

Let's risk more crime prevention - our task at hand

Erich Marks

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Let's risk more crime prevention – our task at hand

Opening speech at the 20th German Congress on Crime Prevention¹

A warm welcome to all!

It is a great pleasure to welcome over 2,500 registered participants and guests from Germany and 40 other countries all over the world² to the opening session of the 20th German Congress on Crime Prevention. I am delighted that, once again, the agenda of our “anniversary congress” in the Hessian metropolis of Frankfurt am Main has attracted impressive numbers of individuals and organisations involved in crime prevention and that many reasons make it “worthwhile” for us to congregate once a year to discuss the practical, political, ethical and economic aspects of crime prevention.

As in previous years, I would like to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you, whether you have come as an individual or as the representative of one of the over 1,000 attending government agencies, organisations or associations, to impart, discuss and enhance experiences and insights in the wide-ranging field of crime prevention. The sheer number of speeches, presentations and information stalls that have been organised by our guests of honour, friends and guests from abroad and approx. 800 attending experts will arguably make this the biggest annual conference on crime prevention in the world.

I would like to specifically welcome a number of leading figures and groups of people whose attendance at our Congress is a particular honour and privilege:

James E. *Anderson*, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Harrisburg, USA

Heike *Bartesch*, Assistant Director at the German Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Berlin

Hans Georg *Baumann*, Head of the Criminal Law Department of the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Berlin

Asli *Bayram*, Ambassador of the Crime Prevention Council of the State of Hesse, Wiesbaden

¹ As per 30 May 2015

² Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Seychelles, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

Gerhard **Bereswill**, Chief of Police, Frankfurt am Main
Peter **Beuth**, Hessian Minister of the Interior and Sports, Wiesbaden
Bianca **Biwer**, General secretary of the WEISSER RING organisation
Dr. Karl-Heinz **Blümel**, Director, Federal Police, Potsdam
Hans-Josef **Blumensatt**, Public Prosecutor of the State of Hesse, Frankfurt am Main
Dr. Michael **Bolowich**, Chief Public Prosecutor, Fulda
Volker **Bouffier**, Prime Minister of Hesse, Wiesbaden
Jörg **Britzke**, President of the Regional Court of Wiesbaden
Prof. Dr. Heinz **Cornel**, President of the German Association for Social Work, Criminal Law and Criminal Policy (DBH), Berlin/Cologne
Stefan **Daniel**, Executive Member of the Management Board of the German Forum for Crime Prevention, Bonn
Corrado **Di Benedetto**, Member of the SPD parliamentary group in the State Parliament of Hesse
Achim **Brauneisen**, State Public Prosecutor, Stuttgart
Günther **Ebenschweiger**, President of the Austrian Centre for Crime Prevention, Graz
Marek **Erhardt**, Ambassador of the WEISSER RING organisation, Mainz
Peter **Feldmann**, Lord Mayor of the City of Frankfurt am Main
Erich **Fischer**, President of the Regional Court of Fulda
Gert **Fischer**, President of the Police Academy in Hesse
Markus **Frank**, Councillor for Economic Affairs, Sports, Security and the Fire Brigade of the City of Frankfurt am Main
Jürgen **Frömmrich**, Member of the Bündnis 90 / DIE GRÜNEN parliamentary group in the State Parliament of Hesse
Prof. Dr. Helmut **Fünfsinn**, Executive Director of the State Prevention Council of Hesse
Petra **Guder**, Programme Manager at the Glen Mills Academy Deutschland, Lübbecke
Prof. Dr. Ulf **Gundlach**, State Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior and Sports and Chairman of State Prevention Council of Saxony-Anhalt
Björn **Gutzeit**, Principal of the University of Applied Sciences for Police and Administration, Wiesbaden
Matthias **Heinrich**, Head of the Municipal Department of Public Order of the City of Frankfurt am Main
Markus **Herrlein**, President of the Local Court of Darmstadt
Uwe **Hoffmann**, Head of Police, Bremen
Heike **Hofmann**, Deputy Chairwoman of the SPD parliamentary group in the State Parliament of Hesse
Anika **Holterhof**, Justice Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna
Bernd **Holthusen**, Section Head at the German Youth Institute, Munich
Hartmut **Honka**, Member of the CDU parliamentary group in the State Parliament of Hesse

