



# 10 Years BICC



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Bonn International Center for Conversion  
Director: Peter J. Croll  
Publishing Management, Layout: Svenja Bends  
An der Elisabethkirche 25  
D-53113 Bonn  
Germany  
Phone +49-228-911960  
Fax +49-228-241215  
E-mail: [bicc@bicc.de](mailto:bicc@bicc.de)  
Internet: [www.bicc.de](http://www.bicc.de)  
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# 1994 - 2004

## 10 Years BICC

Speeches on the occasion of the festive celebration  
of BICC's 10th anniversary at the  
Haus der Geschichte in Bonn, 2 April 2004



BONN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CONVERSION

B · I · C · C



*Foreword by Sverre Lodgaard,  
Director of the Norwegian Institute of  
International Affairs (NUPI)*

When wars end, periods of opportunity follow. Then, societies have been so thoroughly shaken that the lessons of the past are rendered irrelevant. Policies are shaped all the more freshly and freely on the basis of current events. BICC grew out of such a period—the end of the Cold War. The Cold War had its epicenter in Europe. When it went away, the transformation challenge was most profound in this part of the world. It was logical, therefore, to establish a center for conversion studies in Central Europe. The Government of North Rhine-Westphalia seized the opportunity.

Starting in 1994, BICC soon became an institution of excellence. In an entrepreneurial spirit, a dedicated staff developed a productive, innovative research profile. By now, two evaluations have confirmed the quality of its research and the efficiency of its organization.

The “gründers” had worked at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI. The *SIPRI Yearbook* is a leading publication on security, armaments and disarmament. First published in 1996, BICC’s annual *conversion survey* soon won a similar status. A standard feature of the Survey is BICC’s conversion, disarmament, demilitarisation and demobilization index, combining four series of data: military expenditures; holdings of selected weapon systems; armed forces personnel; and employment in arms production.

Post-war periods of opportunity do not last long, however. In his memoirs—*Unvanquished. A UN-US saga*, Boutros Ghali identifies Dayton as the turning point, when the UN representative was demonstrably put aside. From the mid 1990s, big power relations became more strained again; reductions in world military expenditure grinded to a halt and then turned upwards; and consequently, in gross terms the



conversion agenda shrunk. The regional variations remain considerable, however. For BICC's expanding international profile, leading far beyond Europe, there is no lack of challenging tasks. It has been gratifying to follow BICC's cooperation with the United Nations: the Center has made substantial contributions to UN activities in several fields.

During the Balkan wars, it became clear that civilian casualties could not simply be treated in terms of collateral damage. Often, civilians were themselves the main targets. A distinction was therefore drawn between the security of states and the security of people. That distinction was taken further to become the concept of human security, where the individual is the unit of account. Today, BICC's mission statement emphasizes that the Center "seeks to combine concerns of national security in a narrow sense with those of human security in a broad sense".

To remain a leading institution in its field, there is a high price tag on pioneering work and on reports and advice that translate into practical utility. For all of BICC's activities are ultimately geared towards the promotion of societal objectives. In terms of its definition of conversion, the aim is to maximize the societal benefits that can be gained from civilianization of military processes, functions, structures and objects.

It is an honor to chair the International Advisory Board of this institution.



*Address of welcome to the guests  
by BICC's Director Peter J. Croll*

Mr President,  
State Secretary Stather,  
Minister Kraft,  
Mayoress Dieckmann of the Federal  
City of Bonn,  
Ladies and Gentlemen of the  
Diplomatic Corps,

State Secretary Krebs, Chairman of  
BICC's Supervisory Board,  
Mr Helmke, Chairman of BICC's  
International Board,


Ladies and Gentlemen,  
honored guests,  
esteemed colleagues,

Today is a great day for us, the Bonn International Center for Conversion. Not only because we are celebrating our birthday, but also because you have all found the time join us in our celebrations. As Director of BICC, I would like to welcome you. I am delighted that, despite your many other commitments, you are taking the time to celebrate BICC's tenth anniversary with us today. We see this as a clear indication of your esteem and this gives us the strength and the courage to face the future.

In particular, I would like to address my special thanks to you, Mr President. Twelve years ago at the UN Conference in Dortmund you spoke the following words on the topic of 'conversion': "Conversion—originally a concept devised by experts for experts—can possibly become a key watchword for the decade ..." It was at this conference that you, together with the then Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, laid the foundations for our Center. We are most grateful to you.

My thanks also go to Ms Anke Brunn. Since taking over as Director of BICC, I have heard a lot about your untiring efforts which, despite some opposition, finally led to the founding of BICC.

And, of course, I would like to thank my predecessor, Professor Wulf, as well as our research head and deputy director Michael Brzoska, and my colleagues for their services to BICC. I know that your path was often stony. I would like to take this opportunity once



more to thank you all for your exemplary dedication.

Without your personal commitment, Minister Kraft, and the staunch support of your staff, we would not be in the position to maintain and expand our reputation as a “global market leader”.

Mayoress Dieckmann, we bear the name of your city in the title of our center. It fills us with pride and pleasure that you have always supported us and that this year the Federal City of Bonn has even chosen us as its partner organization. My thanks go to you and your team.


