

Impact Summit 2017, 30./31. October 2017 in Zug, "Faith in Finance"

Zug is a good place to meet

(Diner Speech of Matthias Michel, Member of Government)

Dear representatives of the UN, esp. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary General

Dear representatives of SIIA and ARC

Dear Guests

As member of the Government of the Canton of Zug I feel honored to welcome you on behalf of Zug's Government and to co-host this evening. I feel honored in the presence of women and men like you, facing the world's challenges and fighting for a better world. Therefore, our overall guidelines are the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. By adopting the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland - with other states - declared its willingness to join forces to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And by spring 2018 Switzerland will identify the areas in which there is a particular need for action, the priorities that should be set, and how implementation work might be coordinated.

Therefore, the timing is perfect: It is more than a happy coincidence, it is a deliberate decision and will of the organizers of this Summit, to bring together investors, impact investors, and faith based organisations in the spirit of SDG. Congratulations!

And I think, Zug is a good place for getting together, for sharing common goals and interests:

- Zug is Switzerland in miniature, sharing its neutrality and Swiss qualities like security, political stability and trust.
- Zug is a smaller Zurich or better an active and important part of the metropolitan region and an economically strong region of Greater Zurich Area.
- Zug is the junior of Geneva, being quite international with the openness to the world (I am glad to say, that the people of Zug voted yes to join the UN in March 2002 - and this with supporting votes above the Swiss average). Geneva, as we know, historically plays an important role as city of international organisations and the place to sign international conventions. From now on, Zug will be as well a place of protocols - the Zug Declaration and the Zug Guidelines.
- And Zug is Zug: The name "Zug" comes from the German verb "ziehen"; situated near a lake, "ziehen", means to pull in the fishing nets. So, I hope, that you after this two days, could pull in a lot of ideas, experiences and new contacts. And more: "Zug" is a synonym for the english word "train". As a Swiss train stands for a fast and reliable mean of transportation, Zug stands for a very dynamic region with reliable persons in charge in Government and administration.

Not only, is Zug a good place for you. But vice-versa: You, your presence, your activities and the signing of the Zug Guidelines will have an impact on Zug, I hope. As Zug has known an outstanding growth and dynamic economic boom in the last three decades, linked with a strong immigration from people from all over the world, we must care for the social coherency and common values. Therefore, your values can help us not only to be an economically successful region, but also to create a sustainable future.

Therefore, I want to thank you for your presence and for your impact on Zug and on the world. The Spirit of Zug may create a better world for our children and their children! Please, feel always welcomed here in Zug.