Prof. Dr. Theresia **Höynck**, Chairwoman of the German Association for Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Legal Aid, Hanover

Jui-Kun **Huang**, Director General of the Diplomatic Mission of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Frankfurt am Main

Günter **Huther**, President of the Regional Court of Darmstadt

Adina **Kamarudin**, Consul General, Consulate General of Malaysia

Eldar **Karamelic**, First Secretary of the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Georg **Kemper**, Head of the Department of Sports of the City of Frankfurt am Main

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen **Kerner**, Chairman of the German Foundation for Crime Prevention and Offender Support, Cologne/Tübingen

Lounnas **Kireche**, Counsellor at the Embassy of Algeria

Gerhard **Klotter**, Police Commissioner of the State of Baden-Württemberg and Chairman of the Project Management Committee for Police Crime Prevention at State and National Level

Kristjan **Kõljalg**, Member of the Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu)

Uwe **Kolmey**, President of the Office of Criminal Investigation of the State of Lower Saxony, Hanover

Karin **Kortmann**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Eschborn

Eva **Kühne-Hörmann**, Minister of Justice of the Federal State of Hesse, Wiesbaden

Johannes **Kunz**, Director of the Office of Criminal Investigation of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate, Mainz

Rodriguez Biel **Leonardo**, Liaison Officer at the Embassy of Venezuela, Berlin

Knut **Lindenau**, Head of Police of the State of Lower Saxony

Robert L. **Listenbee**, Director of the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Washington, USA

Ingolf **Mager**, Director of the Office of Criminal Investigation of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Isaac **Mapingure**, Diplomat at the Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Berlin

Wolfgang **Marzin**, CEO of Messe Frankfurt

Andreas **Mayer**, Executive Director of Police Crime Prevention at State and National Level, Stuttgart

Gisela **Mayer**, Chairwoman of the German Foundation Against Violence in Schools, Winnenden

Thomas **Metz**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice of the State of Hesse, Wiesbaden

Ramin **Mirzayev**, First Secretary at the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Berlin

Joachim **Moritz**, President of the Federal Police Headquarters, Koblenz

Karin **Müller**, Member of the Bündnis 90/DIE GRÜNEN parliamentary group in the State Parliament of Hesse and Deputy Chairwoman of the Petition Committee of the State Parliament of Hesse

Holger **Münch**, President of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation, Wiesbaden

Redempta **Ndambuki**, Diplomat at the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya, Berlin