Mr Stather, may I thank your Ministry in lieu of all the other partners who have accompanied us over the last ten years and with whom we enjoy close and trusting cooperation and with whom we also have lots of plans for the future

Mr President, unfortunately conversion did not become the watchword for the nineties to the extent for which we had hoped. Although these years were a

decade of disarmament, many crucial problems were not solved, particularly the problem of poverty in the world. At the beginning of the 21st century, humankind is seven times richer than at the end of the Second World War. But, at the same time, the number of people who have to manage with less than one US dollar a day is rising. New problems have gained importance. Let me mention international terrorism as just one example.

Mr President, you have recently returned from a trip to Africa. Nowhere else in this world are despair and war, anticipation and hope so close together. We are convinced that conversion in the traditional sense still retains its great significance in the 21st century.

Our central field of work at BICC is the reduction of military force, diminishing its means and ensuring the efficient civil use of the resources thus released. In the past, this has meant in particular supporting those players in



Germany, but also in Eastern Europe, who are active in adapting former military properties or diversifying arms production.

But, from the very beginning, BICC has also applied its expertise in other regions of the world, wherever we were needed: in other words, primarily in the conflict regions of this world. Fourteen years after the end of the Cold War, after a long decade of disarmament, tackling the effects of war has become one of our main areas of activity. We are thus providing our contribution to consolidating peace and preventing conflicts. In future, we want to extend this area of activity still further and to place the Center's work on three pillars: These are classical conversion, conflict prevention and peace consolidation.

The aim of BICC's analyses, counseling and practical projects is to provide a contribution to a more peaceful and just world in which all people can enjoy a high degree of security. Security in this context means both freedom from

bodily harm as well as having sufficient food and a secure economic existence. Here we see ourselves continuing in the tradition of Willy Brandt. He coined the term "securing survival". And we also see ourselves continuing in the tradition of the former member of our International Board, the late Mahbub ul-Haq, who invented the term "human security". We can and we intend to contribute to this in particular with our expertise.

As an international think tank, we can analyze, criticize, think ahead, anticipate, and warn. It is our task to "facilitate peace and development". We can develop theories and concepts, indicate alternatives and options, just as we have done, for example, with the topic of civil-military cooperation and controls on small arms.

In the course of yesterday and this morning we have discussed important topics for our work with many internationally renowned colleagues and have been able to learn a lot for our further work.



Whether decision-makers in politics, industry and society will actually take up these proposals, on which we also offer our advisory support, is a matter on which we have no direct influence.

Conversion ultimately is simply change, including a change in behavior, a change in mindset. This is more necessary than ever in view of today's warlike conflicts, "the new wars". Let me just remind you of the latest news from Kosovo.

More than ever before, we need intellectual conversion, a conversion which tackles ideological intolerance, in which force plays a lesser role and which distributes global wealth more equally.

Without well thought-out conversion there can be no security and without security there can be no sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention.



## *Speech by the Federal President, Johannes Rau*

The village of Moreshet is situated not far from Jerusalem, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Prophet Micah came from Moreshet. He is known for the words: “They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.”

“Swords into ploughshares”:

A sculpture depicting just this stands in front of the United Nations building in New York

“Swords into ploughshares”:

This was the motto of the peace movement in the GDR.

Today the GDR no longer exists, and the Iron Curtain is fortunately mere history. But what has happened to the swords and the ploughshares? The end of the East-West conflict made us all hope for a more peaceful world and for a peace dividend which would benefit people in all states.

During the first years of its existence in particular, the Bonn International Center for Conversion helped to enable many military resources to be used for civilian purposes. The establishment of the Center for Conversion was an expression of the will to reap the benefits of the peace dividend. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all the staff at BICC for everything that they have done within their powers. Through your personal commitment, your vision and creativity, you have been extremely successful in a completely new—and in those days virtually unresearched—area.

The nineties were a decade of disarmament. World-wide military expenditure fell by one-third from 1987 to 1996. The number of large-scale weapons systems dropped considerably. The number of soldiers fell sharply. The nineties also saw significant progress in arms control policy: Chemical weapons were outlawed in 1997, and anti-personnel mines have been outlawed since January 1, 1999.



All this can be read in the various treaties, and it is a good thing that many states have signed these treaties. But these agreements will only take effect in the future. In many cases, the present remains daunting and frightening.

My wife recently visited Cambodia as UNICEF patron. According to estimates by the United Nations, approximately ten million landmines still lie buried in this country: one landmine for every citizen. Every year, more than 5,000 Cambodians are killed or maimed by mines and other explosives. Cambodia is the country with the highest proportion of leg-amputees. Experts estimate that there have been 100,000 victims of landmines worldwide over the last five years.

It costs less than five Euro to produce a landmine. Its deactivation costs 1,000 Euro. Everyone who bears political responsibility anywhere in the world is familiar with these figures. Nevertheless, even large countries have not signed the treaty outlawing landmines to date.

Instead they are spending a lot of money on research into so-called “intelligent” mines.

Even today, nobody knows precisely which states are conducting research into chemical and biological weapons. It is almost impossible to detect such laboratories using conventional methods of arms control. Arms control and verification have not made the same progress as arms research. This is dangerous, and this is why I say: We need a new effort in the field of arms control and disarmament. We could continue from our positive experiences with START I, START II and with the CSE Treaty.

- But we need new and more efficient means to control arms and disarmament.
- We need organizations which are in a financial and technical position to fulfil this task efficiently and reliably.



