

64th Tenants` Day of the German Tenant Association, Deutscher Mieterbund (DMB)

From June 16th to 18th the 64th Tenants` Day of the Deutscher Mieterbund (DMB) took place in Berlin. Every two years the delegates of the Deutscher Mieterbund come altogether. It was again a very popular conference with nearly 600 delegates. Also international attendants were present, Sven Bergenstråhle, Swedish president of IUT, Jan Laurier Dutch the vice president of IUT and Georg Niedermühlbichler, president of the Austrian Tenants` Association and Nadja Shah, the chief executive of the Austrian Tenants` Association. Two major topics define the current political debate: legislative reform of the tenancy law and the change in the energy policy, the climate protection and the energy efficiency. Therefore the slogan of the Tenants` Day was: housing, rent, energy - secure, reliable, fair.

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Deutscher Mieterbund president reelected with remarkable result

Dr. Franz-Georg Rips remains president of the Deutscher Mieterbund (DMB). The approximately 440 voting delegates elected Dr. Rips again with an overwhelming majority of 97.6 percent for another term of four years as president. The 62-year-old lawyer remains the counselor of the tenants of Germany. Since 2007 Dr. Rips is president of the Deutscher Mieterbund, he previously spent 12 years as director of the Deutscher Mieterbund. His main job is mayor of the city Erfstadt.

After his re-election as the president of the Deutscher Mieterbund, Dr. Franz-Georg Rips pointed out that the Deutscher Mieterbund is not only a legal advice organization. The Deutscher Mieterbund is and remains a political and social force in Germany. Rips explained: "Our main task in the coming years will be to provide, in connection with climate protection, energy revolution and energy efficiency, that the costs and burdens for the energetic modernization of buildings have to be shared equitably and the tenants should not carry the burden alone."

Severe discussions about the reform of the tenancy law

With the reform of the tenancy law, the federal government plans significant worsening of the tenancy rights at the expense of tenants. Dr. Birgit Grundmann, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice, had a difficult standing as she tried to defend her position during the presentation of the draft from the Federal Ministry of Justice at the Tenants` Day. Both, Ingeborg Junge-Reyer, Mayor and Senator for Urban Development in Berlin, and Dr. Franz Georg Rips, president of the Deutscher Mieterbund, rejected her draft entirely. Instead, they demanded that the tenancy law should be modified to the favor the tenant. Tenants need more protection especially against dramatically rising rents.

Töpfer promotes energy revolution. Overwhelming consent for the former federal minister and chairman of the Ethics Commission

"To get out of the nuclear power production within a decade should be seen as a public task, it must be worked out and in fact it can, but only with the involvement of civil society," said Prof. Dr. Klaus Töpfer on the 64th Tenants` Day in Berlin in his lecture "energy revolution and living tomorrow". The energy efficiency must be increased, there must be a regulation framework with fixed boundaries, the use of renewable energy must be promoted.

In his lecture Töpfer also took over proposals from the Deutscher Mieterbund. It is definitely useful to combine the energetic modernization of buildings with the senior-friendly refurbishment. The energetic modernization of buildings could be taken in an urban development promotion program, and financial responsibility for the energetic modernization of buildings could be located to each of one-third by the landlord, the tenant and the government.

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