

Sehr geehrte Frau Bundesministerin Professor Wanka,

Sehr geehrter Herr Ministerpräsident Albig,

Sehr geehrter Herr Oberbürgermeister Dr. Kämpfer,

Exzellenzen,

Sehr geehrte Nationaldelegierte,

Meine Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

Zuerst möchte ich meinen Dank für die Verleihung des diesjährigen Deutschen Meerespreises zum Ausdruck bringen. Mit diesem renommierten Preis ausgezeichnet zu werden, ist mir wahrlich eine große Ehre.

I am very pleased to accept this award as encouragement both for myself and the CIESM to pursue the fight for marine exploration and research, in the hope of better protecting our increasingly beleaguered global Oceans. I am proud as well that this award is a reflection of the Principality of Monaco's strong and enduring commitment towards the advancement of science and public awareness of our seas which has existed ever since the early oceanographic campaigns of my ancestor Prince Albert 1st.

My great-great grandfather was a visionary who, back in 1910, promoted the creation of the Mediterranean Science Commission, after taking the advice of some leading oceanographers of his time including from some here in Kiel. More than one hundred years later, we are assembled here, in one of Germany's most ancient and renowned universities, for the inauguration of the 41st CIESM Congress. As elected President of the Commission, it is not without emotion, as you can imagine, that I follow in his footsteps to Kiel, 'the sailing city' which he visited many times and which today is synonymous with some of the best marine research carried out in Europe.

I have visited Germany on many occasions in recent years, travelling to Berlin, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Munich, Bonn, Stuttgart, Sylt, or more recently Gotha following the path of my distant ancestors. During my visits to your country, and through exchanges with President Joachim Gauck, federal Ministers, decision-makers in the Länder, industry leaders and with NGOs, I have always been particularly aware of the fundamental importance that

you attach to the defence of the environment. It is not surprising that your country enshrined environmental protection in its basic law as early as 1994.

Chancellor Angela Merkel is also one of the world leaders - maybe the only one - to hold a doctorate in science.

A general trust in science is another marker of your nation. We can certainly count on Germany to keep up the fight against global warming!

While this visit is my first to Kiel, my ancestor Prince Albert came here many times... eleven times in fact between 1898 and 1914 during the regatta season ... and always at the express invitation of Kaiser Wilhelm II with whom he shared a friendly relationship. This mutual trust allowed my ancestor, who was a keen pacifist, to act in those times of conflict as a 'go-between' between Germany and France, trying to calm the growing tensions which existed between these two nations in those days.

To this end, Prince Albert often invited key political figures from France to Kiel to accompany him on his yacht. A sort of 'regatta diplomacy' would take place here, with receptions on the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern* or on visiting foreign ships which allowed discussions of the tense geopolitical situation in the far East, the Balkans, or the Transvaal. For example, in 1905, thanks to his good relationship with the Kaiser and with Paris, Prince Albert was able to promote a peaceful solution to the crisis in Morocco between Germany and France. Nine more years of peace followed. And on 28th June 1914, the Prince was on board the imperial sailboat *Meteor* when the Kaiser learned of the double murder in Sarajevo, prelude to the First World War...

There are notable historical links on the scientific side as well. In 1897, on his very first visit to Kiel harbour, Prince Albert greeted Wilhelm II on his new ship *Princesse Alice* and proudly showed him the scientific laboratory and oceanographic equipment. The Kaiser agreed to join the Prince's campaign in the Lofoten archipelago the following summer. A planktonologist from Kiel, Karl Brandt, took part in the Prince's 1898 expedition all the way to Svalbard.

Around that period, Professor Otto Krümmel, the new rector of Christian-Albrechts University, and future author of classic books on oceanography, engaged in regular scientific correspondence with Prince Albert.

In 1910, on the occasion of the inauguration of our Oceanographic Museum, the Prince invited Otto Krümmel to Monaco together with several international marine scientists for a strategic meeting which is now remembered as the founding meeting of our Mediterranean Commission. It is a small world indeed.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We now return to the present. This is the first time that our Commission holds its Congress in Germany at the kind invitation of the Federal Government. This was made possible through the generous support of the Schleswig-Holstein province, the city of Kiel, of GEOMAR, of Christian Albrechts University, and much appreciated local sponsors. We thank you all very much for this.

Your country is a highly valued Member of CIESM which it joined in 1969. You can certainly view our presence here as a long-deserved tribute to the outstanding contributions Germany has made to oceanography, including in the Mediterranean. On your next visit to the Principality, please look closely at the facade of the Oceanographic Museum, and you will see the names of research vessels that marked the dawn of oceanography in the second half of the 19th century engraved in stone. Prominent among them are the names of German ships, like the *Gazelle* that circumnavigated the earth in 1874, or the *Valdivia* which sailed to the Antarctic in 1898 for the first ever German deep-sea expedition

One hundred years later, Germany is still at the forefront of exploration of the world's oceans. You have internationally renowned marine institutions - AWI, GEOMAR, the Max Plank Institute, competitive university centres like MARUM - and you maintain a modern and diverse research fleet that undertakes year-round expeditions under all latitudes, from the Arctic to the Antarctic Ocean. Today Kiel is the home port for a number of open-ocean research vessels. It is also here, on the site of GEOMAR, that advanced technology,

submersible vehicles and instruments for deep-sea exploration are being developed. I will take great pleasure in visiting these installations in a few days' time.

Dear friends,

We are well aware that we meet in a land which saw the birth of many scientific giants, including Alexander von Humboldt who gave his name to a major Pacific current, or Alfred Wegener who lost his life too early to see his theory of continental drift triumph thanks to evidence from the deep-sea ... without forgetting the names of pioneers like the zoologist Anton Dohrn who founded the first Mediterranean marine station in 1874 in Naples, the oceanographer Gerhard Schott or, closer to us here, Gunther Dietrich who was a professor at the University of Kiel, where he founded the Institut für Meereskunde the leading German Institute of its time in multi-disciplinary marine research and education.

I am therefore very pleased to declare officially open, here in Germany, and especially here in Kiel, the 41st International CIESM Congress. I wish you all a most productive **and successful** week.