

Crypto Valley Conference, 20./21. June 2018, Zug

We need your value propositions!

Welcome by Matthias Michel, Member of Government of the Canton of Zug

Dear Minister of Economy, Johann Schneider-Ammann

Dear Organizers

Ladies and Gentlemen

From my side, a warm welcome on behalf of the Government of our Canton of Zug, the heart of Crypto Valley.

I'm fascinated, how dynamic the evolution in Blockchain has been the last years, and how quick a small nation like Switzerland, and a small region like Zug and Zurich can get a center for research and applications of this new technology.

I must admit: for politicians, this dynamic is quite a challenge. We are used to develop our projects and lawmaking in a slower way. But we have learnt. The first step was and is to recognize the potential of blockchain. Therefore, under the patronage of Minister Schneider-Ammann and his colleague Minister Ueli Maurer, both members of the Swiss Government, we started a Taskforce and published a White paper. In a quick, unformal and dynamic way. Already this step shows, that Switzerland takes new technology as serious and the importance of the corresponding ecosystem. And we as politicians realize its enormous potential.

And then, our authorities and administration in the Crypto Valley are eager to know the functioning of Blockchain, we are open to learn and discuss, we are welcoming innovations and start-ups and we try to help to find ways, how to integrate new technologies and industries into our legal framework.

I think, this attitude is the first door opener. And then, there are two other main elements:

We have a long tradition of our economic policy: We don't foster special industries. But we shape good and excellent overall conditions and we work on key location factors as: low and stable taxes, good infrastructure, good schools, a higher vocational training system and universities; I would like to highlight the Institute for Financial Services and the Lucerne School of Information Technology (both located in the Canton of Zug). I

am often asked by journalist around the globe: Please, show and explain us the Governments Strategy and milestones in Blockchain policy. My answer: There is none...

Of course, that's a provoking statement. But it's true. And its meaning is: We don't have special industry-policies and plans to develop certain sectors or industries. But of course we have and live the mentioned approach of an excellent framework. And we invest in the human factor: Open authorities, service-oriented administration. And we are used to collaborate with the industry. Now with you.

The third element is collaboration: Innovations are driven by collaboration. We are used to work together with companies, associations (like Crypto Valley Association) and with universities. The best example is the mentioned Taskforce Blockchain: This was and still is a strong collaboration between representatives of companies (banks, Blockchain industry, lawyers), of universities and of authorities. So brains and personalities of three levels were working together: the economic, the scientific and the political level. I would call this the swiss way of working.

Still now, I have attended several Blockchain conferences and summits. This one is of great importance, as it shows a lot of applications of this technology. The blockchain has contributed to much more than just the creation of digital currencies. More importantly, the technology opens vistas on a future in which the whole basis of change and trade are entirely rethought. It has the potential to serve as an everyday technology.

Two month ago, we had a discussion in our Parliament about applications, opportunities and risks of Blockchain technology. And the main consensus was: quite some scepticism about the digital currencies. But a lot of trust, expectations and perspectives for the technology and its hundreds of applications. For the Zug Government, Crypto Valley stands for the technology in all its applications. So, you can show us your cases and applications - we need your value propositions! And therefore, you have the chance to strengthen the trust of politicians and the public.

