

Welcome address by the Lady Mayor  
of the City of Bonn  
Bärbel Dieckmann  
on the occasion of the  
**Reception for the international Steering Committee  
for the conference on  
"Renewable Energy"**  
Old City Hall, Bonn  
Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 6.30 p.m.

Dear guests from many countries

I go in for renewable energies, because this could be decisive for a reasonable life of the children which were born in Bonn in the course of the last few years. As a city we have the direct contact to our citizens. We have the necessary planning instruments and we can promote the use of renewable energies. We have the local instruments to combat global warming.

In this sense I would like to welcome all of you in Bonn's Old City Hall.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is nearly dinner time and you have had a very tough agenda today.

Therefore I would like to invite you to a small break.

Be my guests for a short mental stroll through my city.

Bonn is quite an old city. It was founded by the Romans more than 2000 years ago.

In the thirteenth century the Archbishops and Prince Electors were chased as rulers from Cologne and chose Bonn as their residence. They gave the city its basic architectural pattern. As a consequence, I have nowadays the great pleasure to have my offices in a beautiful City Hall of the Rococo period. You can see some of the most important prince electors here on the wall.

In December 1770, the most famous son of our city, Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn.

In his memory, Bonn has a very vivid musical life: every autumn, a large International Beethoven Festival takes place.

You can visit Beethoven's birthplace in Bonn, but also more than 20 other museums which attract visitors from all over the Europe and beyond.

In 1949, Bonn was elected the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany and fulfilled this task for about fifty years. So it has gained a high degree of internationality and is the most experienced city in Germany when it comes to the organisation of big or delicate international events, like conferences of the parties or the Afghanistan conference.

Let us now have a look at the governmental quarter as it is today:

The former House of Parliament has been transformed into an International Congress Center. Conference participants are always fascinated by its light and transparent architecture. While discussing you may have an inspiring view over the Rhine river. And I wish you this inspiring atmosphere next June for your important conference on renewable energy.

We have plans to build a second larger conference hall seating around 5000 people in the near vicinity to meet the needs of large UN or other international conferences.

Next to the Congress Center, the so called UN Campus will be established in the course of the next two years. There all the UN organisations in Bonn - four larger and eight smaller ones, and perhaps also several more - will work under one roof. This decision of the Federal Republic of Germany is brand-new and more than important for the development of Bonn as a place of international dialogue.

Just next door, the Deutsche Welle will take up international radio broadcasting from Bonn by the end of June.

And on the other side the former seat of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany is at the moment being refurbished in order to become the future seat of the Ministry for Development and Economic Cooperation.

The Press Club has been reopened as a meeting point for media representatives but also as a general international meeting point.

The former premises of the regional states' representations at the Federal government have in the meantime become the seats of modern servicing or IT companies.

German Development Agencies have moved into the former offices of the Members of the German Parliament. Together with about 150 Bonn based NGO's, working in the environment and

development fields, they form a sound network within the international activities in Bonn.

Right across the road, just behind the boulevard of Bonn's five greater museums, we reach the newly founded Center for Development Research.

In the right vicinity of the governmental quarter you'll find institutions which are interesting for your work. Eurosolar, the e-mission 55 Business for Climate and we do hope that by the end of 2003 The World Wind Energy Association will have transferred its seat to Bonn.

You will have noticed:

The former governmental quarter has become full of life again, full of international life.

And it has even got a new architectural landmark: the so-called Post Tower, the headquarters of German Post World Net. It has been designed by the famous architect Jahn. You will certainly have noticed it from your hotel on the Venusberg.

It is also worth while visiting Bonn's institutions of science and research.

Its internationally oriented university, where every fifth student has a foreign passport.

The newly established Center for Advanced European Studies and Research and a large number of other research institutes.

Not far from our large recreation park are the present premises of our UN organisations, four larger and eight smaller ones. Amongst them are the Desertification Secretariat, the United Nations Volunteers Programme and the Climate Secretariat.

It is not only important for us to get international organisations into Bonn. It is also important to bring the contents of their work to our citizens.

This is why a lot of information about renewable energy will be given before and after your conference, via speeches, events, actions at schools and a pre-conference of cities with international partners.

We are very happy to be the host of your conference and we'll contribute to giving as much attention as possible to it.

I am looking forward to the international conference on renewable energy in Bonn and be sure: *We'll do our best to be a good host.*

*Once more most welcome to Bonn!*