



Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

Sperrfrist: 22. November 2010, 09:30 Uhr

Rede

des
Bayerischen Staatsministers
für Wirtschaft, Infrastruktur, Verkehr und Technologie

Martin Zeil

anlässlich
des Clustersymposiums Bayern - Quebec

am 22. November 2010
in München

Address

Dear Minister Gignac,

(Mr. Clément Gignac, Québec Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade)

Dr. Villiers,

(Québec Delegate General in Munich)

Consul General,

(Alan Minz, Consul General of Canada)

Ladies and Gentlemen!

– **Address** –

Occasion

I would like to extend a cordial welcome to you at the Québec-Bavaria Clusters Forum here in Munich.

And, of course, a special welcome to our **Canadian guests**.

I am glad to see that so **many of you** have come and that **together** we shall be able to fill our **friendship and partnership** with life.

**During the day:
Clusters Forum**

We Bavarians attach great importance to an **intensive exchange** of experiences, opinions and appraisals. And this is what we will be concentrating on all day at our Clusters Forum.

**In the evening:
Reception**

Then, this evening we want to relax a bit and enjoy ourselves. To do this, I would like to cordially invite you to our **joint reception**.

**Introductory
quote**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

In Germany, we say:

“Go often to the house of thy friend, for weeds choke the unused path.” (end of quote)

**Lively exchange
with
Québec!**

And the same applies to good international cooperation! Bavaria and Québec may be separated by 6,000 kilometres and the Atlantic Ocean – but this by no means impairs the **intensity** of our exchange. Quite the contrary!

I am glad that our two countries have cultivated a **lively and productive** exchange based on friendship, for what is now more than 20 years.

**Political meeting
the day after
tomorrow**

The day after tomorrow, for example, the **Canadian State Secretaries** for industry, the environment, energy and international trade will meet **my department head**, Dr. Schleicher. Consul General Minz and representatives of the region of Québec will also take part.

**Québec-Bavaria
Working Group**

Last week, the **Québec-Bavaria Working Group** held its annual meeting in Québec. There was an exchange of information about the status of current projects and new cooperation projects were initiated.

**Political ex-
change State
Secretary and
Québec**

In June, there was a meeting between the Québec Deputy Minister of International Affairs

François Turenne and State Secretary Katja Hessel.

**Delegation trip
to Québec**

I am particularly pleased that our exchange goes **far beyond the level of politics**. Apart from economic cooperation, our scientists are becoming increasingly networked – across national, linguistic and cultural borders.

Only one and a half weeks ago, State Minister of Science **Dr. Heubisch** and State Secretary Hessel visited Montréal together with more than 60 representatives from the fields of politics, industry and science.

On the Canadian side, they were joined, for example, by **Minister Gignac**.

Dear Minister, I am glad that you in turn are here with us in Munich today!

Since the beginnings in 1989, we have succeeded in initiating and implementing a good **450 joint projects** in the fields of **politics, education, culture, industry, science and technology**.

Québec-Bavaria Clusters Forum

Today's Clusters Forum is yet another step on our way to making our good cooperation even better and more successful.

I would therefore like to thank the **Government of Québec**, and most of all **Dr. Villiers**, Delegate General of the Government of Québec in Munich, for the excellent preparation of the event.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Clusters Forum focuses on the sectors of **biotechnology** and **information and communication technology**. Its aim is,

- to intensify **cooperation between companies** from Bavaria and Québec,
- to exchange information about **cluster-specific challenges** and
- to discuss the **topic of innovation**.

The framework conditions for the forum could not be better:

After all, Ladies and Gentlemen, you are **the ideal target group** for our clusters. In you, we have brought together more than one hundred

high-ranking representatives from companies, research facilities and academic institutions.

This is an opportunity for you to get **networked** and to take up, supplement and develop **ideas**. I would be very pleased if this could lead to as many specific joint **projects** as possible.

Cluster Offensive Bavaria

This is precisely the approach we have been taking for a few years now with our Bavarian **Cluster Offensive**. We have developed powerful cluster teams in 19 future-oriented fields:

- They **network** 5,000 mainly small and medium sized enterprises and help to make use of the know-how of universities and research institutions.
- The clusters initiate **contacts** for cooperations and provide important **impulses**.
- The clusters **cooperate closely** to help our industries acquire a leading edge.

Biotechnology Cluster

This also applies to the biotechnology and information technology clusters, which are our topics today.

Biotechnology especially is considered to be the key sector of the 21st century. By using biotechnology carefully and purposefully, we hold in our hands the key to solving mankind's central tasks. Let me just give a few examples:

- the fight against disease,
- a higher quality of life in old age,
- sufficient food for everybody while preserving our resources,
- the change from fossil to renewable raw materials and
- a sustainable energy supply during a period of climate change.