- We need international arms control regimes which are strong and assertive.
- We need more effective controls on the international trade in weapons, including the trade in small arms.
- We need, at long last, a comprehensive and effective ban on landmines, a ban which is accepted world-wide, and
- we need a strengthening of international law.

September 11, 2001 was a turning point in world politics. We are all repeatedly reminded of the terrible pictures of that day. We were all joint witnesses of murderous violence such as the world has never seen outside of war.

The world has become less safe since September 11. Anyone who did not want to believe this was taught worse by the atrocious attacks in Madrid on March 11.

Many states have reacted to this loss of safety by increasing their military strength. Experts from the London research institute VERTIC say that, although there are fewer weapons today than ten years ago, the increase in the quality of today's weapons has in many cases more than made up for the reduction in quantity during the nineties. The plans for a space-based anti-missile system would seem to me to be evidence of the mistaken belief that security can be achieved by military means alone.

Nobody will seriously question the fact that establishing security is—and must—be one of any state's highest objectives. Nobody will question the fact that international terrorism is one of the greatest threats to world peace since the end of the East-West conflict. But as important as capable military power may be, anyone who relies on this alone and on more armaments is doomed to failure.



The CSCE process has taught us that confidence, arms control and disarmament are a more reliable basis for peace and for international security than rearmament and the arms race. Despite the real threat posed by international terrorism, we must take care to ensure that by overreacting we ourselves do not jeopardize what we are seeking to protect: our own freedom and our free order.


I am convinced that the current situation demands that we strengthen international cooperation in the field of peace and security. This involves close collaboration, not only where the use of military force appears unavoidable, but also where disarmament, arms control and, most important of all, conflict prevention are concerned.

Crises and conflicts are not solely the result of fanatical terrorists or militant states. We know that war leads to poverty, misery and hunger. But we also know that hunger, misery, injustice and lack of hope can lead to violence and war. We must employ political means to break this vicious circle.

We know that environmental destruction, disease and ever-scarcer natural resources are more and more frequently becoming the source of conflicts. Nowadays, many people assume that water shortage could become the principal cause of conflict throughout the world. Industrial countries in particular can, and must, contribute their know-how, their experience and also their money to preventing a global battle over “blue gold”.

It is encouraging that BICC is now also analyzing the causes of this conflict and is able to offer all the interested parties advice and active support.

We need the courage to speak unpleasant truths and we need a strong international community of states which is both capable of conducting a dialogue and able to act. Anyone who banks on armaments alone and neglects cooperation in the field of development runs the risk of exacerbating those conflicts which he really wanted to solve or contain.



We must strengthen people's mutual understanding—both within countries and across national borders. The fight against hunger, poverty and the destruction of the environment is an important part of international peace policy, a policy which is based on achieving practical results for the people concerned.

In 2002, military expenditure worldwide amounted to approximately US \$880 billion. The highly industrialized countries accounted for the major part of this expenditure. According to official figures, the cost of the Iraq war to date amounts to approximately sixty billion dollars. The availability of money does not play a role in this war.

Why is it so easy to finance wars and why is it so infinitely difficult to spend money on avoiding conflicts?

- Is it due to the fact that military actions are so highly visible on our TV screens, whereas conflict

prevention almost always remains largely invisible to the general public?

- Is it due to the fact that military logic seems so simple, whereas the logic of prevention is so much more difficult to communicate?
- Or is it simply that a war is assumed to be inevitable, whereas preventive measures require substantiation and thus appear questionable?

I am convinced that we must all devote much more energy as well as financial funds to solving conflicts by civilian means, or at least containing them. We need more courage to employ civility.

The idea of an international conversion center in Bonn was born in 1992 at a United Nations conference in Dortmund. The initiative dates back to a time of great political upheaval. Unfortunately many of the hopes that we nurtured at the time have not been fulfilled. The peace dividend was smaller



than we had hoped for. Moreover, it did not materialize to the same extent in all states. And the cost of conversion was often higher than expected. The centers of conflict and the causes of conflict have changed. Unfortunately, the world has not become a more peaceful place.

But when old concepts no longer function, it is all the more important to develop new ideas. BICC has taken this path with remarkable success. The United Nations World Development Report already spoke of the concept of “human security” in 1994. “Human security” is more than a military factor. “Human security” also denotes the threat facing people due to poverty, sickness and violence of all types.

I am convinced that the subject of conversion will continue to be important for many states in future and that BICC will help wherever it can. I am also convinced that the more comprehensive concept of “human security” will—and must—become increasingly significant for BICC’s work.

I wish all the staff at the Bonn International Center for Conversion every success in their difficult work. They are doing their part to ensure that our world becomes a more peaceful and humane place. I would like to once again extend my thanks. I wish you all the very best for the future.



*Address by Hannelore Kraft,  
State Minister for Science and  
Research, North Rhine-Westphalia*

Mr Federal President,  
Mayoress Dieckmann,  
State Secretary Stather,  
Mr Croll,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Anniversaries are always an occasion to draw a balance and look back—but also to look ahead and to ask what is to be done for the future and whether one is properly equipped for the task. As far as the past is concerned, you all know how we were taken by surprise by the sudden end of the Cold War—and with it the problems of adapting people and production to meet the needs of peace.

And you all know that, unfortunately, the struggle for peace has proved to be an enduring task in our times.

During the Cold War, two military alliances faced one another. Since September 11, we have lost the hope that the world will become safer and less prone to conflict following the end of that confrontation.

