

G8-Präsidentschaft

Rede

StS Dr. Pfaffenbach

anlässlich
des Dritten Weltkongresses zur Bekämpfung von
Produkt- und Markenpiraterie

am 30. Januar 2007

um 11:00 Uhr

in Genf

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

Sperrfrist: Beginn der Rede!

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure for me to speak to this important forum in my function as Sherpa of the G8 Presidency 2007.

In fact the third Global Congress on Counterfeiting and Piracy comes at a very important juncture as we are preparing the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm from 6 to 8 June 2007.

I.

Chancellor Ms Merkel places the G8 Agenda for 2007 under the overall motto of “Growth and Responsibility”.

The World Economic Forum in Davos has also addressed this cross cutting issue by relating to the “shifting power equation”.

In this regard, I would like to seize the opportunity to underline the common interest of all states worldwide in economic growth.

Growth is one of the essential prerequisites in the fight against poverty; growth in world trade and investment will help to bring forward positive development for many poor countries.

This is why Germany attaches so much importance to the outcome of the Doha Development Round. After my talks to many of the key players in the Doha

process I am convinced that we have a real window of opportunity to conclude these difficult but crucial negotiations.

We are convinced that all WTO partners have to contribute to the common success in this effort!

Germany will certainly work for progress and ambitious result. Let me stress that we are fully aware of our responsibility of our EU Presidency in this respect!

II.

With regard to our G8 presidency Chancellor Merkel would like to focus the attention of states and the international public on key issues of the world

economy and on impulses for the development of the African Continent.

Framework conditions in the world economy have changed considerably over the last 15 years.

This relates to many aspects of international economic relations: investments conditions, trade relations, energy questions and raw materials.

New players like the emerging economies have broadly entered the economic arena.

In our G8 Presidency the Chancellor would like to address this new global development.

It is our firm conviction that new developments require new answers!

Against this background the fight against counterfeiting and piracy has increasingly become important in the global debate.

III.

At the last two G8 Summits at Gleneagles and St. Petersburg in 2005 and 2006 the G8 partners agreed on declarations which explicitly addressed “Combating IPR Piracy and Counterfeiting”.

In our G8 Presidency the subject also ranges very high on the Agenda.

However, we feel that it is necessary to look at IPR from a slightly different angle.

From our point of view it is time to show that the protection of intellectual property rights is part of a much larger political concept.

This concept is about innovation!

In this context it is important to note that countries like the People Republic of China and India are rapidly moving up the ladder with regard to their public and private investment in Research and Development (R & D).

Just to illustrate this with some figures:

- according to OECD statistics China – with an annual R & D spending of 103 billion USD – has become the country with the third highest R & D growth worldwide.
- India is developing at a similar rate and is one of the world's ten strongest researching nations.

Why do I refer to these figures?

The answer is simple: when a country invests in research and development it will have the highest interest in having the outcome and results of its efforts protected!

So, the first and foremost message of our G8 Summit in Heiligendamm will be that the promotion and the protection of innovation belong together.

These two aspects of innovation are “two sides of the same medal”!

Speaking in different terms: there is a common interest of many countries on this globe to protect the results of their investment in innovation and thus to protect intellectual property rights.

Being personally responsible for trade matters in the German government and knowing the – often blocked – discussion on IPR at the WTO and in WIPO here in Geneva it is definitely an important

message to underline this common interest!

My feeling is that this point of view is increasingly shared by my G8 partners!

VI.

Following from this new focus on IPR as a part of a common debate on innovation I would also like to stress the second important message of the G8 summit in Heiligendamm:

We want to give a clear and positive signal that we need more and better international dialogue and cooperation with regard to IPR and to enforcement of IPR rules!

Already at the meeting in Heiligendamm Chancellor Merkel would like to seize the opportunity for a dialogue with important emerging economies in order to show that there is this common interest in innovation and IPR!

So, let me be as clear as I can in this regard:

There is still a lot to do to improve the cooperation among national administration in the combat against counterfeiting and piracy!

It is of high priority for Germany to point out that the improvements of the international IPR regime – be it in

customs administration or other enforcement areas – will be carried out by a large number of states.

This is why we attach great importance to the multilateral organizations like WIPO and WTO.

And this is why we want to give a new impulse to bring forward the dialogue and the spirit of cooperation in the field of IPR enforcement.

V.

Last but not least let me touch upon another very important aspect of our preparation process for the G8 summit in Heiligendamm.

I have noticed with great interest that this conference is not only a venue of states, national experts on IPR and representatives of international organization.

In contrast, the specificity of this meeting today and tomorrow is the large and high ranking involvement of private business companies!

This directly brings me to an initiative that we are actively pursuing in our G8 presidency:

We feel that it is extremely important to underline the strategies of private companies to prevent counterfeiting and piracy.

In preparing the G8 presidency we have extensively discussed this matter with the German business community.

Why is this so important?

This is so important because counterfeiting and piracy is not only a matter of production sites somewhere in third countries.

The economic reality shows us that counterfeits come into the markets because there are some consumers and some companies actively who demand these products.

In the international debate about counterfeiting and piracy this aspect has not played the role it should!

We would therefore like to use the opportunity of our G8 presidency to underline the following:

- First: counterfeiting and piracy is not only a supply side question and
- Second: there is also a demand side that has to be tackled!

Our objective is to bring together the point of views of the G8 business community on the possible strategies of companies to prevent counterfeiting.

By doing so we would like to show that the combat against counterfeiting is not only a matter of governments and administration.

The message will be that this combat also entails responsibility of private companies.

The wide participation of international companies in this congress clearly shows a high degree of awareness among the business world in this respect!

VI.

So in concluding let me welcome all participants to this eminent conference.

It is an important signal that representatives from so many different “constituencies” – industrialized countries, emerging economies, developing countries, international organizations and business representatives – come together to discuss counterfeiting and piracy.

So it is my firm conviction and my hope that the international debate will receive some very important and valuable impulses!

This is last but not least in the interest of the German G8 presidency!

I thank for your attention!