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1. Oktober 2022

Dear Mayor Lewe,

on Monday, September 19, 2022, as OstWestWirtschaftsForum Bayern, we discussed the question of how civil society can make more intensive and effective use of the channels that have developed over the past decades to transmit information and orientation to the respective Russian partners.

The focus was also on the city partnerships that exist in Russia and Germany and in Ukraine. Moreover, both Russian and German cities not only have partnerships with Russian cities, but are also internationally networked. I have made this particularly clear with the example of Volgograd, where the OstWestWirtschaftsForum Bayern has developed special relations in recent years.

Volgograd has Cologne and Chemnitz as German twin cities, but is also in a partnership with Hiroshima and Coventry. In our opinion, the German twin cities should take an initiative:

"No bombing of cities"

and involve their Russian, Ukrainian and international partners in this initiative.

As mayor of Münster, you pointed out the need for dialogue in a video addressed to your partners in Ryazan, even before Putin's invasion of Ukraine. As President of the German Association of Cities, you also emphasized the need for dialogue and warned against freezing the partnership.

That is why I have hope that an initiative "No Bombing of Cities" will meet with a response, especially in view of the escalation of the war. The example of the cities could be followed by other partners in the field of culture, sports, business, etc.

We ourselves have also confronted our partners in Volgograd and in the Society Russia - Germany, chairman is the former Ambassador Grinin, with our agenda and triggered reactions that show that it is not legal for our long-time partners what is happening in Ukraine and how we think about it. You can see from the attached presentation my intentions.

My examples refer to personal experiences as a member of the Bavarian State Government and as the Chairman of the OstWestWirtschaftsForum Bayern. We have experienced how important civil society activities were before the fall of the Iron Curtain. Civil society activity is at least as important now in order to counter the Kremlin's propaganda.

**Präsident**  
Eberhard Sinner  
Staatsminister a. D.  
**Gf. Vizepräsident**  
Hermann Pönisch

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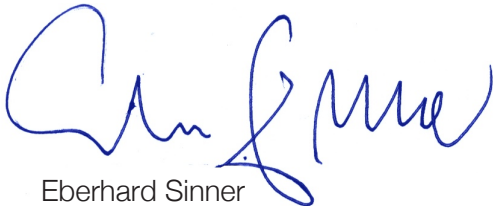


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I would therefore be particularly pleased if the cities, as a very important part of civil society, were to lead the way with a concrete initiative.

Sincerely



Eberhard Sinner  
Minister of State ret.