

Opening Hydro's new automotive line in Grevenbroich, Germany

- Sehr geehrte Frau Dr. Merkel, sehr geehrte Frau Solberg, liebe Gäste und Freunde von Hydro. Herzlich willkommen zur heutigen Eröffnung unserer neuen Produktionslinie für moderne Aluminiumlösungen in der Automobilindustrie. // *Dear Mrs. Dr. Merkel, dear Mrs. Solberg, dear guests and friends of Hydro. Welcome to the opening of the new production line for advanced aluminium solutions in the automotive industry.*
- Es ist mir eine besondere Ehre und Vergnügen, dass wir heute hier in Grevenbroich gleichzeitig den 100 Geburtstag von Hydro und Aluminium in Deutschland feiern können. Unser Slogan Nochmal 100 Jahre macht dabei deutlich, dass die Aluminiumindustrie auch für die Zukunft von Nordrhein-Westfalen einen wichtigen Beitrag leisten kann und leisten wird. // *It is a great honor and pleasure for us to celebrate also the 100-year anniversary of Hydro and aluminum in Grevenbroich. Our slogan, Nochmal 100 Jahre, underlines that the aluminum industry will also be able to make an important contribution to the future of North Rhine-Westphalia*
- Auch wenn ich drei Jahre in Deutschland gearbeitet habe und deshalb ein wenig Deutsch spreche, würde ich jetzt gerne auf Englisch weitersprechedn. Ich hoffe, Sie sind damit einverstanden. // *Even though I worked three years here in Germany and therefore speak some German, I will continue in English, and kindly ask for your understanding.*
- Our planet has a problem - and that problem is us. We weigh it down with too much of everything: Too much emissions, too much waste, too much resource exploitation. In return, we offer quite a lot in terms of intentions, promises and agreements about a better, more sustainable future, but sadly it is often too little, too late when words are to be turned into action. Mother Nature is just aching to give us all a little disciplinary tough love.
- I am the kind of person who have always tries to listen to my mother, and so it is especially rewarding to open this new automotive line that is part of the solution rather than the problem, that will lightweight our planet rather than to weigh it down, that will help reduce emissions rather than to add even more. This I know would make my mother proud – and which I imagine could even draw an approving nod from Mother Nature herself.
- What we are making here is high-tech aluminium solutions for a fast-developing European automotive industry – often labelled as the toughest, most demanding industry in the world, and where Europe is the global benchmark. We show the way, also when it comes to taking responsibility for the climate, while the rest of the world is busy trying to keep phase.
- Europe's automotive industry improving cars we drive around in, but is re-inventing the very concept of modern transport itself. The aim is to play with – not against – the laws of nature. We in Hydro are extremely proud to be part of that journey, supporting this revolution of modern mobility to make better, safer, more comfortable and – most importantly - greener cars than we ever thought possible.

- This is where our light, strong, corrosion-resistant and infinitely recyclable aluminium comes into the equation: To build the car of tomorrow, you need the metal of the future. Here at Hydro's new automotive line, we turn automotive dreams and aspirations into reality, enabling our partners among the most innovative car makers in the world to lightweight their vehicles, thereby curbing fuel-consumption and emissions in use.
- But although is getting approval from my mother, the rest of the story is what is really making her smile: Aluminium is infinitely recyclable without degradation and at only 5 % of the initial energy usage. That means it is good for the economy and great for the climate to recycle it again and again: Economy and climate, hand in hand.
- That is the circular economy in practice, and it is happening right here and now – not as a future ideal we must strive towards to realize the low-carbon society we all want and need. In close cooperation with Europe's automotive industry, we show that the better, greener and lighter future promoted by visionary leaders such as Angela Merkel and Erna Solberg is indeed possible. That, my friends, just how my mother told me to behave.
- So in Hydro we see this occasion as something far beyond the opening of a production line for parts to the automotive industry. We see our new automotive line as belonging within a much bigger narrative, in which *Made in Europe* is the hallmark of quality and technological leadership, with aluminium as an increasingly important *Building block of modern society* and key to the *Circular solutions* we need to make the low-carbon, circular economy come to life.
- Here at Hydro's new automotive line we do all this – *Mit Leichtigkeit* – I am truly grateful and honored that Chancellor Angela Merkel, Prime minister Erna Solberg and so many other distinguished guests are here to share this great day with us. Thank you for believing in European cooperation and ingenuity, thank you for believing aluminium, and thank you for believing in Hydro.

Note: Check against delivery