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**PLENARY MEETING**

**Document 22-E**  
**18 February 2022**  
**Original: English**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

**CANDIDACY FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION  
STANDARDIZATION BUREAU (TSB)**

Further to the information published in Document 3, I have the pleasure in transmitting to the Conference, in annex, the candidacy of:

**Dr Thomas M. ZIELKE (Federal Republic of Germany)**

for the post of Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union.

Houlin ZHAO  
Secretary-General

**Annex: 1**



Bundesministerium für Digitales und Verkehr • 11030 Berlin

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
Secretary-General Houlin Zhao  
Place des Nations  
1211 Geneva 20

SWITZERLAND

**Dr. Volker Wissing, MdB**  
Bundesminister

Invalidenstraße 44  
10115 Berlin

POSTANSCHRIFT  
11030 Berlin

TEL +49 30 18-300-6000

FAX +49 30 18-300-2019

AL-DG@bmdv.bund.de

[www.bmvi.de](http://www.bmvi.de)

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Dear Secretary-General,

With reference to your Circular Letter CL-21/41 of 27 September 2021 to the ITU member states in which you request notification of nominations for elected officials and seats on the Council, I have the honor of informing you of the candidature of Mr. Dr. Thomas M. Zielke, Head of Division, Office for National and International Standardization Policy and Patent Policy (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany) for the position of Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau.

The proposed German candidate can draw upon a broad range of experience in international affairs, including the United Nations in New York, standardization policy, organizational issues, many years as managing director in Germany and abroad in intercultural teams, as well as internationally as a delegation leader and panelist, speaker or moderator, with budget responsibility and knowledge of possible synergy effects when dealing with international organizations (e.g. ISO, IEC).

The German Government is firmly convinced that Mr. Zielke as nominee will be a candidate for the office of Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau who will successfully continue the changes that you and your management team have introduced to the organization in the era of the digital society. For your further information, I kindly refer to the additional paper attached and to online presentations that are available.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the candidature of the Federal Republic of Germany for a seat on the ITU Council





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through which our country will continue to be a reliable and solid member of the ITU in this body too.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Volker Wissing

**Dr. Thomas M. Zielke,**  
c/o BMWi Scharnhorststr. 34, 10115 Berlin, Germany  
[thomas.zielke@bmwi.bund.de](mailto:thomas.zielke@bmwi.bund.de); phone +49 30 186156830

### CURRENT POSITION

since August 2016     **Director, Head of Division, Office for National and International Standardization Policy** and Patent Policy, German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Berlin. German Representative and Head of Delegation to the EU-Committee on Standards, Brussels, SME-Standardization Support Program, Head of German National Delegation to ETSI, Member of various Steering Committees at DIN and DKE, Member of nat. Advisory Committees on ISO and DIN-Standards, Member of National Delegation to IEC, German Chairman of Chinese- German Commission on Standards, budget responsibility 40 Mio. €  
**Project Leader for EU Twinning Projects on Standardization / Conformity Assessment in Jordan (2018-2019) and Azerbaijan (2020 - 2022)**

### EXPERIENCE

1/2011 – 7/2016     **President, Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT)**, Washington D.C., RGIT the liaison office of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK). 8 employees, budget 1.5 Mio. US\$.

3/2009 – 12/2010     **Director Public Relations** and Deputy President, RGIT, Washington D.C., **Editor** *Washington News* and RGIT website. Consultant on German law, advising the board of BDI and DIHK, membership and stakeholder organizations, members of parliament and business delegations on developments in US-policy, legal affairs, providing and publishing (German and English) economic data on German-American trade and investment-analysis.

12/2007 – 2/2009     **Director Patent Policy**, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Berlin, Germany. Advisor to the Secretary on international and EU-patent policy, responsible for the German patent initiative, incentive and incubator programs, budget responsibility 22 Mio. €

5/2001 – 11/2007     **Director Public Relations**, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Berlin, Germany. Advisor to the Secretary, responsible for all printed publications, websites, trade fair presentations and events of the ministry. Member of the consulting group at the Federal Press Office and the

spokesman of the Federal Chancellor. 13 staff members, budget responsibility: 12 Mio. €

- 4/1998 – 4/2001 Deputy Director, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, SME department, unit for EU-matters. Delegate to the Administrative Committee of the EU-Multiannual SME-Program in Brussels.
- 4/1997 - 3/1998 **First Secretary**, Diplomat, German Foreign Office, **Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, New York N.Y.**, 2<sup>nd</sup> UN (Economic) Committee, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), procurement by UN-bodies at UNOPS and UN Secretariat General, acting member of the member-states supervisory board for UNICEF.
- 10/1993 – 3/1997 Gov. Official, Assistant Director, Federal Ministry of Economics, Bonn, Germany. Task Force for the New Federal States. Economic and political analysis; preparation of ministry decisions; drafting and negotiating contracts.
- 2 – 8/1993 **Lawyer** at the law firm Prof. Börner, Düsseldorf, Germany. Practiced corporate, civil, administrative, energy and labor law; opinions and litigation, contracts.
- 3 – 5/1992 **Junior lawyer** at the law firm B. Hausmann, **Johannesburg, South-Africa**. Civil, administrative, international private and social insurance law
- 3/1990 – 1/1993 Junior lawyer at the law firm Blättermann & Scheier, Düsseldorf. Corporate, civil, administrative and labor law, opinions and litigation, contracts.