The diverse problems associated with arms conversion will continue to occupy us for a very long time to come. And new questions are arising, which were not visible at the end of the Cold War. Tackling these questions preventively is an enormous challenge and a political necessity.

Today we speak of asymmetrical wars: Strongly armed and extremely organized high-tech armies are being confronted with terrorist networks with unclear structures and relatively simple weapons. Analyzing these new questions is part of BICC's research profile.

I am sure that you will agree with me that today, more than ever, we need such places of dialogue and discourse below the political level.

After all: Conversion research is to a certain extent a life science, whose significance we cannot emphasize strongly enough. We need this science to be able to shape our world and to make it a more peaceful place.



You will also know that sound political advice is characterized by knowledge, interdisciplinarity, the ability to cooperate and practical orientation.

I am all the more delighted that a few weeks ago, in my capacity as Minister of Science and Research, I had the opportunity to present the results of the second evaluation of the Bonn International Center for Conversion to the public.

The evaluation report states among other things:

“BICC is an essential provider of ideas, a sound research center, an acknowledged service pool and a universally respected institution in the service of tackling violence by prevention, constructive conflict settlement and the sustainable shaping of peace.”

In the ten years since it was founded, BICC has developed to become an outstanding research institute which enjoys an excellent position by international comparison.

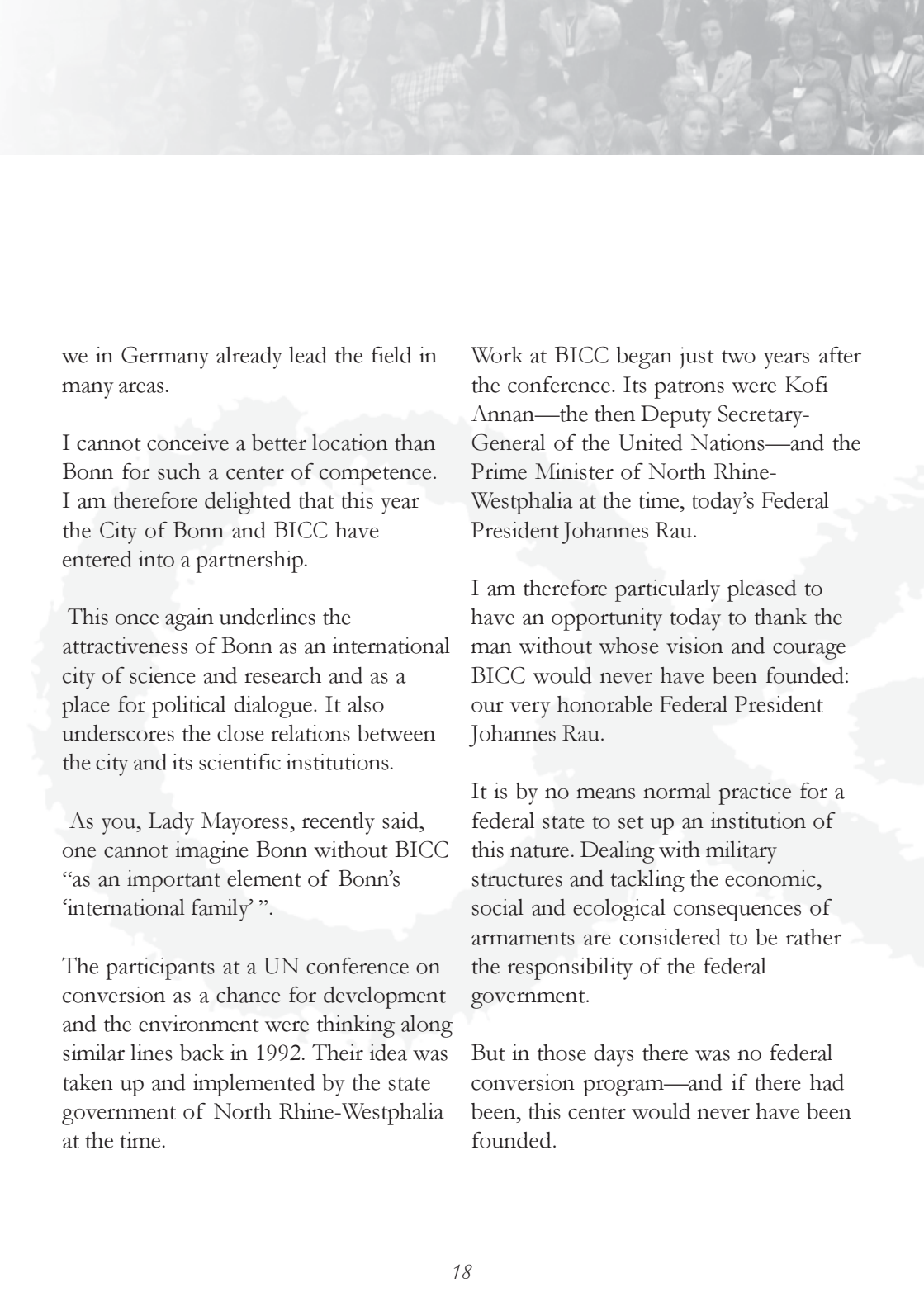
It is respected throughout the world, not only in specialist circles of conversion and peace research. Governments and non-governmental organizations are also among BICC’s users and ‘clients’.

