

Dr. Ulf Kämpfer  
Mayor of Kiel  
Mrs Bettina Aust  
City President  
Landeshauptstadt Kiel

Your: 17.12.2025  
Our: 20.01.2026 No 1-25/10-2

Dear Mayor Dr. Ulf Kämpfer and City President Bettina Aust,

Thank you for your kind season's greetings and for sharing the exciting plans for the International Cities Forum 2026. The theme of "*Resilient cities through scientific expertise*" is both timely and inspiring, and we look forward to contributing to these important discussions during Kiel Week in June.

Please allow me to extend our congratulations to Dr. Samet Yilmaz on his election as the new Lord Mayor of Kiel. We wish him every success in his new role during these challenging times and look forward to continuing our close cooperation under his leadership.

In Tallinn, we have also been working to strengthen the link between science, urban development, and resilience. Our initiatives include collaboration with local universities on climate adaptation strategies, smart mobility solutions, and digital governance projects. These partnerships aim to make scientific knowledge more accessible and actionable for city planning and resilience. We are excited to share our experiences and learning from yours during the Forum in Kiel in June.

In turn, I am pleased to inform you that Tallinn will host the **Baltic Sea Strategy Forum on 11–13 May 2026**, and I warmly invite You to join this important event. A formal invitation to Mayor to talk at the forum will be sent separately. Further details can be found at <https://eusbsr.eu/annual-forum/>.

Moreover, I am delighted to note that 2026 marks a special milestone in our partnership: **the 40th anniversary of the twinning between Kiel and Tallinn**. This long-standing relationship is a testament to the strong ties and mutual trust between our cities, and we are eager to celebrate this occasion together on **15 May 2026 in Tallinn**.

Please be assured that official invitations and further details regarding both the Baltic Sea Strategy Forum and our anniversary celebration will follow in due course. We hope these events will provide another opportunity to strengthen our cooperation and exchange ideas for the future.

On behalf of the City of Tallinn, I wish you and the people of Kiel continued success and prosperity in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Peeter Raudsepp', written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Peeter Raudsepp  
Mayor of Tallinn