### EDUCATION AND LANGUAGES

- 3/1997 **Dr. iur. (cp. PhD)** with thesis on public administration and Air Traffic Law, University of Tübingen, magna cum laude
- 1990 – 1993 **Admission to Bar**, District Court of Düsseldorf
- 1982 – 1989 Studies Law, Political Sciences. Law degree, University of Bonn, Faculty of Law and States Sciences (Economy)
- 1981 – 1982 Studies Political Science and History, University of Bonn

**Languages:** German (native), English (fluent), Italian and French (rudimentary)

### MILITARY SERVICE

- 1979 – 1981 Psychological (Broadcast) Defence Bat, 1, Andernach/Germany

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS and Press Statements

- 2020 Interview on the Occasion of the German EU-Council Presidency in „Enjeux, (AFNOR) Magazine de la Normalization et du Management“, Paris 2020
- 2017 Interview on Standardization Strategies in Germany, VDMA News, Frankfurt 07/2017
- 2010 *The First Year of the Obama Administration*, TRADE magazine 1/2010, New York N.Y.
- 2005 Co-author: *Goal - Die Welt zu Gast bei Freunden, The Official Country Digest to the FIFA WM 2006™*, Bertelsmann Publications, Gütersloh 2005
- 2000 Co-author: *Economic Promotion in the New Federal States, Periodical*, Berlin 2004
- 1999 Co-author: Sommer/von Westphalen: *Citizens Dictionary*, Oldenbourg, München 1999
- 1998 *Air Traffic Rules in Airport Agglomerations – Rules on Demand of Public Services (PHD- Thesis)*, Duncker & Humblot, Berlin 1998

## SELECTED RELEVANT ENGAGEMENTS AS SPEAKER

- The Royal Institute of International Affairs CHATAM HOUSE, U.K. G 7-Event on Digital Technical Standards, Strengthening the Multi-stakeholder-System, Remarks, **London**, 3/2021
- OxFirst/ETSI Conference on the CJEU's Decision in JAMES ELLIOTT, and its Impact on Standardization in Europe, Virtuell Conf., Key Point Speech, **London** Dec. 2020
- Technical University **Berlin**, Institute of Technology and Management: Interoperability in the Digital Age – Licensing of Standard Essential Patents, Dec. 2020, Welcome Speech
- Panel Discussion „Bilateral Standardization Partnership for an International Agenda “(Co-Chair and speaker), Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure, **Delhi**, Jan. 2020
- Opening Statement: Conference on the Launch of the German Standardization Roadmap Artificial Intelligence, Grand Ballroom, Ministry for Economic Affairs, **Berlin**, Oct.2019
- Chairman/Moderator Panel on the Importance of Standardization in the Eurasian Economic Union and the EU, Moscow World Trade Center, **Moscow** June 2019
- 82nd IEC General Meeting, **Busan** / Rep. of Korea, IEC Regulator Forum, Presentation „Using and Referencing IEC Work from a Government Perspective “, Oct. 2018
- U.S. German Standards Panel 2018, hosted by ANSI and DIN, **Washington D.C.**, Apr. 2018, Opening Remarks
- 2017 Session of Chinese-German Standardization Cooperation Commission, Co-Chair and Introductory + Closing Remarks, **Quingdao** / China, June 2017



Dr. Thomas Zielke

## **My Vision Statement for ITU-T**

### **- Communication is everything for everyone -**

We can see today how topics are becoming more and more overlapping in all kinds of international standardization organizations. Digitization and mobile communication networks influence our daily lives and have changed business and trade significantly. In particular, artificial intelligence and the resulting data flows, both on mobile and stationary devices, can be standardized in various ways. The same is true for upcoming 5 G and even 6 G standardization, or challenges such as machine-readable standards, shaping fintech services, and so on, to give just a few examples.

We will of course be seeing a lot of communication to identify the needs of the organization, the employees and the stakeholders, and I intend to listen and act as a team player. But I'd also like to draw attention to just three of many potential fields of action I have identified as my goals:

The ITU is and shall remain an organization of the highest importance with an extraordinary wealth of expertise, enormous capacities for dealing not only with a large number of issues but also with cutting-edge topics and for handling huge events. ITU has globally unique expertise on ICT matters due to the experts in the study groups from all over the world. In order to achieve goals and other efforts set by the General Assembly I have committed myself to three major efforts – in addition to others yet to be defined – for the benefit of the organization and its members:

**First: To conduct a process on how ITU-T could focus on the right and most rewarding key issues in standardization for the business community and industries.**

If elected I will aim to conduct, shape and speed up this process. This also means building new bridges between business, science, research, civil society and the ITU-T. I am confident my broad set of international operative management experience in standardization, diplomacy and communication in many different organizations and structures will help to push this process forward by acknowledging the needs of as many members as possible.

**Second: To work hard to find more members and contributors who can do both: help to create standards accepted everywhere and thus support this organization at the same time.**

This is because a significant part of standards worldwide come today from different sources, and it is important to utilize the organization's advantages by making it attractive for stakeholders to do standardization here and not elsewhere. This will require more members and more creativity from the corporate sector. In talks with companies from different countries I have learned that many companies have a lot of trust in ITU but hope that ITU could re-position standardization right in the middle between regulation and practical business.

**Third: To build more solid bridges by fostering substantial cooperation with other international standardization organizations.**

We need to anticipate future developments, and we need to find standard-related positions of overall common worldwide interest in a fast-changing world. And it is clear that an organization in the center, a United Nations Specialized Agency like the ITU, is truly predestined to initiate and conduct a dialogue on fundamental issues of standardization between major organizations, industrial nations and developing countries, large and small companies. Because standardization delivers order, reliability and safety in a world of today and tomorrow.