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The 19th German Congress on Crime Prevention

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Erich Marks

Prevention requires practice, policy, and science and new concentrated and systematic initiatives

Opening address for the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention on May 12, 2014 in Karlsruhe

1. Welcome to the 19th German Congress on Crime Prevention

For the start of the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention I would like to welcome all present Congress participants, guests of honour, and media representatives to the Baden metropolis Karlsruhe. I would especially like to welcome all those people interested in prevention who are connected to the Congress via the internet live or with a time delay.

The German Congress of Crime Prevention and its partner organisations are very gratified about the unwavering support that Europe's biggest annual prevention congress again enjoyed this year.

I ask for your understanding once again this year if I am only able to mention a few persons by name from the large group of this year's prominent Congress participants and guests of honour. The guests of honour include representatives of the Bundestag [German Parliament] and the State Assembly of Baden-Württemberg, the Parliamentary Secretary of State for the Federal Minister for Family, Seniors, Women, and Youth, Ministers and State Secretaries of different departments from several Federal States, numerous mayors, State Administrators, a large number of high-ranking representatives from the areas of Justice, Police, Science, and NGOs, foreign diplomats, numerous Presidents and Directors of Federal and State Agencies, and high-ranking representatives of the partner organisations of the Congress of Crime Prevention. I would like to welcome the following persons by name at this point:

Jadesola A. Adesuyi, Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Nigeria in Germany

Serhat Aksen, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey

Dr. Nadine Bals, Managing Director of the German Association for Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Legal Aid (DVJJ)

Bianca Biwer, Federal Managing Director WEISSER RING

Prof. Dr. Reihard Böttcher, President of the OLG retld., Honorary Chair WEISSER RING

Prof. Dr. Gerd Bruder Müller, Honorary Chair of the German Family Court Committee (DFGT)

Arne Busse, scientific consultant of the Federal Centre for Political Education (bpb)

Stefan Daniel, Managing Member of the Board of the Foundation German Forum for Crime Prevention (DFK)

Thomas Dittmann, Assistant Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV)

Günther Ebenschweiger, President of the Austrian Centre for Crime Prevention

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Egg, Director of the Criminological Centre (KrimZ)

Prof. Dr. Manuel Eisner, Deputy Director of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge

Saskia Esken Member of Bundestag (SPD), member in the Commission for Education, Research, and Technology Impact Assessment and in the committee Digital Agenda of the German Bundestag

Dr. Johannes Fechner Member of Bundestag (SPD), member of the Commission for Verification of Credentials, Immunity, and Rules of Procedure as well as the Commission for Justice and Consumer Protection

Prof. Dr. Dean L. Fixsen, President of the Global Implementation Initiative, University of North Carolina, USA

Reinhold Gall Member of State Assembly, Minister of the Interior of the State Baden-Württemberg

Prof. Dr. Christian Grafl, University Vienna and representative of the German Congress of Crime Prevention in Austria

Prof. Dr. Ulf Gundlach, Secretary of State in Ministry of the Interior and Sports of the State Saxony-Anhalt

Dr. Wolf-Dietrich Hammann, Assistant Secretary of State of the Ministry for Integration Baden- Württemberg

Thierry Hartmann, Police Attaché, French Embassy in Germany

Melissa Hathaway, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, USA

David Hermanns, Managing Director CyberForum

Peter Holzem, President of the Federal Police Direction Stuttgart

Elizabeth Johnston, Secretary General EFUS and Chair of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, Paris/Montreal

Eva Kühne-Hörmann Member of State Assembly, State Minister of Justice Hessen

Javad Kazemi, Ambassador, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Germany

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Kerner, Chairman of the German Foundation for Crime Prevention and Aid to Offenders (DVS)

Uwe Leest, Chairman Alliance against Cyber-mobbing

Tina Mahler, German Society for international Cooperation (GIZ)

Michel Marcus, Secretary General of the French Forum for Urban Security

Caren Marks, Parliamentary Secretary of State at the Federal Minister for Family, Seniors, Women, and Youth

Gisela Mayer, Chairwoman of the Foundation against Violence at Schools

Prof. Dr. Viktor Mayer-Schönberger, Oxford Internet Institute

Dr. Frank Mentrup, Mayor of the City of Karlsruhe

Roswitha Müller-Piepenkötter, Federal Chairwoman of WEISSER RING

Jürgen Mutz, Chairman of the Curatorship of the German Foundation for Crime Prevention and Aid to Offenders (DVS)

Daniel Hark-Mo Park, Director of the Delegation of the Korean Institute for Criminology, Seoul

Norbert Pieper, Senior Expert, Deutsche Post AG

Guilherme Pinto, President of the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS)

Dr. Elisabeth Pott, Director of the Federal Centre for Health Education

Peter Reckling, Federal Managing Director of the Professional Association for Social Work, Criminal Law, and Criminal Policy (DBH)

