Speech by Mayor Jürgen Roters at the opening of CARBON EXPO 2010 on 26th May 2010 (10 a.m., Koelnmesse, Congress Centre East, 4th floor)

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

Minister Röttgen,
Mr. de Boer,
Mr. Evans,
Mr. Derwent,
ladies and gentlemen,

As the Mayor of the City of Cologne and Chairman of the Koelnmesse Supervisory Board, I’m delighted to welcome you to the seventh CARBON EXPO – the world’s leading trade fair and congress for emissions trading and climate protection here in Cologne.

In December 2009 the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen concluded without a binding declaration by the international community of states. In view of this situation, the international congress at CARBON EXPO 2010 will be of particular importance. The key task now is to hold bilateral talks that will lay the essential groundwork for reaching an agreement at the next summit in Cancun, Mexico, later this year.

I would therefore like to especially thank the German federal government for its strong support of Carbon Expo 2010. The government is represented here today by the Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Your presence here, Minister Röttgen, underscores the great international importance of CARBON EXPO 2010.

The importance of this conference is also underlined by the presence of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr. Yvo de Boer. Thank you very much for your attendance.
Ladies and gentlemen,
For the next three days, the Cologne exhibition centre will serve as the setting for multilateral discussions, in which politicians and businesspeople will share their ideas on climate protection. CARBON EXPO attracts a great deal of international attention, which is why I would also like to thank the World Bank and the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) for working together with Koelnmesse to organize this customized global platform for the past seven years. I am delighted to welcome Mr. James Warren Evans, Director Environment Department at the World Bank, and Mr. Henry Derwent, President of the IETA, to Cologne.

We expect CARBON EXPO 2010 to attract around 230 exhibiting companies and approximately 3,000 visitors and conference participants from more than 100 countries. The trade fair will also feature a first-rate conference programme, with nine plenary sessions, 26 workshops and over 50 supporting events organized by exhibitors. Some 200 speakers from all areas of the emissions market will bring their expertise to Cologne from all over the world and provide visitors of CARBON EXPO with an in-depth overview of current market developments.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Cologne is world famous for its cultural and culinary diversity, its lively atmosphere and the hospitality and openness of its inhabitants. So if the extensive supporting programme of exhibitions and meetings in the next few days leaves you with some time to spare, don't pass up the opportunity to get to know our beautiful and friendly city for yourself.

To close, I would like to wish all of the exhibitors, conference participants and visitors of CARBON EXPO 2010 an interesting and successful event and a pleasant stay in Cologne.