

Press Conference, Capital Markets Conference on Energy
Transition
for Germany 9 July 2024 / Statement by Stefan Wintels

- The spoken word prevails -

5 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to welcome you to this press conference.

As Verena Köttker just announced, in approximately one hour KfW's first investor conference will begin here on KfW's premises – under the patronage of Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Dr Robert Habeck and with the support of Deutsche Bank.

I am particularly pleased to have State Secretary Dr Philipp Nimmermann from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and Christian Sewing, the CEO of Deutsche Bank at my side. The cooperation leading up to this conference was very positive. Not only was this partnership efficient and based on trust, but, in a very short amount of time, we managed to set up a platform that – as I understand – did not exist in Germany up to now.

I have to admit – we were overwhelmed by the interest shown in this conference from home and abroad.

20 Today, more than 150 participants came together at KfW in Frankfurt - representatives of wealth and infrastructure funds, pension funds, insurance companies, banks and corporates, as well as from utilities, associations, science and political decision-makers.

In addition to one-to-one sessions and workshops, the CEOs of Allianz, Entega, 50Hertz and Uniper will speak at the conference today alongside Federal Minister Dr Robert Habeck.

25 And I am especially pleased that you have also decided to be here today!

What exactly is the conference about?

30 Our aim is to bring together capital demand and capital offer so that, first of all, the energy infrastructure in Germany can be upgraded in a climate-friendly and affordable manner.

KfW, in cooperation with Deutsche Bank, is providing the platform to connect decision-makers who are playing a key role in shaping and financing the energy transition in Germany.

35 Modernising the energy supply is currently certainly one of the most profound and challenging projects in our country.

40 With this conference, we want to contribute to the public debate. Often the risks of this transformation are in the focus. But, in fact, this process is also a fantastic opportunity, not only for Germany's future viability, but for national and international investors. Germany is already an attractive investment case today - even if there is still a lot to do. Above all, we need to strengthen private and public investment.

This is why it is both sensible and important that so many high-profile decision-makers are coming together at this investor conference today.

45 Let me use three points to explain why I believe Germany is already today an interesting place for investment:

50 1. The demand for renewable energies and innovative energy solutions is growing steadily. Germany has a growing, yet unsaturated market, making it highly attractive. This offers opportunities, in particular also for our export-oriented economy. Additional positive factors are our legal system, our infrastructure – which needs to be modernised but is still very good in international comparison – and last, but not least, the political framework conditions that are currently created in order to accelerate the expansion of the hydrogen network, of the transmission networks, and also of
55 controllable power plants.

2. Consent among the population remains high. The KfW Energy Transition Barometer shows the high level of public acceptance regarding the energy transition, with around nine out of ten

60 households in Germany considering it to be important or very important. At 92%, even more people in Germany are in favour of the more rapid expansion of renewable energies.

3. Generally, we are heading in the right direction. In the first half of this year, nearly 60% (58.4%) of the electricity generated in Germany came from renewable sources, which is a record. (Source: Destatis))

65 Ladies and gentlemen,

What investors need and expect above all are reliable framework conditions and an attractive risk-return profile. If these conditions are met, then the German energy transition is highly attractive for international investors.

Christian Sewing will have more to say about this shortly.

70 I'd just like to emphasise once more:

Germany can become largely climate-neutral by investing in state-of-the-art infrastructure and technologies. This will also prevent industry from relocating abroad and therefore protect jobs. The huge interest in the event today demonstrates that this is possible.

75 The great interest shown in today's event – especially from abroad – is both encouraging and confirming.

I would like to thank you, dear Dr Philipp Nimmermann, and you, dear Mr Christian Sewing, for your support and our excellent cooperation during the last months.

80 I am convinced that with this conference, we are providing an important impetus for creating the most climate-neutral and sustainable competitive energy supply possible in Germany.