

Speech by Eberhard Sinner,
Member of the Bavarian Parliament, former Minister for
Europe,
at the Opening Ceremony of the EC project "Climate for
Culture" Munich, November 9, 2009

Honourable guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

A couple of days ago I received a group of French students who were visiting Bavaria. We met in the Plenary Hall of the Bavarian Parliament where I explained various aspects of Bavarian politics and the work of Bavarian politicians. After a brief introduction, I asked them what first came to mind when they thought about Bavaria. Not surprisingly, they answered in chorus: Bavarian beer, of course! My next question was: "What else do you know about Bavaria?" The answer to this question was "The Oktoberfest" and then the purity requirements for beer according to the German law, the oldest piece of food legislation in the world dating back to 1516 and introduced by Duke William IV of Bavaria. This law has regulated the process of brewing beer since those early days and nowadays you are still only allowed to use water, yeast, hops and barley as ingredients for beer.

This experience reminds me about the English view of the Scots: The only thing the Scots know about is how to make whisky!

But there is much more to Bavaria than beer, as indeed there is more to Scotland than whisky!

Bavaria is a hub of arts, science and culture. Moreover, Bavaria has become the economic powerhouse of Germany during the last few decades. The reasons for this are the

many inventions made by Universities and research centers like the Fraunhofer and the Max Planck Society. Bavarian companies based all over the country have transformed these inventions into innovations, goods and services made in Bavaria. BMW and AUDI are for example the leading carmakers in Europe. Besides the large companies the small and medium-sized enterprises are the lifeblood and the backbone of the Bavarian economy. They employ roughly 90 % of the workforce and operate also on the global market. Bavaria's success-story is marked by three distinguishing aspects of the Bavarian economy. These are:

- Higher economic growth
- Lower rate of unemployment
- Further research and development funding

compared with the German average.

In the short term we are struggling to overcome the financial crisis as all the others are, too. What we have learned from this crisis is that it's not speculation, nor betting on futures or increasing house-prices that generates real values but education and innovation, which create wealth for the many and not only for the few. Taking bigger risks all the time and following a herding instinct in the financial markets will only leads us into a vicious circle of boom and bust. Warren Buffet, the American Multibillionaire, called such financial products "financial weapons of mass destruction" which devastated the fortune of millions.

So what are our targets in the long term? The most challenging political issue is climate change. Climate policy is the key-element of each future oriented policy in Bavaria and Germany as well as in Europe and the world as a whole.

We all have to look after the planet. Bad policy will boil the planet!

We will have to change our methods of producing energy, and we will have to change the way we use energy. The rich countries have been responsible for two-thirds of the carbon output into the atmosphere since 1850. In a report in 2006

Nicholas (now Lord) Stern calculated that a 2°C rise in global temperature would cost about 1% of world GDP. But the World Bank, in its new World Development Report, now says the cost to Africa will be more like 4% of GDP and to India, 5%. To keep global warming down to a mere increase of 2°C, the World Bank has calculated it would cost \$140 billion to \$675 billion a year in developing countries.

As the earth warms up we will be faced with myriads of problems:

- By 2050 the world will have to feed 2 to 3 billion more people than before and will have to cope with richer populations who have a higher water demand. Farm productivity would have to rise by 1% a year, which is a lot. With climate change, the rise will have to be 1.8%, says the World Bank.
- Global warming also seems to be speeding up the earth's hydrological cycle, causing both floods and droughts
- cities built in low-lying coastal areas are vulnerable to rising sea levels or coastal surges.
- Global warming also increases the chances of catching life-threatening diseases like malaria, already the biggest killer in Africa, meningitis, dengue fever and so on.

The cost and the impact of climate change gives the developed and the developing world a big interest in a deal in

Copenhagen climate conference in December this year. Climate-change policy is no longer a simple choice between growth and ecological well-being. It's the central task for the world's future. In order to achieve a 2° C increase of temperature worldwide we should agree on the following:

- Conservation of the tropical rainforests. Avoidable deforestation counts as a way of mitigating global warming.
- Significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity.
- Reduction of the carbon footprint in the industrialized countries to 5 tons per capita and per year at the most until 2020.
- A fair burden shared between industrialized and emerging countries. As it is, the emerging countries bear an even greater share, though their citizen's carbon footprints are much smaller.

Bavaria as a state and the Bavarian citizens are participating in this global task because all politics are local.

Although we enjoy economic prosperity, Bavaria has disconnected the strong tie between economic growth and energy consumption. The carbon footprint in Bavaria amounts to 6 tons/per capita per year and is thus far smaller than the German average by 10 and the American average by 18 tons per capita per year.

Bavaria is a leading area in terms of renewable energy.

The world biggest solar fair – Intersolar - takes place in Munich.

Bavaria is strongly committed to the principle of sustainability. We don't think it's fair to let the next generation pay our bills. Sustainability was established in German forestry in the early 18th century and has made our forests a renewable source of economical and ecological wealth. So forestry has become a role-model to the politicians showing them how to handle the challenges of climate-change and how to develop the natural resources in a resilient and sustainable way.

Despite all the measures which might be taken in the next few years the earth will get even warmer. We can't stop global warming, we can only hope to limit it and keep it in check. This is "the inconvenient truth" as Al Gore entitled his Oscar-winning film.

If our body temperature were permanently 2 degrees higher than normal, we would feel seriously ill. The same goes for our planet. That's why we need strategies to adapt our man-made systems to the future environment.

One important strategy concerns the conservation of our cultural heritage. Your work and your European network knitted together out of 27 participating organizations is a real milestone and a hallmark of excellence on the road to a sustainable future. I appreciate this very much and I'm very happy to join you this evening and to address this international audience. I wish all of you success in the years to come. We have to go back to our roots to overcome the recent crisis that means to a really value oriented policy. And in my view there is hardly any field of politics more imbued

with real values than our cultural heritage! “Climate for culture” is much more than an EC project. It is a call to action. All of us are challenged to support the preservation of our cultural heritage and to create new cultural values in a continuing **process**. A special thank-you to the coordinator of this project, Ms Johanna Leissner.

But now we should take the opportunity to taste the wonderful Bavarian wines! We have a 'pinot gris' and a 'pinot noir' both of which are grown in the northern part of Bavaria, in Franconia, which is where I come from. We call these wines “bottled sunshine”. At the beginning I mentioned the beer-brewing tradition in Bavaria. Now, I´m going to close my remarks with a Latin **proverb** “in vino veritas”. Veritas - which means truth- is the common goal of science and politics. Let´s join together to reach this goal!