BICC’s undisputed reputation in the fields of politics and research is only partly due to the unique concept behind this institution and the topicality of the issues it deals with. It is primarily the result of the Center’s high level of competence and the professionalism of its studies and its staff.

The evaluation report states that BICC has even been able to enhance its position as international market leader.

As Science Minister, this is something that I like to hear and I admit that I am more than a little proud of this achievement.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that, unfortunately, the current discussion on elite universities in Germany often overlooks the fact that



we in Germany already lead the field in many areas.

I cannot conceive a better location than Bonn for such a center of competence. I am therefore delighted that this year the City of Bonn and BICC have entered into a partnership.

This once again underlines the attractiveness of Bonn as an international city of science and research and as a place for political dialogue. It also underscores the close relations between the city and its scientific institutions.

As you, Lady Mayoress, recently said, one cannot imagine Bonn without BICC “as an important element of Bonn’s ‘international family’”.

The participants at a UN conference on conversion as a chance for development and the environment were thinking along similar lines back in 1992. Their idea was taken up and implemented by the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia at the time.

Work at BICC began just two years after the conference. Its patrons were Kofi Annan—the then Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations—and the Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia at the time, today’s Federal President Johannes Rau.

I am therefore particularly pleased to have an opportunity today to thank the man without whose vision and courage BICC would never have been founded: our very honorable Federal President Johannes Rau.

It is by no means normal practice for a federal state to set up an institution of this nature. Dealing with military structures and tackling the economic, social and ecological consequences of armaments are considered to be rather the responsibility of the federal government.

But in those days there was no federal conversion program—and if there had been, this center would never have been founded.



Prime Minister Rau had the wholehearted support of my predecessor, Anke Brunn, and her State Secretary at the time, Dr Konow.

But we should not forget the real “doers” behind BICC: the founding director, Professor Dr Herbert Wulf, and his successor, Peter Croll, as well as Dr Michael Brzoska, who as deputy to both directors and head of research has ensured continuity to this day.

You and the numerous members of BICC’s staff make BICC so exceptional.

Please excuse me if I cannot mention by name all the many ‘helping hands’ who have contributed to BICC’s growth—be it our co-trustees, particularly the North Rhine-Westphalian Landesbank, the members of the founding committee during the setting-up phase, or the many public institutions.

However, I would like to make one exception as far as the City of Bonn is concerned and to thank the City’s Lady

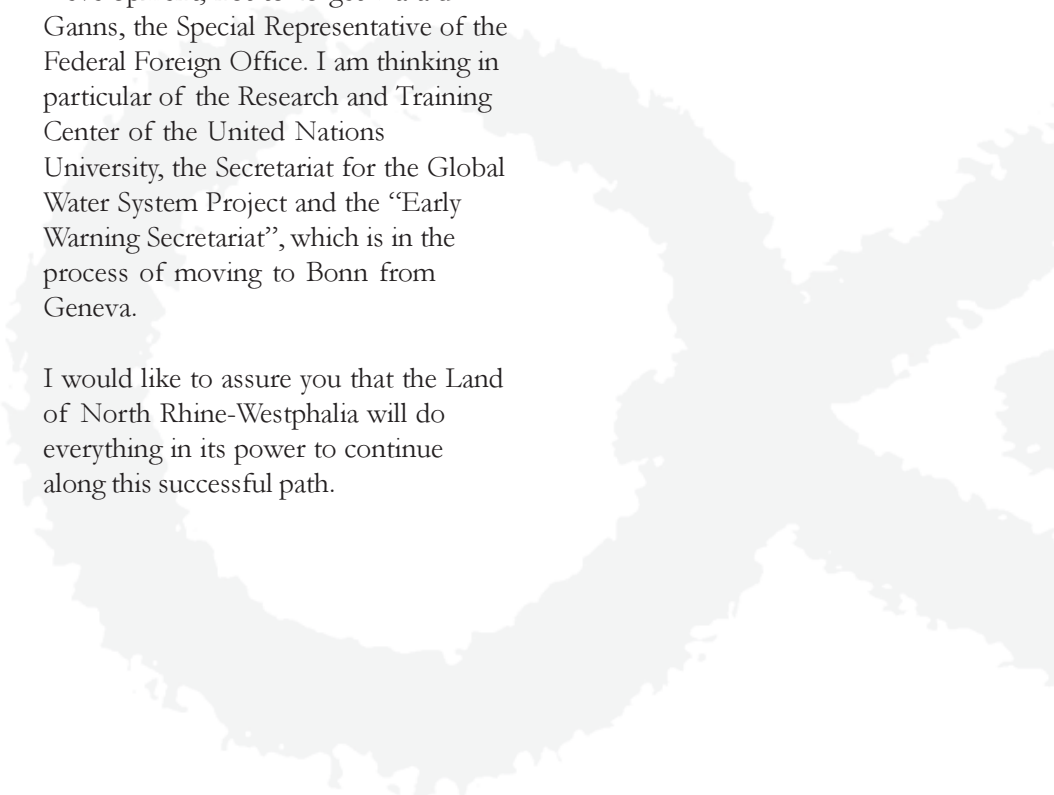
Mayoress, Bärbel Dieckmann, for always having an open ear for BICC’s problems, whether they be big or small.

And I consider it a particular mark of distinction that BICC has been chosen as the City of Bonn’s international partner organization for the year 2004.