Elisabeth **Opitz**, Senior Public Prosecutor, Hanau
Norbert **Pieper**, Senior Expert, Konzernsicherheit Deutsche Post DHL, Bonn
Harald **Range**, Public Prosecutor General at the Federal Court of Justice, Karlsruhe
Kerstin **Reckewell**, Senior Public Prosecutor, Darmstadt
Prof. Dr. Martin **Rettenberger**, Director of the Centre for Criminology, Wiesbaden
Sebastian **Rode**, Ambassador of the Crime Prevention Council of the State of Hesse, Wiesbaden
Prof. Dr. Dieter **Rössner**, Chairman of the Crime Prevention Council of the State of Hesse
Manfred **Sagebiel**, Senior Public Prosecutor, Limburg
Rita **Salgmann**, Chairwoman of the Police Crime Prevention Commission, Hanover
Eckhard **Sauer**, President of the Police Headquarters of North Hesse, Kassel
Dr. Martin **Schairer**, Chairman of the German-European Forum for Urban Security, Stuttgart
Hermann **Schaus**, Member of the DIE LINKE parliamentary group in the State Parliament of Hesse
Johann **Scheuer**, President of the Regional Court of Frankfurt
Martin **Schönwandt**, Executive Director of the German Sports Youth organisation, Frankfurt
Dr. Albrecht **Schreiber**, Senior Public Prosecutor, Frankfurt am Main
Dieter **Schürmann**, Director of the Office of Criminal Investigation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
Prof. Dr. Michael **Schulte-Markwort**, Head of the Clinic of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, Hamburg
Harald **Schnur**, Head of Police, Saarbrücken
Uwe **Serke**, Member of the CDU parliamentary group in the State Parliament of Hesse
Dr. Mohsen **Sharifi**, First Secretary at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Berlin
Stephan **Siegler**, Head of the City Council of Frankfurt am Main
Albrecht **Simon**, President of the Regional Court of Kassel
Dr. Tina **Silbernagl**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), Johannesburg, South Africa
Dr. Wiebke **Steffen**, Research Consultant at the German Congress on Crime Prevention, Heiligenberg
Horst **Streiff**, Senior Public Prosecutor, Kassel
David E. **Stucki**, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Ohio, USA
Katrin **Stüllenberg**, Board Member of the Crime Prevention Foundation, Münster
Prof. Dr. Stephan L. **Thomsen**, Director of the Lower Saxony Institute for Economic Research, Hanover
Sabine **Thurau**, President of the Office of Criminal Investigation of the State of Hesse
Prof. Dr. Patrick H. **Tolan**, Blueprints for Violence Prevention and Health Development Board, Virginia, USA

Prof. Dr. Adam *Tomison*, Director of the Australian Institute for Criminology (AIC) and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), Canberra, Australia

Roland *Ullmann*, President of the Police Headquarters of South-East Hesse, Offenbach

Dr. Christoph *Ullrich*, President of the Regional Court of Limburg an der Lahn

Susanne *Wetzel*, President of the Regional Court of Hanau

Dr. Ulrich *Wilken*, Member of the DIE LINKE parliamentary group and Vice President of the State Parliament of Hesse

Bernhard *Withaut*, Chief of Police, Osnabrück

Dr. Wilhelm *Wolf*, President of the Regional Court of Gießen

Turgut *Yüksel*, Member of the SPD parliamentary group in the State Parliament of Hesse

Jörg *Ziercke*, Deputy Chairman of the National WEISSER RING organisation

Many thanks!

I would like to open this 20th German Congress on Crime Prevention by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all those who helped to make this congress possible.

Particular thanks go to the Prime Minister of the State of Hesse, Mr Volker Bouffier, who took on the patronage for this year's congress and agreed to hold one of the opening speeches. I would also like to thank Minister of Justice, Ms Eva Kühne-Hörmann, and the Executive Director of the State Prevention Council of Hesse, Prof. Dr. Helmut Fünfsinn, for their outstanding commitment, for facilitating the hosting of our congress at this wonderful location, for the long-standing ties that have been forged in the field of judiciary-related crime prevention and for their active assistance in the concrete implementation of the 20th German Congress of Crime Prevention.

My special thanks also go to the Lord Mayor of the City of Frankfurt am Main, Mr Peter Feldmann, who has invited all participants to an evening event at Frankfurt's renowned Palmengarten and has furthermore agreed to hold one of the opening speeches. For many decades now, the City of Frankfurt am Main has done exemplary work in the field of municipal crime prevention. I am therefore pleased that, just a few weeks ago, Frankfurt was awarded the City Prize of the German Award for the Promotion of Crime Prevention in recognition of its valuable work. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Frank Goldberg and his successor Mr Jürgen Krusch, as well as the entire team of the Frankfurt Crime Prevention Council, for the capable and unswerving assistance they have given us in the run-up to the congress.