The cluster provides essential support for the Bavarian State Government's aim of taking **Bavaria** to the top as Europe's leading **biotechnology location**.

Munich is already Germany's leading biotechnology location and **one of the top locations for biotechnology in Europe**.

Information and Communication Technology Cluster

The information and communication technology cluster is doing some excellent work as well. It focuses on

- embedded systems,
- geodata-based applications,
- technology convergence,
- safety and security and
- IT-supported processes and services.

The cluster is making an important contribution to ensuring that Bavaria as a high-tech location will remain one of the leaders in the field of IT technologies in Europe and the world.

The success of our cluster activities has long been evident: to date, around **350 specific projects** have been initiated, among them **numerous R&D projects**.

Results of the cluster policy

This success shows:

- **Cluster policy** makes the route taken from the innovative idea to the successful product faster, shorter and more cost-efficient.

- And it increases the competitiveness of companies at the Bavaria location.

In short, our **cluster policy** has become an indispensable component of the Free State's economic policy and technology policy.

In addition to all the positive effects already mentioned, the clusters have yet another great advantage to offer: they introduce companies whose involvement in research has so far been minimal, **to the topic of innovation**.

And this is also important! Because **international competition** is becoming more and more intensive:

- between **business locations**
- and between **science locations**.

Our competitors are not only the established industrial nations. Emerging nations such as China, India, Brazil or Russia are investing enormous sums in **science and research**.

To hold our own in global competition, we need to be **better and faster** to the same extent as

we are more expensive. Indeed, it goes even further than that: we need to produce the most innovative and the **best products** and processes. After all, today's product and process innovations are the guarantee of tomorrow's jobs.

Duty as Minister of Economic Affairs

As the Bavarian Minister of Economic Affairs, I therefore regard it as one of my main duties to create attractive framework conditions for **innovations at the Bavaria location**.

A targeted economic policy and technology policy

- furthers research and development and
- significantly accelerates innovative breakthroughs.

Importance of Innovations

Bavaria has already gathered a great deal of good experience by applying this consistent strategy. This is what has brought about our **economic success and our success in terms of employment policy** in the last years and decades in the Free State of Bavaria.

Developing all future-oriented fields

The Bavarian State Government has set itself the task of lastingly establishing the Free State among **the world's strongest technology regions**. To achieve this means

- **adopting future trends** early,
- **consistently developing opportunities in all future fields** and
- realising them as marketable products, services and processes.

Measures by the Bavarian State Government

To speed up research in the Free State and to strengthen the innovative power of Bavarian industry, the Bavarian State Government has adopted a **whole bundle of measures**. Allow me to mention briefly the most important ones:

Since the Nineties, the State Government has already invested more than **four billion Euros** from privatisation revenues to strengthen the technological basis of our economy.

BayernFIT

One of our currently most important programmes is the **BayernFIT** technology and innovation offensive. We will invest **two billion Euros** by 2012 in research, innovation and technology.

Throughout Bavaria, we are developing an **application-oriented research infrastructure** and **fields of competence with a promising future**. For example, we are putting our trust in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energies, innovative fuels, medical technology and IT.

Bavaria on the Move

Currently, we are preparing our new government programme **Aufbruch Bayern – Bavaria on the Move**. It will establish further emphases and will focus on technological fields such as the Life Sciences, Green Technologies, Biosystems Research or New Materials.

Future Electromobility Offensive

Our “**Future Electromobility Offensive**” will make **Bavaria** the **first address** for research, development and applications in the field of **electromobility**.

“House of Research”

A few months ago, together with the Bavarian Minister of Science Dr. Heubisch, I presented the new “**House of Research**” concept. It provides comprehensive services for companies and scientists around the furtherance and funding of research.

Overall strategy for Bavaria's research and technology policy

Together with the Minister of Science, I am also currently developing an **overall strategy for Bavaria's research and technology policy**.

We intend:

- to improve the **coordination** of the State Government's instruments in the fields of research and technology policy,
- to create more **transparency** and
- take up new **technological developments** even faster so that they can be used by local companies.

Never before has there been such **far-reaching** and **cross-departmental** cooperation in Bavaria. We intend to present the results shortly.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me bring things to a close. After all, you have a long day with many speeches and discussions ahead of you.

Since 1989, an impressively **varied and very lively cooperation** has developed between Bavaria and Québec.

The **Québec-Bavaria Clusters Forum** represents another great step as regards cooperation between our two regions.

I am convinced that our international **cooperation in business, science and research** in the innovative fields of biotechnology and information and communication technology will bear fruit.

With this in mind, I would like to wish you a successful day full of interesting ideas. I am already looking forward to this evening when I shall have the pleasure of welcoming you at the **Reception**.

Thank you!