly small and laid-back** compared to other metropolises. It is **cozy** thanks to its beer gardens, which unfortunately are closed in November, and it is **idyllic**, thanks to its small districts and historic buildings.

However, the expression “**Cosmopolitan City**” actually **does fit**. **Millions of tourists** come to visit every year. The **Ludwig Maximilian University** and our **Technical University** are both of high national and international renown. **Global companies** such as Siemens, BMW and Munich RE have their headquarters in Munich.

“Laptops and Lederhosen”

And what can be said of **the Bavarian State capital** also holds true **for the Free State itself**. We see **no contradiction** in remaining rooted in tradition while promoting innovative technologies.

Germany’s former President Roman Herzog couched this in a **wonderful slogan** several years ago: “**Laptops and Lederhosen.**”

The laptop stands for the **high-tech industries** that have come to settle in Bavaria, although nowadays, the “**tablet**” would be an even more appropriate metaphor.

The **lederhosen** are part of the traditional Bavarian costume, symbolizing **traditional Bavarian customs and cultural heritage**, which we in Bavaria nurture and conserve.

This combination makes Bavaria extremely attractive as a **holiday destination** and one of Germany’s **prime business locations**.

Successful exports
in 2013

Thanks to our **export-oriented global players** and **medium-sized enterprises**, and thanks to the **structural strength** of the Bavarian economy, our products and services were more in demand than ever in 2013—although exports averaged for the country **declined** slightly last year!

And one of our **most important trading partners** in the past and at present has been and is the **United States of America!**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What the state
government does for
business

The Bavarian State government provides **multi-faceted support** in order to ensure that our economy remains this **strong, innovative and successful:**

Measures to this end include programs for **promoting new technologies in companies** and **economy-centric infrastructure** as well as the **appropriate funding of our universities and research facilities**.

Structural policy

We take specific **forward-looking structural policy measures** to ensure equal living and working conditions throughout the Free State and strengthen regions of structural weakness.

This is exemplified by what is known as the **“North Bavarian Initiative,”** involving **lighthouse projects of supra-regional significance** advancing the sciences and economy in the north of the Free State.

It has attracted nearly 600 million euros in investments!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Conclusion

I hope your stay here in Bavaria is of both **professional** and **personal benefit** to you. I am sure that both partners will be able to **gain a significant advantage** from this exchange!

Thank you for your attention!

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