In summary, I would like to thank all those who, with their manifold activities, have contributed to the success of this congress, including the numerous local members of the GCOCP congress team and the staff of Frankfurter Messe, the over 30 government agencies and organisations that have provided material and conceptual support as congress partners, the members of the programme advisory board and the over 500 experts who have committed their time and energy to fulfilling speaking engagements,

acting as presenters and overseeing numerous individual projects in the context of the associated exhibition.

20th anniversary of the German Congress on Crime Prevention

Looking back on 20 years of history, the German Congress on Crime Prevention has reason to be grateful and delighted with the positive development it, and all of its associated information, communication and other services, have taken. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the thousands of people and institutions who have been actively involved in the planning, preparation and implementation of the 20 annual congresses and innumerable (sub) projects that have been implemented since 1995. Particular thanks go to the close to one-hundred colleagues who have been active behind the scenes in the past 20 years, either on a fulltime, part-time or voluntary basis. Special mention should be made of Karla Schmitz, Head of our Permanent Office since 1999, whose competence, cheerfulness and reliability has been an important factor in making the German Congress on Crime Prevention what it is today. The successes that the congress has chalked up in the last 20 years are essentially due to its long-standing cooperation with people and institutions that are passionate about the subject of crime prevention. I would hereby like to express my heartfelt gratitude for their commitment and the trust they are placing in us.

Over the last 20 years, more than 2,700 consultants in the fields of practical application, science, politics and business have held over 3,000 lectures at the various annual congresses. Over 1,000 of these presentations and transcriptions can be found in the online documentation section of the German Congress on Crime Prevention website. Between 1997 and 2015, the German Congress on Crime Prevention has also published 23 books in both German and English. Almost all of them are available as free downloads on the Congress website and have additionally been published as printed books and also as eBooks since 2012.

Starting with the 5th annual congress, associated exhibitions have been providing government authorities, institutions and organisations with the opportunity to present their work and any projects they are carrying out in the wide-ranging field of crime prevention. Since then, over 1,000 specialised organisations and government agencies have organised information stalls, mobile information facilities, special exhibitions and posters as well as using a range of other information channels. The German Congress on Crime Prevention website provides a short profile and contact details for the majority of the specialised organisations involved.

Summary statistics relating to the congresses up until the present time have been published in a current article in the *forum kriminalprävention* magazine.³

³ Erich Marks and Karla Schmitz: Kleine DPT-Statistik der Jahre 1995 bis 2015, Heft 2/2015 (brief GCOCP statistics -1995 to 2015, issue 2/2015).

The compilation of current quotes from past and present German State Prime Ministers reflects the weight that past patrons attribute to the crime prevention field and the German Congress on Crime Prevention.

Where prevention meets the economy

The areas in which prevention and the economy overlap have developed in many respects since the beginning of this century. The German Congress on Crime Prevention has chosen this year's principal topic, "Prevention pays off: The economic aspects of crime prevention", with the aim of placing the focus on the economic dimension of preventive action for the first time in its 20-year history, thereby widening the debate Prof. Dr. Irvin Waller kicked off in his keynote speech at the 17th GCOCP in 2012. In summary, Irvin Waller formulated his ideas as follows: "The challenge to policy makers is to make the innovative shift from over-reliance on what is expensive and limited in success to a balance between smart law enforcement and smart investments in what reduces crime and violence. Increasingly, policy makers are making that shift because it protects taxpayers and potential crime victims."⁴ In conjunction with its host partners and permanent partners, based on the debate of the appraisal Prof. Dr. Stephan Thomsen prepared on the subject of this year's principal topic and on further relevant lectures, the German Congress on Crime Prevention will pass its "Frankfurt Declaration" at the conclusion of the congress.

And now I would like to wish all participants and guests two absorbing and enlightening days at the 20th German Congress on Crime Prevention.

⁴ <http://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/dokumentation/details/2056> (23.05.2015);

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