



UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH SUM-UP

GREETING WORDS

JOSEF PÜHRINGER
GOVERNOR OF UPPER AUSTRIA

Salutation:

Today's conference is going to analyse the current state of security policy and shed light on the challenges ahead, also as concerns the endeavours of all those who are responsible for our security.

This conference will deliver some important messages. The probably most important one is its programme itself: 40 speakers from 11 countries will rise to speak.

Why is the message so important? Because international cooperation in security and fight against crime are becoming more and more living practice.

Today, security policy can neither be exclusively conducted on a national nor on an agency-specific basis but requires interagency cooperation on the international as well as the domestic level. We have to acknowledge the fact that Europe is a primary goal of organized crime. Cooperation between nations therefore is the key to security. Security challenges can only be met jointly on a European level. This is exactly what "Europeanization" and "internationalization" of security politics means.

In the face of current threats, not any more just the ability to react appropriately but increasingly the success of prevention proves the state's capacity to provide for security.

External threats must not only be confronted when they have arrived in the domestic realm. Rather, dangers must be countered together with other states in the place they are emerging.

The focus of the fight against crime is increasingly shifting from a reactive orientation to the area of foresighted prevention and forestall of criminal acts.

Of course, one must consider: These measures are touching a precarious point because respect of individual liberty belongs to the indispensable foundations of our liberal-constitutional order.

Security comes not without a price: We give up a considerable amount of individual freedom and submit ourselves to rules, regulations and restrictions in hope of a gain in security.

Here, one has to strike a balance between the public good of freedom and that of security. Careful consideration of a sound relation between individual freedom constraints and aimed increase in security is indispensable.

The fear of state power is just as old as the wish for the states' function as a security provider. As big is the fear of a faint state, not able to sufficiently fulfil its responsibility to protect. It is our common task here to find the right meters and bounds:

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The reply to the current challenges in the field of public security must be: "Cross-linked capabilities for security politics".

The reason why these cross-capabilities for security politics are an adequate response to the new challenges is that they contribute to overcome existing organizational boundaries.

This implies rebuilding of the security sector and its actors. In the long run, this will contribute to the development of networked security sector professionals, who on the basis of common risk analysis and joint planning avail of common capabilities, structures, means and instruments.

The networking between different autonomous areas of security is meant to serve a successful crisis response, crisis prevention as well as crisis management. Yet it necessarily reaches its limits wherever it could lead to a surveillance or a police state.

Networked security policy will be unthinkable in the future without connecting the Common Foreign Security Policy of the European Union and its European Security and Defence Policy with the Europeanization in the field of Justice and interior affairs as it has been pursued since 1999.

This corresponds to the logic of strengthening the European Union's capacity to act. If the Union wants to play the decisive role in the world, it will have to be able to react to all international crises in an appropriate way. Therefore, it must be the vision and future responsibility of Europe, resting on the stability within the Union's borders, to transport this vary stability to Europe's geo-political environment in a sustainable way. Therefore the motto is: To stabilize the regional environment means to preserve the European peace in the 21st century.

On these foundations, a comprehensive concept of security that has a politico-diplomatic, an economic-social, an ecologic-judicial, a policing and a military dimension can be translated into a kind of politics that also meets the citizen's expectations.

In this sense I welcome you again in Upper Austria and already now wish your consultations every success!