

## Cultivating international connections

by **Volker Bouffier**, Minister President of Hessen



A successful economy forms the foundation for jobs and prosperity. The success of the economy itself rests on many pillars, one of which is global exchange. The state of Hessen therefore places great value on excellent international connections. These connections are important in many areas, such as culture, but it is in the economic sphere that we place particular emphasis on fostering foreign relations. Between the Rhine-Main area and the financial metropolis – Frankfurt, Hessen is among the strongest economic regions in the European Union. The major banks, the stock exchange, the German Bundesbank, and the European Central Bank all contribute to the economic success of our state, as do the numerous manufacturing companies based here, many of which are active globally.

These connections must be cultivated if they are to continue to exist and develop further, and events such as this present the chance to do just that. Such events promote exchanges and offer many opportunities for discussions that open up new perspectives for dialogue partners. For these reasons, I have gladly lent my patronage to this event. My heartfelt thanks goes to those who have helped to ensure that this event takes place. I send my warm greetings to the event participants, who will surely enjoy an interesting program.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Volker Bouffier'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Volker Bouffier,  
Minister President of Hessen