

Ladies and gentlemen,

The federal and state police, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), the fire brigades, the civil protection and emergency management authorities and many other organizations with security tasks are committed to maintaining public security and order as well as protecting our citizens every day. Last year Germany and Europe were affected by events and developments that have had a profound impact and have created new challenges for the security agencies. The police have not only been faced the terrorist threat and attacks against asylum applicants, refugees and their shelters, but have also been confronted with a growing number of violent acts committed against their own officers. This inevitably leads to changes in police strategy, in the basic and further training of police officers and above all in the command, control and operational equipment of the police. Professional, customized equipment and protective clothing are needed and have to be procured.



With its large number of exhibitors, the General Police Equipment Exhibition & Conference (GPEC) offers representatives of authorities and organizations with security and safety tasks an excellent overview of state-of-the-art equipment and innovations. It has proved to be a valuable opportunity for a worldwide exchange of information between agencies and organizations responsible for public safety and security and the manufacturers of police and special equipment.

For this reason it is my pleasure to serve as the patron of the 9th GPEC in Leipzig.

The seminars and conferences will refer to recent events and will once again provide a comprehensive overview of the plethora of tasks and challenges that exist in the field of internal security. I particularly wish to draw your attention to the specialized conferences and presentations on weapons and equipment, technology for aviation security, lessons learned and equipment requirements of the Federal and Länder public order support forces, fleet management of official and patrol cars and security research and development, and I would like to thank the organizer and the German Police University.

I wish all participants a successful 9th GPEC, many stimulating talks and new insights into specific products for this special group of users.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. de Maizière', written over a white rectangular area.

Dr. Thomas de Maizière, MP  
Federal Minister of the Interior