Whether one looks at the Center for European Research and European Integration Studies at Bonn University or at the UN institutions: Bonn has continued to strengthen its profile as a first-rate international city of science.

It is well on the way to asserting itself as a UN city in Europe, alongside Vienna and Geneva, and as an important venue for international political discourse. BICC, too, is making an important contribution in this area.

A good deal has already been achieved—with the help of the federal government, be it the Ministry of Education and Research or the Ministry



of Economic Cooperation and Development, not to forget Harald Ganns, the Special Representative of the Federal Foreign Office. I am thinking in particular of the Research and Training Center of the United Nations University, the Secretariat for the Global Water System Project and the “Early Warning Secretariat”, which is in the process of moving to Bonn from Geneva.

I would like to assure you that the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia will do everything in its power to continue along this successful path.



*Speech by Bärbel Dieckmann,  
Mayor of the City of Bonn*

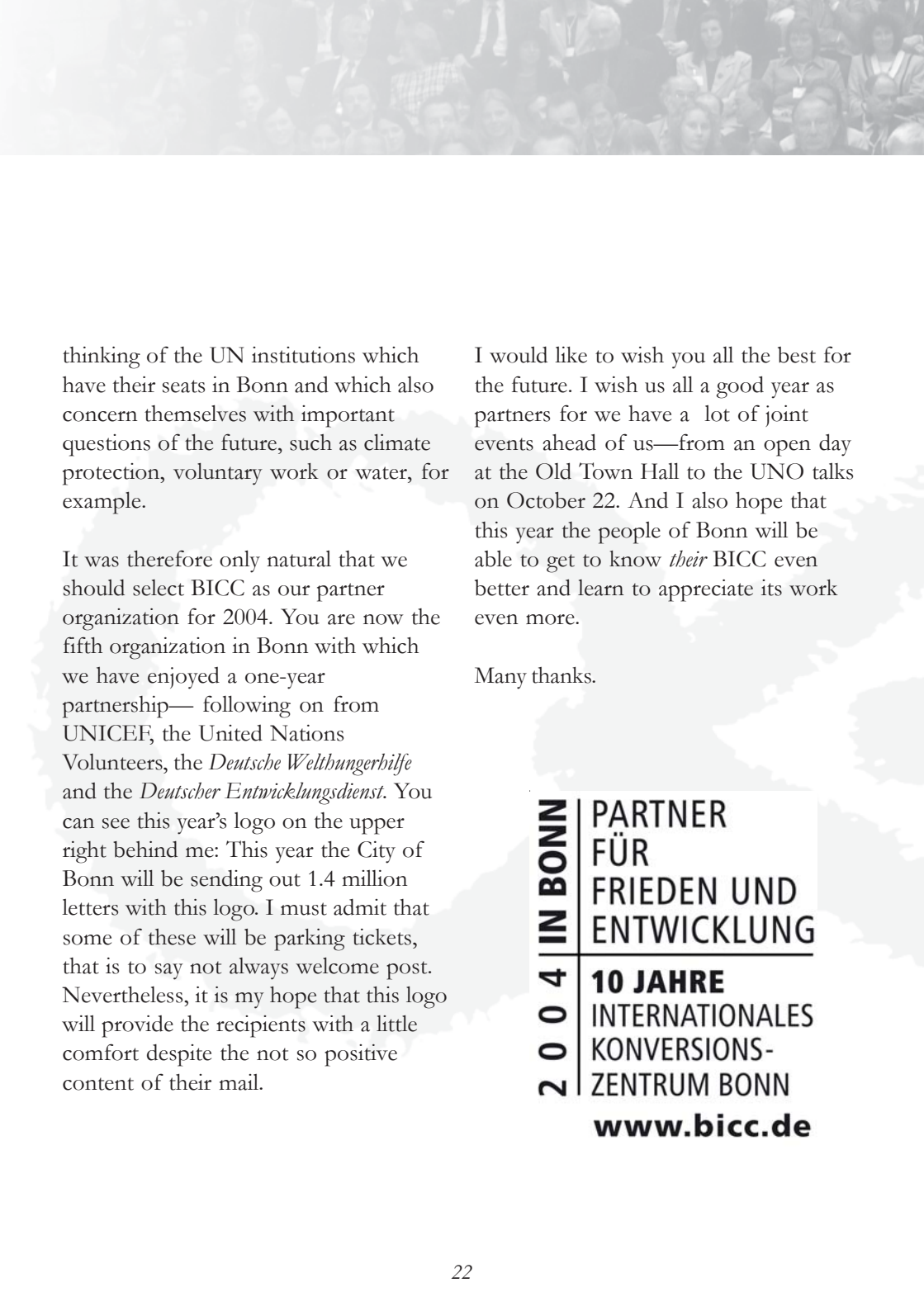
Mr Federal President,  
Minister Kraft,  
State Secretary Stather,  
Mr Croll,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Peace is the masterpiece of reason.” Immanuel Kant’s words confirm that at the end of the Cold War it was our desire and our duty to deal with conversion from the academic standpoint. The fact that the City of Bonn became the seat of this institution and that the Bonn International Center for Conversion bears the name of our city in its title is particularly pleasing. And we, the people of Bonn, are especially delighted that you, Mr President, as BICC’s founder patron, are once again here in Bonn today. Minister Kraft has just described how close the establishment of BICC was to your heart.

