

**Letter of Candidature for
President of the Chamber of Local
Authorities**

Dr. Bernd Vöhringer, EPP, Germany



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues and friends.

Maintaining and strengthening democracy, defending and implementing human rights and guaranteeing the rule of law at the local level have been at the core of my political work in the Congress for more than ten years. Guided by the ideal of a strong Europe, based on our common values and the principle of subsidiarity, I had the privilege to serve as the President of the Chamber of Local Authorities in the past term.

Together, we have achieved a lot in the past years. Coming out of a pandemic, that not only impacted the work of the Congress but showed us the tremendous importance of the local level, we addressed many relevant topics, such as:

- Mayors under pressure and the threats and hate speech against local politicians;
- Youth participation and the input of young elected politicians;
- The new Urban Charta, a revised body of common principles and concepts that enables towns and cities to meet the current challenges of urban societies.

Sadly, the brutal war against Ukraine dominated our work in the Chamber. With the establishment of the Cities4Cities Platform, the Congress, in cooperation with the City of Sindelfingen, acted swiftly and demonstrated how solidarity between Ukrainian and other European local authorities can look like. Cities are at the forefront of increasing challenges for the citizens and their communities. The summit in Reykjavik confirmed this by recognising the crucial role of local and regional authorities in defending democracy, strengthening and monitoring human rights and the rule of law at the local level.

With this letter, I wish to apply for the position of the President of the Chamber of Local Authorities. Together with all members of the Local Chamber, I am committed to implementing the Reykjavik decisions and to promote the crucial role of the local level in addressing the challenges outlined in the summit declaration.

It is my vision for the coming years to better equip local representatives with the tools needed to address the horrible war and its consequences for the cities, climate change, social injustice, pressure on local representatives, human rights violation, democratic backsliding

and many more. Change can only happen when citizens are involved and where politics is closed to its people. In collaboration with our partners in the European Union, the UN, Academia, and the civil society, I will work diligently to put the needs and challenges of the local level high on the agenda. As President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, I will underline the important work of the Congress in protecting the principles enshrined in the European Charter of Local Self-Government and show that we, the representatives of the local level, can significantly contribute to the new priorities of the Congress, such as the new Human Rights Strategy, the empowerment of the youth and the continued solidarity with our friends and partners in Ukraine.

Background:

Throughout my professional career, I have consistently worked to promote the rights of local authorities in Germany and Europe, both in my capacity as Lord Mayor of the medium-sized city of Sindelfingen as well as in my roles as President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, President of the EPP and Head of the German delegation to the Congress. Since 1999, I am a member of the CDU (Conservative Party of Germany). As a member of the City Council of Sindelfingen between 1994 and 2000, I gained valuable insights into the organization and working structure of a city. After some years in the professional world, I followed my passion for local politics and was elected Lord Mayor of Sindelfingen in 2001 and the honor of being reelected in 2009 and 2017.

Personal Motivation

With a firm belief in the power of local self-governance and a close dialog and collaboration between colleagues from all over the 46 Member States, I am highly motivated to continue the work as President of the Chamber of Local Authorities. Together with the President, the Vice-Presidents, other Bureau Members and colleagues, I will work hard to put the most relevant challenges for local authorities on top of our agenda. During my political career, I was always guided by the principle of transparency, the rule of law and an open and constructive dialog. Representing our cities and countries in this historical forum commits us to work in the interest of all.

It would be an honor for me to use my skills, experience and network for the benefit of the Chamber of Local Authorities and I thank you for your trust and support.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bernd Vöhringer

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Bernd Vöhringer

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EDUCATION

1998 – 2003 PhD Degree
Business Information Technology Department at the University of Hohenheim,
Germany
PhD thesis:
*"Information and Communication Technologies - Support for the Local
Government Management under New Public Management"*

1990 – 1996 Master of Science in Economics
University of Hohenheim, Germany
Master Thesis:
*"Supporting the work of Local Authorities through Information- and
Communication Technologies"*

1987 – 1989 High School Diploma, Stuttgart

1982 - 1987 Vocational Training as Industrial Clerk at IBM Deutschland GmbH in
cooperation with the Commercial College of Boeblingen

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Since 2001 **Lord Mayor of the City of Sindelfingen, Germany**

2000 – 2001 Management Consultant at Droege & Comp. AG, Munich

1996 – 2000 Academic Researcher and PhD student at the Business Information
Technology Department, University of Hohenheim

1996 – 1998 Product Manager, Hewlett Packard, Boeblingen (Part-time)

1994 – 1996 Marketing Assistant, Hewlett-Packard, Boeblingen (Part-time)

1992 – 1993 Research Assistant at the Business Information Technology Department,
University of Hohenheim

1991 – 1992 Traineeship at the IBM Finance Office, Stuttgart

1987 – 1991 Contractor for IBM Germany GmbH

1987 – 1987 Staff Member, Professional Training Department of IBM Germany GmbH,
Boeblingen

MILITARY SERVICE

1989 – 1990 Basic military service at the Franco-German Brigade in Boeblingen

OTHER POSITIONS

Member of the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities

Member of the Main Committee of the Association of German Cities

Member of the County Council of the District of Boeblingen

Member of the Advisory Board of the Local Saving Bank

Vice-President Red Cross and active volunteer Paramedic, District Association Boeblingen