

## **Speyer Communal Day**

Municipal Finances during/after the Crisis?

**Conference at DHV Speyer from October 6<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Led by Prof. Dr. Sabine Kuhlmann and Dr. Christian Theobald**

The goal of the Speyer Communal Day is to broach the issue of current reforms, problems and challenges at the municipal level in Germany. The conference this year deals with the theme of “Municipal Finances during/after the Crisis?”. The problematic financial situations in which the municipalities have found themselves since the ‘great financial crisis’ as well as innovative strategies of budgetary consolidation will be discussed in connection to the question whether the municipalities in Germany need a ‘bail-out’. Moreover, prospects of a municipal financial and tax reform as well as recommendations for the municipal fiscal policies will be identified.

### *Program*

#### **Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

13.00 Reception and Introduction

*Prof. Dr. Sabine Kuhlmann, DHV Speyer*

13.15 Introductory Message from the Mayor of Speyer

*Hansjörg Eger, Mayor of Speyer*

#### ***Block I: Situation Review, Current Problems and Solutions***

13.30 Development and the Current Situation of Local Finances in Germany: in or beyond the Crisis?

*Wilhelm Zeiser, Financial Director of Ludwigshafen*

14.00 “But What About the East?” Financial Problems and Budgetary Management in East German Municipalities

*Thomas Deiters, Deputy Managing Director of the Städte- und Gemeindetag Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e. V.*

14.30 Discussion

15.00 Coffee Break

***Block II: The Role of the State and Policy: Control, Supervision, Debt Relief and Financial Reform***

- 15.30            Bail-Out Funds for the Municipalities?  
*Dr. Walter Müller, Municipal Financial Affairs in the Department of Finance  
Rhineland-Palatinate*
- 16.00            The Consolidation of Municipal Budgets – Possibilities and Limits of State  
Supervision?  
*Johannes Winkel, Head of the Municipal Department of the Interior North  
Rhine-Westphalia*
- 16.30            Discussion
- 17.00            Municipal Self-Government under the Banner of the Savings Commissioner:  
Unparalleled, Unnecessary, Beneficial?  
*Prof. Dr. Lars Holtkamp, University of Hagen*
- 17.30            “Adequate” Funding for Municipalities and Prospects of Communal Financial  
Reform  
*Prof. Dr. Gunnar Schwarting, Managing Director of the Städtetages Rhein-  
land-Pfalz/DHV Speyer*
- 18.00            Discussion
- 19.15            Tour of the City of Speyer
- 20.30            Dinner at the Domhof

**Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

***Block III: Financing of Municipal Infrastructure and Contributions from Municipal Companies for Financial Crisis Management***

- 9.30            Alternative Financial Reforms for Projects: The Idea of “Citizen Funds”  
*Dr. Christian Dessau, Attorney Becker Büttner Held*
- 10.00            The Saarbrücken Energy Situation – A Review  
*Dr. Falk Ihrig, Stadtwerke Saarbrücken AG*
- 10.30            Discussion
- 11.00            Coffee Break

- 11.30 The “Munich Model” as an Example for Permissible Tax Aid  
*Frank Duschner, Investment Management of the State Capital Munich*
- 12.00 The Financing of Local Public Transportation – Challenges and Solutions  
*Oliver Mietzsch, Deutscher Städtetag*
- 12.30 Discussion
- 13.00 Closing Words  
*Dr. Christian Theobald, Attorney Becker Büttner Held, Berlin/DHV Speyer*
- 13.15 End of the Conference