

Opening Speech | 14. Aviation Forum, November 26, Munich

## “Reliable Aviation in Unreliable Political Times”



Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues, Friends,

It is an honor to address such a **distinguished group** of aviation professionals.

While you bring **years of experience** to this forum, I stand before you with a career so far in the metals and energy industry – and **now: 57 days in the aviation sector**. These **first 57 days** I spent meeting already **many** of you – having **listened, asked, and got involved**. What **I** am striving for, is to make the **best possible use** of my **past** experiences for what is **needed** in the aviation sector.

And that is – to my understanding:

- a) A whole **lot**.
- b) **Massively** important – not only for us in the sector itself.  
But for **all of us** as **society**.  
For our **stability, wealth, growth**.

**Our** great task is obviously to manage the **ramp up**. With my **personal** experience in advocacy let me take the time here to point out, which **POLITICAL** conditions we will need to make it happen.

As **YOU** all know: **AVIATION** – that is all in one:

- Enabling **business**.
- Connecting **people**.
- Providing **innovative products** – society would **never** want to miss anymore once they are introduced.
- And **AVIATION** is very successfully providing **prosperity** and **jobs**.

All these factors are **ESSENTIAL** to ensure stability and **peace**.

Luckily, our most recent **numbers** tell a striking **story**. Looking only at Germany:

Our industry employs **more people than ever**, and **revenue is up**. After the terrible Covid crisis we are today **even stronger** than before. And yet:

**All is not well**.

I identify **two main challenges** to aviation today:

- a) **The headwinds of geopolitics** in combination with German and European **industrial policy**.
- b) The **ongoing challenge of climate transformation**.

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Let us have a closer look: Resulting from...

- the **re-election** of Donald Trump as U.S. president,
- from ongoing **wars** in Europe and its neighborhood,
- and with **no end** in sight regarding European **over-regulation**...

this **impressive** sector – which is of such **vital** importance for Europe’s well-being - is facing **huge** challenges:

- A **severe** risk of **increasing** trade conflicts.
- **Ongoing** stress to our supply chain.

**You** of all people **know best, how** crucial our industry is to economic success, for generating **jobs** and **wealth**, and for producing **dual-use** technologies - **essential** for our **sovereignty** and ability to **defend** ourselves if needed. So, obviously, **all** these threats & challenges **must be mitigated** with full force.

Especially in these politically turbulent times, we **must ensure** that our industry remains a **priority for policymakers**.

After all: **WE** are the **ONE** high-tech industry left in Germany and Europe that is **really performing**. In contrast to others, **WE** have an excellent **prospect of further growth**. That is a truly **advantageous position!** It may not be put at risk.

But that **requires a fundamental change** in German and EU-industrial policies. **Regulatory burdens** such as CBAM, EU Taxonomy, the Deforestation Regulation, CSDDD or PFAS Regulation – to name just a few - **must ended**.

And **Germany in particular MUST effectively** address home-made challenges such as

- the **unbearably high** energy costs,
- the **rotten** German infrastructure,
- and the **totally underdeveloped** digitalization.

Coming to our **SECOND** key challenge: **climate transformation**.

Our role in combating climate change **WHILE enabling** more and more people to fly – is **crucial**. Thanks to the exceptional **technological** and **engineering** competences of you all – we will be able to do so.

That is – however again – only if the **political and budget frameworks** will be the **right** ones.

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Continued support for research and infrastructure development is essential to **make decarbonized aviation a reality**. BDLI is actively advocating for the corresponding **budgets on German and European level**. Because by the end of the decade, we need to achieve technological maturity for the **next generation aircraft**. “By the end of the decade” means we have **no** time to lose.

And just one word on SAF: It is crystal-clear that carbon-neutral flying will be **impossible to achieve without** the wide-spread application of **SAF**.

Hence, we at BDLI are intensely advocating for ensuring a sufficient production of power-to-Liquid SAF in Europe. Just a **side note** on politics here: Introducing EU-**quotas while not** having a **proper production** in place does not really make sense.

To end with a positive outlook: Independently from political surroundings, we on the **industrial** side have been stepping up to **our** share of responsibility with GIFAS, ADS and BDLI getting **AeroExcellence International** started today.

Our three associations have jointly developed a new and universal **standard for operational excellence**. This initiative strives for improve **improving supply-chain stability** in Europe and globally. AeroExcellence is to support the aerospace industry’s ramp up — and is bound to become a **global** standard.

Dear **international partners**, please have a closer look at what we are getting started here: It is a **global endeavor** with **mutual** benefits for us all.

Dear **Frédéric Parisot**, dear **Kevin Craven** – dear **teams** at BDLI, GIFAS and ADS: Thank you **VERY** much for the **intense** effort in preparing. I **know** it has been a **huge** piece of work. I feel **honored** to be among you and get it going today!

Ladies and gentlemen, **our** industry faces **significant** challenges. But with **good** advocacy, **strategic** investments, and **strong** cooperation, we can continue to lead in innovation and sustainability.

Let us work together to ensure that **aviation remains a cornerstone of economic success** and a **leader in climate action**.

Thank you.

**Marie-Christine von Hahn (Principal Managing Director)**