



**Empfang des deutschen Botschafters in den Niederlanden anlässlich der Invictus Games in Den Haag am 21. April 2022 um 17.45 Uhr, Residenz des deutschen Botschafters**

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

[Anreden]

It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity today to address you, as the Mayor of the City of Düsseldorf, the host city for the next Invictus Games.

The Invictus Games in Düsseldorf will take place next year already. The framework conditions for the sporting highlight have been established:

The decision to host the event in Düsseldorf was carried by a large majority of the city council. The preparations are well underway already.

We in Düsseldorf are very proud to host the Invictus Games in 2023, and we are looking forward to organising this event together with the Bundeswehr; an event that will make a lasting impression on the competitors, on their families and friends, and on all guests.

The state capital will be a good host to the Invictus Games family.

The war in Ukraine is currently overshadowing our lives. We are following the pictures of war with concern. We see the suffering of the people there and we feel the fears of those who come to us as refugees. They have our sympathy, and in Düsseldorf they experience great solidarity, a willingness to help and a warm welcome.

This warmth of heart is typical of the state capital. In this spirit, we will extend a warm welcome to the Invictus Games family

Düsseldorf is a very international place. The people living in our city, the citizens of Düsseldorf, are cosmopolitan and very sociable; they come from all over the world, they approach others without fear of contact, and they know how to enjoy life to the full.

Our event professionals of D.LIVE and D.Sports have organized very many top class sporting events and shows – from the Grand Départ of the Tour de France to the World Table Tennis Championships. They will bring all their knowledge and experience in this event to ensure that they, together with the Bundeswehr, can make the Invictus Games in Düsseldorf a wonderful experience for everyone.

Düsseldorf's claim 2023 'A Home For Respect' is both: a benchmark and a commitment for us. We will have the opportunity to show respect and appreciation to the soldiers who defend our democracy and our social order risking their lives and their health.

We want to provide 'A Home For Respect' for the participants of the Invictus Games, their families and friends, and for all visitors.

The Games here in The Hague are a great event. My appreciation for the professional organization and my thanks for the warm hospitality go to everyone involved in the organization.

The Invictus spirit flowing through the city is unique and inspiring. We will take these impressions back with us to Düsseldorf. We look forward with great excitement to September next year. The anticipation is rising.

Together with the citizens of the Sports City of Düsseldorf, I am already very much looking forward to your visit to the Invictus Games in September 2023!