

PRESS RELEASE  
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## Change in BICC's top management \ **Michael Dedek, Director for Administration, moves on to the Wuppertal Institute**

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**After 26 years, BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion), the peace and conflict research institute is saying Good Bye to its Director of Administration, who will be moving to the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (WI) on 1 January 2021.**

**"With Michael Dedek, a BICC-veteran is leaving the Institute. Michael has been with BICC since its inception. Michael played a significant role in the Institute's success, especially in the last seven years. With Michael, we are losing a great colleague,"** Conrad Schetter, Director for Research at BICC, stresses.

Michael Dedek has left a decisive mark on BICC, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year. The qualified economist (Dipl. Ök.) and business lawyer (L.L.M, Com) already worked for BICC in its year of inception in 1994. His last position was that of Director for Administration in a dual leadership with the Director for Research, Conrad Schetter. He played a major role in the development of the institute, which, like the Wuppertal Institute, belongs to the Johannes-Rau-Research Community (JRF) and thus to the league of top non-university research in North Rhine-Westphalia.

In recent years, under Michael Dedek's commercial leadership, the Institute has experienced a remarkable institutional and economic upswing. The total financial volume of funding for research and advisory projects at the Institute more than doubled to almost four million euro in 2019. This represents a peak in BICC's 26-year history. The number of people employed also increased remarkably during the years of the dual leadership: While 2013/2014, 41 people (22 women and 19 men) worked at the Bonn peace and conflict research institute, by the end of 2019, the staff consisted of 63 members (39 women and 24 men) of whom the majority work as researchers or advisors.

As he bids farewell, the outgoing Director for Administration stresses that the growth of the Institute could not be taken for granted: **"Rather, it shows that many creative minds are providing excellent research and advice at BICC. Only this has made it possible to successfully establish ourselves in the research market"**, Michael Dedek explains. At the same time, as he bids farewell, he emphasises one last time that BICC's work can never be self-sustaining. **"Sustainable and adequate institutional funding from the state of North Rhine-Westphalia is and remains a necessity for the Institute to develop successfully,"** he stresses.

The entire BICC team warmly says goodbye to Michael Dedek and wishes him every success at the JRF partner Wuppertal Institute!

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