I have visited BICC on several occasions in the ten years during which I have held office. I would therefore like to sincerely thank you, Dr Wulf, and you, Mr Croll—but also the many dedicated

members of BICC’s staff. I have been present at talks in which individual members of staff have presented their projects and areas of work—and it was obvious from every single one of these talks and from every single one of these presentations just how committed these members of staff are. Minister Kraft, we paid our last visit to BICC together. I am sure that you, too, sensed this great dedication. It is something very special when people devote themselves to securing peace in the world. And I must say that I was not at all surprised that the recent evaluation of BICC proceeded so smoothly. I was convinced from the very start that you are a distinguished research and advisory center.

BICC is of special importance for Bonn in the light of the city’s profile for the future: after all Bonn has an international profile—and BICC, too, works with international members of staff throughout the world. But, of course, BICC also matches the City of Bonn’s profile in the field of science and research. In other words, you exactly fit into our structure. And here I am also



thinking of the UN institutions which have their seats in Bonn and which also concern themselves with important questions of the future, such as climate protection, voluntary work or water, for example.

It was therefore only natural that we should select BICC as our partner organization for 2004. You are now the fifth organization in Bonn with which we have enjoyed a one-year partnership— following on from UNICEF, the United Nations Volunteers, the *Deutsche Welthungerhilfe* and the *Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst*. You can see this year's logo on the upper right behind me: This year the City of Bonn will be sending out 1.4 million letters with this logo. I must admit that some of these will be parking tickets, that is to say not always welcome post. Nevertheless, it is my hope that this logo will provide the recipients with a little comfort despite the not so positive content of their mail.

I would like to wish you all the best for the future. I wish us all a good year as partners for we have a lot of joint events ahead of us—from an open day at the Old Town Hall to the UNO talks on October 22. And I also hope that this year the people of Bonn will be able to get to know *their* BICC even better and learn to appreciate its work even more.

Many thanks.

<b>2004</b>	<b>IN BONN</b>	<b>PARTNER FÜR FRIEDEN UND ENTWICKLUNG</b>
<b>2004</b>		<b>10 JAHRE INTERNATIONALES KONVERSIONS- ZENTRUM BONN</b>
		<b><a href="http://www.bicc.de">www.bicc.de</a></b>



*Address by Erich Stather,  
State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for  
Economic Cooperation and Development*

Mr President,  
Mayoress Dieckmann,  
Mr Croll,  
Members of Staff at the Bonn  
International Center for Conversion,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,


Many thanks for the invitation to this ceremony which I was delighted to accept as representative of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Federal Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul would very much have liked to have been here today and to have spoken to you personally. She has asked me to pass on her warm greetings and wishes BICC continued success in its work in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the field of work of the Bonn International Center for Conversion is perhaps even more relevant and crucial today than it was ten years ago when the Center was founded. Let us recall: At the beginning of the nineties we were debating the so-called “peace dividend” and considering how to make constructive use of the

resources which had been released through disarmament. Terms such as the “new world order” were an expression of the widespread hope that, following the end of the Cold War, we were now at the beginning of a new, more peaceful, age.

But let us be honest: Most politicians, most experts did not think that 10 to 15 years later we would be living in a world full of confusion which would be confronting us with a whole load of challenges in the shape of international terrorism, collapsing states, internal wars and the changed threat of weapons of mass destruction.

These challenges all have one thing in common: Their solutions all involve withdrawing the destructive potential from the military and transforming it into a civilian potential which can create peace and stability. Let me put it this way: In the face of the challenges of our age, conversion means the civilization of conflicts.



The tasks are huge. A few figures make this very clear: in 2001, the Net Official Development Assistance of the 22 countries of the Development Assistance Committee amounted to a substantial US \$52.3 billion. Nevertheless, more than half the people in the world live in poverty. The same year, worldwide military expenditure amounted to US \$805 billion (almost 600 billion of which were spent by the industrial nations), that is to say more than 15 times the figure for development assistance. This figure is not least so huge because every year it serves to finance numerous wars— 26 last year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the previous speakers have already paid tribute to the work of the Bonn International Center for Conversion. BICC's involvement in the annual Friedensgutachten, which has become an essential reference work for many people, is just one product of the Center's work which deserves special mention here. I would like to endorse the positive assessment of BICC's work

and emphasize that the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development too sees in BICC, which was founded in 1994 under the patronage of the then Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, and the then Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Johannes Rau, a highly qualified research and advisory institution, whose work we would not want to do without.

From the very start, the Bonn International Center for Conversion was open to new questions within the meaning of an extended concept of security. The Center's name is synonymous with its program. Today, questions relating to BICC's wide field of activities are also of particular interest to development policy-makers. For example: How can military resources be used wisely for civilian purposes? And: What paths can former members of the military and civil war combatants take to become reintegrated in civilian society?



The field of conflict prevention has begun to play an increasingly important role in BICC's work. This area is also important for the work of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development—after all violent conflicts and armed struggles serve to considerably undermine the chances of success of all efforts towards development. Crisis prevention and non-violent conflict management are therefore essential components of successful development cooperation.

