Written Greeting

from Parliamentary State Secretary Mareike Lotte Wulf

for the “World Excellence Network Conference on Vocational Education for Sustainable Development (VESD)” at the Vocational Schools I in Uelzen

November 9, 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What do hydrogen and Vocational Education for Sustainable Development (VESD) have in common? They share the same goal: a climate-neutral society. The World Excellence Network Conference on VESD in Uelzen addresses this forward-looking topic. I send you my warmest greetings.

Whether in manufacturing, skilled trades, commerce, or the energy sector—in every profession, it is possible to assume ecological responsibility, consider social aspects, and develop economically viable solutions. This is precisely where Vocational Education for Sustainable Development (VESD) comes in. It empowers trainees to recognize the impact of their professional actions, to weigh their options, and to make responsible decisions. In this way, VESD stands for the development of professional competence—with a focus on the future and sustainability.

The Vocational Schools in Uelzen demonstrate that this vision can also be integrated with European cooperation. As a long-standing participant in the Erasmus+ education program, the school is committed to fostering international encounters, the exchange of experience, and the further development of vocational education. The school’s dedication reflects a lived European identity.

For many years, the Federal Ministry—with the support of substantial funding and regulatory measures—has worked to systematically embed sustainability into vocational education, both within companies and at inter-company training centers. To this end, we maintain a constant and intensive collaboration with the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB). To successfully advance vocational education for sustainable development, cooperation between the various learning venues—including training companies, inter-company training centers, and vocational schools—is essential. I therefore greatly welcome the fact that vocational schools are also embracing this topic in all its breadth and benefiting from the international exchange of experiences and insights.

I would like to thank everyone involved for their commitment to vocational education and wish the Uelzen Vocational Schools a successful conference.

Best regards,

Signed, Mareike Lotte Wulf