



Ladies and Gentlemen,

the digitalization has fundamentally changed the way we live and work. Security authorities, having to operate in an environment that is getting more complex, are also affected by this change.

The digitalization in the field of internal security is an enormous task which requires from us special attention and effort. Digitalization must not remain an empty catchphrase and requires targeted and decisive action on all levels of decision-making as the current developments in the foreign and security policy in Europe as well as Germany

and Hesse impressively show.

In this regard GPEC® digital as specialist trade fair with the thematic focus on digitalization offers in Frankfurt am Main an ideal and valuable forum to enter into a direct and intensive exchange with the various actors in this field. The trade fair offers the place and opportunity to discuss the chances and existing challenges with experts from authorities and the industry, to make digital technologies more tangible for security authorities and to prepare ourselves for the digital future.

It is the task of politics to constantly further develop security authorities in all areas and to further optimize working conditions. In Hesse for instance we have started our own digitalization project within the Hessian police. In its context we push the development of digital solutions for the daily police routine. In addition we are involved in the Programme Police 20/20, which as a nationwide project has dedicated itself to the harmonization and synchronization of the digitalization agendas of all Federal and Länder police forces.

Together we thus make the potentials of the digitalization for the work of security authorities tangible and compatible and consequently increase the security of the citizens.

In this context we also consider that new challenges in digital space arise especially against the background of Russia's continued assault on the population and the sovereign state of Ukraine violating international law. As a consequence, security authorities have to for instance deal more intensively with the risks of coordinated cyber attacks and global disinformation campaigns and take targeted measures. In this respect GPEC® digital provides the opportunity to present innovations and to benefit from experiences of other partners in security policy.

In my role as patron of this year's event I like to cordially welcome you all to the now 14th GPEC® event since the year 2000. The special feat of this year's GPEC® digital is the fact that as excerpt of the all-encompassing GPEC® it focusses on all questions, products and solutions for the digitalization in internal security, civil protection as well as disaster relief.

The conference programme gives you a comprehensive overview of the various possibilities of a mutual exchange concerning digital topics. I would like to draw your attention in particular to the conferences covering the topics "Critical Infrastructure Protection – A turning point for administrations and authorities of internal security", "Innovations-Radar of Internal Security", "Financial Investigations" as well as "Video Intelligence". Worth mentioning are in addition the "Spring conference of the heads/presidents of the Offices of Central Services", the "Specialist forum Programme P20" and the "19th German Control Room Congress" which all also use the platform GPEC® digital.

I would like to express sincere thanks to the organizer EMW and Messe Frankfurt am Main for the organization of this event.

I wish all participants of GPEC® digital a good and vivid exchange, interesting conversations as well as new insights for a successful digitalization in the environment of security authorities.

Peter Beuth
Hessian Minister of the Interior and Sports