Alexander Salomon Member of State Assembly, member of the faction Bündnis 90/Green party in the State Assembly of Baden-Württemberg

Dr. Martin Schairer, Chairman of the German-European Forum for Urbane Security (DEFUS)

Dr. Uwe Schlosser, Attorney General, Karlsruhe

Dr. Christoph Schnaudigel, State Administrator of the District of Karlsruhe

Dieter Schneider, President of the State Criminal Police Baden-Württemberg

Dr. Hans-Dieter Schwind, President of the Foundation Council of the German Foundation for Crime Prevention and Aid to Offenders (DVS)

Walter Stauffer, consultant of the Federal Centre for Political Education (bpb)

Dr. Wiebke Steffen, German Congress of Crime Prevention (DPT)

*Katrin Stüllenber*g, Chair of the Foundation for Crime Prevention

Frank Tempel Member of Bundestag (Die Linke party), deputy Chairman of the Interior Commission of the German Bundestag

Gerd Thielmann, vice president of the German University of the Police

Matthieu Tsangu Makukula, Embassy Council, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Germany

Florencia Eugenia Vilanova de von Oehsen, Consul General of El Salvador

Jörg Ziercke, President of the Federal Criminal Police

Dr. Herbert O. Zinell, Assistant Secretary of State of the Ministry of the Interior, Baden-Württemberg

I would like to extend a special welcome, connected with heartfelt gratitude for your great personal commitment, to the many hundreds of active members who made this “grand opus” of the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention in Karlsruhe possible in the first place. Your commitment, in many cases on a volunteer basis, covers a very wide area, from presentations and moderation to technical and organisational support. Already at the start of the Congress, I would like to thank our hosting event partners, the State of Baden-Württemberg, and especially the City of Karlsruhe for 9 months of intensive, successful, and very pleasant joint preparation work. The Karlsruhe section of the Congress has set new standards in many ways and I will certainly remember them under the category of “shared attention” (in the best sense) due to their attentive and shared work for a common goal.

2. The Congress - an overview

The 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention is segmented into four central sections with several sub-sections. All presentations are documented in the Congress catalogue with abstracts and additional supplemental materials and are also available in digital form on the website www.praeventionstag.de:

1. Plenary events

- Opening of Congress
- Evening event in Garden Hall at the invitation of the State of Baden-Württemberg and the City of Karlsruhe
- Final plenary
- Presentations
 - on the main topic and current prevention topics
- Project spots
- Forum Youth Aid (DJI)
- Media forum (bpb)
- Congress opinion
- 8th Annual International Forum (AIF)
- Special events

2. Exhibit

- Actions
- Campus
- Info booths
- Posters
- Special exhibits

3. Workshop

- Accompanying events
- Stage
- Film forum
- Presentation on demand
- Student university

Overall, the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention offers more than **200 presentations**. Parallel to the Congress, ca. **250 professional organisations** will present themselves with exhibits, on the Congress stage, and in the film forum.

Leading up to the Congress, the mentioned criminologist, **Dr. Wiebke Steffen**, again presented a **scientific opinion** on the main topic of the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention “Prevention requires practice, policy, and science” which was already widely noted and discussed in the time leading up to the Congress. The opinion is also the basis for the **Karlsruhe Declaration** of the German Congress of Crime Prevention and its organising partner, which will be published on May 13.

During the opening event, the renowned Director of the Violence Research Centre at the University of Cambridge, **Prof. Dr. Manuel Eisner**, will hold a talk on the topic “**50% less violence worldwide by 2050 — approaches to a global strategy**”.

The closing speaker of the Congress is the internationally renowned researcher and author **Prof. Dr. Viktor Mayer-Schönberger** with a talk on the topic “**Big Data – Opportunities and risks in prevention**”: “Big Data” not only promises new insights into reality but also better predictions. But what is so special about “Big Data”, especially in terms of prevention? Where are its strengths and what are its limitations?

The International Forum of the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention will feature numerous reports from **international experts and specialised organisations** about their experiences in the areas of prevention policy, prevention research, and prevention practice from more than 20 European and non-European countries. In total, about **150 foreign guests from 30 countries** will participate in this year’s Congress.

As part of the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention, the **European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS)** will hold this year’s General Assembly with a Congress-public programme under the subject “Europe and prevention: positions and needs of the local actors and decision makers” with simultaneous interpretation in English, French, and German.

