Rede des Bürgermeisters Dirk Lukrafka

beim Besuch der Wirtschaftsgelegation aus Estland mit dem Außenminister Margus Tsahkna

am Montag, den 17.02.2025

Dear Minister Tsahkna (Außenminister von Estland),

dear members of the Estonian delegation,

dear representatives of Heismann Drehtechnik GmbH,

dear guests!

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to Velbert – the city of keys and locks. We are very honored to host the delegation from Estonia, and I would like to send a special greeting to you, Minister Tsahkna. Your presence here highlights the importance of our international relationships and the shared values that bind our nations together.

Today, as we meet at Heismann Drehtechnik GmbH, we visit an innovative industrial location in NRW. This company is a shining example of expertise in engineering and manufacturing. We are proud to have such a forward-thinking company in our city, contributing to both local and international markets.

The relationship between Germany and Estonia has been growing stronger over the years and I remember very well my visit several years ago in Estonia. Our bilateral relationship is built on mutual respect and a shared commitment to progress. As we face global challenges, it is essential that we continue to encourage our partnerships that promote economic growth, technological advancement, and cultural exchange. Your visit today is a significant step in

strengthening these values, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for both our nations.

I am sure that today's visit will also pave the way for new partnerships especially in the IT, KI and the IT-security sector. Let us explore potential avenues for collaboration that are built on our common shared goals: sustainability, innovation and economic development. I believe that through dialogue and cooperation, we can create a brighter future for our communities and our countries.

Once again, I welcome you to Velbert and wish you a productive and pleasant stay here in NRW. Thank you for being here, and I look forward to the exciting possibilities that our collaboration may bring.

Thank you!