

Press Release

Berlin, 30 May 2020

German business concerned about developments in Hong Kong

- **National Security Law raises questions about Hong Kong's systemic autonomy.**
- **German business appreciates the high level of rule of law and transparency in Hong Kong and is concerned about current political developments.**
- **The new National Security Law must not call into question the status quo of the "one country, two systems" principle.**
- **Any relativisation of the "one country, two systems" principle would have negative signal effects for Hong Kong as a business location.**

The APA views the political and social tensions in Hong Kong with concern. With the adoption of a national security law for Hong Kong, questions have been raised about the maintenance of the "one country, two systems" principle.

Hong Kong's prominent economic position as an international financial centre and trading hub is closely linked to the commitment to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle. German companies appreciate the high level of rule of law and transparency in Hong Kong. The rights promised in the "Basic Law" form an important basis for the great and long-term confidence in the location. These include the systems of political self-administration and free trade, as well as a judiciary independent of the mainland with basic freedoms such as freedom of speech, the press and assembly.

German business has a strong interest in ensuring that the proven principle of "one country, two systems" is upheld in the interest of multilateralism. Any impairment of Hong Kong's autonomous position within the People's Republic of China would be a development at a time when the world needs stability and cohesion, and not further causes for uncertainty and social conflict. The German business community therefore calls on all parties involved to resolve the conflicts peacefully and prudently and to eliminate uncertainties.

About APA

The Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business is building bridges between German companies doing business in Asia and politics in Germany as well as in our Asian partner countries. The APA pools the economic concerns of German businesses active in the Asia-Pacific region and strives for more intense cooperation with Asia-Pacific and helps promoting trade and investment in both directions. The APA is an initiative of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), the German Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV), the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA) and the Association of German Banks (Bankenverband). Since February 2019 it is chaired by Joe Kaeser, President & Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG.

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