For the first time, the programme of the 19th Congress in Karlsruhe will also include a **series of special events**: Symposium on internal security; Karlsruhe forum for cyber-safety; US Juvenile Justice. From the first Juvenile Court of the US in Chicago in 1899 via the Chicago School to the Model Courts for Change; Barometer Security in Germany (BaSiD) – results from the joint project; Transition management between juvenile law enforcement and follow-up care: How can we reduce the high recidivism rates?; Parent-LAN – Together. Games. Experience (event by spielbar.de of bpb with partners); Protection of the constitution and prevention - a contradiction?; NEST – Material for early help; Restorative Circles (RC) – Healing instead of punishment. A form for conflict transformation, developed in the violent world of Brazilian favelas; ways to sustainable prevention (of violence). From theoretical concept to communal networking work.

The 19th Congress is supported by more than **40 partner organisations**. I would once more like to thank all partners and supporting institutions and their employees for their generous support in terms of content, ideas, and materials.

3. Main topic: Prevention requires practice, policy, and science

The following idealised interdependence model is supposed to provide a few suggestions for the development of criminal policy prevention initiatives for the coming years for the main topic of the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention “Prevention requires practice, policy, and science”:



The three central fields of work of prevention: practice, policy, and science

Prevention practice, prevention policy, and prevention research should be considered the central fields of work for an integrated and sustainable prevention orientation. In the coming years we will need to develop a stringent development and differentiation within these three central fields of work. We also need to develop clearly structured cooperation and networks between these three central fields of work. Corresponding agreements concerning responsibilities, work load distribution, cooperation structures should be found both at the communal, national, and international levels. In addition, improved communication agreements between these vertical levels are necessary and must be developed.

Three central requirements for each field of work:

Interdisciplinary: Interdisciplinary cooperation should be organised and ensured systematically in each field of work of prevention. Representatives of the youth and social work agencies and the police should be represented in the field of work of prevention practice, as should NGOs and volunteer organisations. Representatives of political parties, legislation, the various departments of the executive and judiciary should be involved in the field of work of prevention policy. Public, state, and private research institutions in the applicable disciplines and sub-disciplines (e.g. sociology, psychology, biology, medicine, political science, legal studies, economy, criminology, victimology, etc.) should participate in the field of work of prevention research, as should organisations of research support and scientific associations.

Competent: An important prerequisite for a successful social prevention orientation is a clear self-understanding of the individual fields of work. Definitions, self-understanding, and responsibilities should be formulated in the respective fields of work of prevention practice, prevention policy, and prevention research. Clear profiles and portfolios of the three fields of work will also include clear descriptions of the existing resources, capabilities, and service structures.

Informative: In particular, the profiles of the fields of work prevention practice, prevention policy, and prevention research should be communicated better and more aggressively in the future. Each field of work should make its profiles available to the public proactively for free, with a large measure of common sense.

The three central tasks for joint action in the three central fields of work:

Structures: At the three central communication levels - the communal/regional level, the national level, and the international/global level - the prevention fields of prevention practice, prevention policy, and prevention research should cooperate equally in permanent commission structures and possibly include even further partner organisations. Such a fixed commission structure can realise mutual information, basic agreements, and specific cooperation in a transparent and sustainable manner.

Agreements: In addition to working communication paths within and between the respective prevention fields and prevention levels, it is becoming increasingly important to reach an understanding concerning terminology, definitions, objectives, criteria, methods, different profiles and responsibilities, as well as areas of focus, strategies, and specific projects and programmes.

Cooperation: A formalised and continuous communication between the fields of work of prevention practice, prevention policy, and prevention research can help publish common positions and prepare, realise, and evaluate specific projects.

In addition to the technical-methodical solutions from the respective perspectives of the involved disciplines and prevention actors, more fundamental and farther-reaching structural changes are necessary if we want to actually develop, realise, and evaluate prevention and intervention measures successfully. It is essential to find a new communication culture between the three involved central prevention fields of prevention practice, prevention policy, and prevention research which are mutually very interdependent .

The main topic of this Congress “Prevention requires practice, policy, and science” is at the centre of numerous presentations and consultations of the 19th German Congress of Crime Prevention. Based on the scientific Congress opinion by the criminologist Dr. Wiebke Steffen, a few specific requirements have emerged in the time leading up to the Congress. The spectrum ranges from requirements to strengthen communal prevention strategies and improved integration of existing research insights to a bolder prevention-oriented social and criminal policy.

In my view, I would like to mention the establishment of interdisciplinary and inter-departmental prevention centres as a central requirement – at all political levels – communal, state, and federation. This way, crime prevention and other prevention areas could work together more effectively and thus form the basis for a systematic, social, and especially sustainable prevention strategy/policy. It has been shown that investments into effective prevention measures pay off in the form of lower crime numbers as well as lower costs for the tax payer. Practice, policy and science must work together here. I would like to end this address with a plea to the field of policy; it is for these reasons that policy should finally begin investing more purposefully in effective prevention programs and inter-departmental prevention centres.

I wish us all a stimulating and insightful Congress with great results in the prevention city of Karlsruhe.

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