

## A message from the Federal Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser to the General Police Equipment Exhibition & Conference (GPEC®)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Russia's military assault on Ukraine has changed the security situation in Europe. In light of the war of aggression in Ukraine, Germany needs a platform for security and protection to encourage dialogue between federal and state police forces, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, fire brigades, civil protection and disaster management authorities and many other organisations responsible for public safety, as well as the suppliers of equipment and components.

The 2022 General Police Equipment Exhibition & Conference (GPEC®) in Frankfurt once again provides an opportunity to meet directly with suppliers and to share ideas by participating in the wide range of conferences and workshops, all in the effective format that we are familiar with from previous years. The GPEC® has proven to be an excellent trade fair for specialists since 2000, providing a platform for representatives of public authorities that are tasked with maintaining public security and order.

Germany and Europe are currently faced with many new challenges in the areas of public security, digital transformation, protection against cyber attacks, border management, migration and climate change.

As well as the complex demands on professional custom-made equipment and protective gear, procurement today places particular importance on sustainability and climate protection, and this is also expected by the industry and suppliers.

Federal and state police forces, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, fire brigades, civil protection and disaster management authorities and many other organisations responsible for public safety are exposed to increasing violence in their everyday work and to the dangers of terrorist attacks. The tragic incident that took place in the police headquarters of Western Palatinate earlier this year, in which two young police officers were killed, is a sad example of this. The protests against the COVID-19 pandemic measures across Germany have presented state and federal police forces with particular challenges, and in some cases pushed them to their limits in terms of personnel. In the area of civil protection, the main challenge at present is ensuring fast and direct humanitarian aid for Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees in Germany.

This means that strategies, training, and control and operational equipment in particular need to be continuously adapted. The GPEC® has proven to be an effective platform in this regard, and this year is no exception.

I am therefore delighted to serve as patron of the 12<sup>th</sup> GPEC® in Frankfurt.

The programme provides an extensive overview of the diverse tasks and challenges in the field of internal security. I would especially like to point out the conferences and workshops on "Weapons and protective equipment by the Police Technology Institute at the German Police University", "Digitalisation of the police – opportunities and risks", "Drones (UAS) for authorities and organisations with security tasks – with a drone flight zone for outdoor demonstrations", "Automotive IT, including motor vehicle forensics", "Video intelligence" and "Access protection, protection of critical infrastructures, events and urban areas". [Some of these events will be partly in English.] I would like to express my warmest thanks to the organiser EMW, to Messe Frankfurt and to the German Police University.

I hope all participants of the 2022 GPEC® make the most of this opportunity to have many interesting discussions and gain new insights into user-specific products.

**Nancy Faeser**  
Federal Minister of the Interior and Community



Photo: BMI, Peter Jülich

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