The Federal Government has reacted to these challenges. Within the framework of our development cooperation, we aim to contribute towards preventing conflicts and consolidating peace in post-conflict situations. Apart from shaping our measures to be sensitive towards conflicts and promoting good governance, our instruments include in particular programs to control small arms and to demobilize and reintegrate former combatants in civilian life. In addition, there are new approaches within the field of security sector

reform. BICC presents itself as an important provider of advice and ideas in all these areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to emphasize that the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development is able to look back on many years of successful cooperation with the Bonn International Center for Conversion. One example here is the important field of small arms control:

During the United Nations Conference on Small Arms in 2003, BICC organized a workshop on behalf of the Federal Government on the subject of "Training Programs for Developing Countries and Small Arms Control", inter alia in collaboration with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the GTZ. This workshop met with a very positive response and provided approaches for improving programs for small arms control. In the course of the next few years BICC will now develop training and further training programs on behalf of the Federal



Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. These programs will be embedded in the country specific and development policy context.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the interlocking of security policy and development policy will increase in future—of this I am convinced. The example of Afghanistan shows how important it is to coordinate foreign policy, security policy and development policy measures in an unsteady initial situation. As I stressed earlier, it is important to understand conversion as the civilization of conflicts. Or in the words of Peter Croll: “Conversion is more necessary than ever in order to achieve a greater degree of human security.”

The Bonn International Center for Conversion will therefore continue to see considerable demand for its research and advisory skills in future. I would like to take this opportunity to specifically welcome the funding by the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia and the partner city of Bonn. I have no doubts whatsoever that BICC will continue to provide important stimuli in our joint

field of concern: Reducing weapons of all kinds, settling conflicts peacefully, securing peace and enabling sustainable development.

On this note, I would like to wish all the members of staff at the Bonn International Center for Conversion all the best and every success!

Thank you for your attention.



# BICC

## at a glance

**B**ICC is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and development through the efficient and effective transformation of military-related structures, assets, functions and processes. Having expanded its span of activities beyond the classical areas of conversion that focus on the reuse of military resources (such as the reallocation of military expenditures, restructuring of the defense industry, closure of military bases, and demobilization), BICC is now organizing its work around three main topics: *arms, peacebuilding and conflict*. In doing this, BICC recognizes that the narrow concept of national security, embodied above all in the armed forces, has been surpassed by that of global security and, moreover, that global security cannot be achieved without seriously reducing poverty, improving health care and extending good governance throughout the world, in short: without human security in the broader sense.

**Arms:** To this end, BICC is intensifying its previous efforts in the fields of weaponry and disarmament, not only through its very special work on small arms but also by increasing its expertise in further topics of current concern such as the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, arms embargoes and new military technologies.

**Peacebuilding:** BICC is extending its work in the area of peacebuilding. In addition to examining post-conflict demobilization and reintegration of combatants and weapon-

collection programs, the Center aims to contribute, among other things, to the development of concepts of security sector reform with an emphasis on civilmilitary cooperation, increased civilian control of the military, and the analysis of failed states.

**Conflict:** BICC is broadening its scope in the field of conflict management and conflict prevention, including tensions caused by disputes over marketable resources and transboundary issues such as water.

These three main areas of analysis are complemented by additional crosscutting aspects, for example, gender, pandemics, or environmental protection.

Along with conducting research, running conferences and publishing their findings, BICC's international staff are also involved in consultancy, providing policy recommendations, training, and practical project work. By making information and advice available to governments, NGOs, and other public or private sector organizations, and especially through exhibitions aimed at the general public, they are working towards raising awareness for BICC's key issues. While disarmament frees up resources that can be employed in the fight against poverty, conversion maximizes outcomes through the careful management of such transformation of resources. It is in this sense that they together contribute to increasing human security.



*BICC*

would like to thank ...

... the Ministry of Science and Research of North Rhine-Westphalia for its generous support



Ministerium für  
Wissenschaft und  
Forschung des Landes  
Nordrhein-Westfalen

**NRW.**

... the Stadtsparkasse Bonn and the CIC (Center for International Cooperation Bonn) for their sponsorship of the festive celebration

 **Sparkasse Bonn**

Wir haben Ideen



Center for International Cooperation  
Bonn

... the Haus der Geschichte for its support in organizing the festive celebration.



Stiftung  
**Haus der Geschichte  
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland**

Special thanks go to the “Vielharmonie” clarinet quartet of the Bundeswehr Musikcorps for the musical accompaniment.



## *Others* about BICC

»BICC has achieved an international reputation and is well recognized as a center of expertise in all issues of conversion. Its very informative yearbook, the *conversion survey*, reflects the variety of BICC's working fields. The fact that BICC has got the knowledge and flexibility to respond to current developments such as the growing importance of the reform of the security sector by including them into its work scope is very much appreciated. I would like to emphasize that a close cooperation with NATO would be most welcome.«

***Dr Patrick Hardouin*** (*Belgium*)  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary General for  
Regional, Economic and Security Affairs,  
NATO, Brussels*

»BICC's development over the past ten years has been remarkable and I would like to congratulate BICC on its achievements in conversion-related topics and the solid reputation that the Center has gained internationally. I particularly appreciate the high standard of BICC's work as well as the flexibility in its work scope within which BICC has also been able to focus on proactive conversion topics such as conflict prevention measures. At a time when global military expenditure is reaching the alarming levels recorded during the Cold War, BICC's work has special relevance to both developed and developing countries for urgent economic development needs.«

***Jayantha Dhanapala*** (*Sri Lanka*)  
*Former Undersecretary General, United  
Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs  
(UNDDA)*