

Wirtschaftsrat der CDU e.V. – Kleiner Kuhberg 2-6 - 24103 Kiel

Frau

***Pia Kjærsgaard***

Parlamentspräsidentin

Folketing, Christiansborg

DK-1240 København K

advance via E-Mail: folketinget@ft.dk

Wirtschaftsrat der CDU e.V.

Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein

**Reimer Tewes**

**Der Landesvorsitzende**

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01. März 2016

Dear Madam President, Dear Mrs. Kjærsgaard,

The Wirtschaftsrat, Economic Council is one of the largest member organizations within the German economy; and as an organization supports the fixed link Infrastructure Project “Fehmarn Belt” in its entirety and without any restrictions. It is only through these essential and reliable Baltic region transport links, similar to that of the successful Øresund Bridge, which can progress the common economic growth potential of the Danish, Swedish, and German economies.

In the eight EU Countries with direct access to the Baltic Sea there are approximately 147 Million people living; which is an equivalent to 29% of the total EU population. These Countries alone generate 29.3% of the EU’s GDP, which demonstrates their significance to the European Economic area. The potential development opportunities for the Baltic Sea region, including its future challenges, are dependent on its innovation capacity and its infrastructure efficiency. These developments must meet the requirements of the regional and international global economy of the Baltic EU Countries and the economic needs of the Baltic Cities.

The Baltic Sea region is not only the birthplace to centuries of successful trading nation’s but is also the fore-runner for the most innovative and competitive regions of our continent; which together with the potential fixed link could dramatically enhance the region for future leading developments.

The people of the Baltic regions have for centuries made their livelihoods from trading; and for both Germany and Denmark the Baltic Sea region has remained of vital commercial importance. This applies not only for the coastal counties of Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Hamburg but also Seeland, Jütland, Copenhagen and Funen which represent important Baltic Sea trading partners. Where in 2014 goods worth in excess of 1,000 billion Euros were traded, and of this more than 33% was exported within the EU. This is also in the interest for both the German and Danish nations to deepen our relations, as our Countries together can provide the forward momentum, as an European Hub, for the development for transport and energy networks, as well as improving shipping security and fighting against cross-border crimes.

**Landesvorstand:**

Reimer Tewes (Vorsitzender)

Norbert Basler

Hans-Werner Blöcker

Dr. Christian von Boetticher

Prof. Dr. Hans H. Driftmann

Florian Friedel

Dr. Tilman Giesen

Reinhardt Hassenstein

Jens Broder Knudsen (stv. Vorsitzender)

Dr. Philipp Murmann MdB

Dr. Bertram Zitscher (LGF)

With a view to global competition, it will be crucial that our "knowledge" Cities can grow together; with Universities and Research Institutions evolving our "brightest minds" to create optimal competition conditions. In particular, the Cities in the Baltic region offer perfect conditions for innovation and the expansion of the knowledge economy. These Cities with their highly skilled workforce will also provide fertile ground for a knowledge-based global structural change. Only an excellent transport infrastructure, with structurally shorter roads, is an important prerequisite for the technological performance and innovation of the Baltic region in the global competition. The forward-looking attitude of the German and Danish merchants results in a valuable contribution to strengthening the Baltic Sea Region.

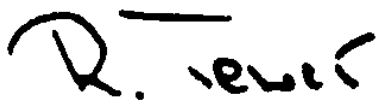
The development of the Baltic Sea Region is first and foremost influenced by urbanization and cross-border transport infrastructure; which specifically the fixed link "Fehmarn Belt" would promote cultural, economic and political stability including additional development of the Nordic Countries. The rural regions of Germany and Denmark would have the added advantage, due to the value radiating out of such a Project, with the improvement of the surrounding areas and their dynamic cities.

In our view, a fast and reliable transport connection is vital for the competitiveness, not only for the Baltic regions, but for a variety of reasons also for the future prosperity throughout Europe. In this respect not only the future of the Baltic Sea region is dependent on whether it succeeds in common in the next few days, however, would be putting into motion the European Project of the century.

We, the Economic Council for Germany, are greatly impressed and excited by Denmark's entrepreneurial commitment and goal-orientation towards the fundamental progress to ensure a successful European integration. We fully support the fixed link "Fehmarn Belt" for the benefit of Denmark, Sweden and Germany and will continue to provide assistance to ensure that the German Administration can be relied upon to deliver their committed planned contractual contributions.

For any further enquiries, we are available and willing to arrange an appointment with you in Copenhagen.

Yours sincerely,



Reimer Tewes  
(Regional Chairman)



Dr. Bertram Zitscher  
(Regional Manager)