

Stadtpräsidentin Swetlana Krätzschar

03. September 2014

**International conference “sustainable biomass in the context of
100% renewable energy supply”**

Dear **attendants** and **hosts** of the international conference “Sustainable Biomass”,

As Leader of the Flensburg City Council and on behalf of **Simon Faber**, lord mayor of Flensburg, I welcome you at Flensburg’s town hall. Unfortunately our lord mayor became ill. And just three hours ago I was told to step in.

My name is **Swetlana Kraetzschmar**. I assume that you may have noticed from my accent and from my forename, that I didn’t grow up in **Germany**. That is definitely correct. I was born and raised in the **Ukraine**, a state which by then was part of the former **Soviet Union**.

It is good that your conference takes place here, in Flensburg, where climate issues are paramount.

In Flensburg, we all agree that our city **is** and **shall** remain a residence for people that may expect an above average living quality.

And that is one of the reasons why several enterprises, private and public institutions have taken an important step by establishing the “**Flensburg Climate Pact Association**”.

The “**Stadtwerke Flensburg**” is our municipal energy supplier. They supply nearly ninety-eight (98) percent of all households in Flensburg with district heating and electricity. Both mainly come from a combined heat and power station.

At the end of next year, the “**Stadtwerke Flensburg**” will start to substitute two of their old coal-operated boilers by a new gas and steam power station with combined heat and power production. This also might function as a biogas plant. This exchange will lead to the reduction of the CO₂-emission by 40 percent.

Dear attendants,

I hope that you will have the opportunity to explore Flensburg, the centre of the German-Danish border region.

Flensburg was firstly recorded in **twelve hundred eighty four** (1284). It is the most northern town in Germany. Although most of its inhabitants have always been German, Flensburg was under **Danish rule** for several hundred years. Today, about 20 percent of our people are Danish minded. On the other side of this border there is a minority too – a **German minority**. This year we marked the **one hundred and fiftieth** (150) anniversary of the battle of Dybbol – not far away from Flensburg.

The historical centre of Flensburg is mainly preserved. We have museums and theatres. The most popular sport in Flensburg is handball. Our male handball team is playing in the highest German league. This year we have won the European Champions League. In the summer, thousands of tourists spend their holidays at the shores of the Baltic Sea. The Northern Sea is just 40 kilometres away.

Well, if your densely packed agenda does not leave enough time to enjoy Flensburg I strongly recommend: Come back and visit us another time.

I promise you will enjoy Flensburg!

But for now, I wish you a pleasant stay, an inspiring conference and many good results.

Thank you!