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## SHORT NEWS

### **13. Business Talk in Munich**

#### **Traditional Event at Hotel Bayerischer Hof on 24 January 2019**

Munich, 29 January 2019 – On 24 January 2019, for the thirteenth time already the annual "Business Talk" was held at Hotel Bayerischer Hof, again jointly organised by Warth & Klein Grant Thornton and BEITEN BURKHARDT, hosting some 700 guests. The guiding theme of this years event was "Germany in a Period of Renewal - European and Foreign Policy Prospects".

As keynote speaker the organisers were able to book the former Vice Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Joschka Fischer. As a noted speaker he fascinated the audience with a brilliant lecture on global political topics as well as with regard to environmental and sustainability issues.

After the host Dr Stefan Kusterer (Warth & Klein Grant Thornton) had briefly welcomed the participants, Joschka Fischer began his speech. In his lecture of barely one hour he addressed Germany's current situation and prospects under European and foreign policy aspects. Initially he looked back to the history of Germany and then turned to address present political and economic events such as, for instance, the Brexit, the difficult geopolitical environment in Europe, the current relations with the United States and the great importance of technologies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This made him come to the conclusion that European sovereignty was of tremendous significance as "Germany stands and falls with a strong Europe".

The exciting, entertaining and inspiring lecture by Joschka Fischer was followed by an extensive round of questions. Joschka Fischer first addressed the questions by the hosts Dr Dirk Tuttlies (BEITEN BURKHARDT) and Kathrin Reitner (Warth & Klein Grant Thornton) and then answered numerous questions from the audience. He closed the round of questions by saying "Europe is our future. Europe is our destiny!" After that, Dr Axel Goetz (BEITEN BURKHARDT) invited the guests to a get-together so that everyone could enjoy the rest of the evening with culinary delicacies and networking in a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere.

**About the Speakers and the Hosts**

*Joschka Fischer* is one of the best known German politicians. The former Vize Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany (1998 - 2005) led the Green Party for the first time to a participation in government at both state (Hesse) and also federal level. From 2006 to 2007 Joschka Fischer was a guest professor at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University (USA). He is founding shareholder of Joschka Fischer & Company GmbH which renders advisory services to companies with regard to the framework conditions of international markets, future challenges facing politics and society as well as opportunities for sustainable growth.

*Dr. Stefan Kusterer* is Partner at Warth & Klein Grant Thornton AG in Munich. He particularly focuses on tax planning and structuring of mid-sized companies and corporate groups.

*Dr Axel Goetz* is Partner at BEITEN BURKHARDT in Munich and member of the Corporate / M&A practice group. His main areas of activity comprise M&A and private equity transactions as well as providing legal advice on corporate law issues (restructuring), advice and representation in special corporate law disputes and the management of general meetings.

**About the Business Talk**

The Business Talk celebrated its premiere in 2007. With annually changing topics and speakers, the Business Talk has become a traditional event in Munich. The overall focus of the event is on the lecture of a high-profile guest speaker and the evening is rounded off by an entertaining, yet informative round of discussion. The Business Talk event at Hotel Bayerischer Hof provides entrepreneurs and businessmen with a perfect platform for sharing information, exchanging personal experiences and networking once a year. For further information see <http://www.business-talk-muenchen.de/>.

## **CONTACT**

### **Dr. Stefan Kusterer (Warth & Klein Grant Thornton)**

Phone: +49 89 36849-4250

E-mail: [Stefan.Kusterer@wkg.com](mailto:Stefan.Kusterer@wkg.com)

### **Dr. Axel Goetz (BEITEN BURKHARDT)**

Phone: +49 89 35065-1303

E-mail: [Axel.Goetz@bblaw.com](mailto:Axel.Goetz@bblaw.com)

### **Information on Warth & Klein Grant Thornton**

- Warth & Klein Grant Thornton is one of the leading independently owned and partner-managed accounting firms in Germany with more than 950 employees working in ten locations. The firm provides assurance, tax, corporate and private finance advisory services. Warth & Klein Grant Thornton supports companies from nearly all industries as well as wealthy private clients in Germany.

### **Information on BEITEN BURKHARDT**

- BEITEN BURKHARDT is an independent international law firm with a focused range of services and more than 290 lawyers working in nine locations.
- Through our long-established offices in Germany, Brussels, China and Russia we advise large and mid-sized companies and corporate groups from various industries, as well as banks and financial institutions and the public sector.