

# Press release

## “Open to Diversity – Together against Exclusion”: Joint initiative organized by business enterprises in Hesse/Germany

- **Kassel-based enterprises are committed to diversity and respect in the lead up to the state parliament elections**
- **For trust in a free democratic order governed by the rule of law**

**Kassel.** Today on Friday, October 26th, numerous enterprises based in the Kassel region have set down a marker for openness to the world, diversity and tolerance. In large-sized newspaper adverts placed in the lead up to the state parliament elections in Hesse, these companies are declaring their avowal of the principles of respect and the rule of law, while launching an initiative entitled “Open to Diversity – Together against Exclusion!”. This initiative is sponsored by the HÜBNER Group, K+S Aktiengesellschaft, Kasseler Sparkasse, the Schaltbau Bode Group and the international gas and oil producer Wintershall.

“We are aware of the responsibility we bear for our employees, our reputation as a company and our region. The events of the past months – attacks on people who have become targets because of their origin, religion or commitment to democracy and diversity – are something we cannot tolerate in any shape or

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form,” states a joint press release about the initiative: “Our employees are as diverse and different as the jobs they do. They are crucial to the success of our companies – and what is even more important: All these colleagues are valuable members of our society!”

“As enterprises, we confirm our **faith in the rule of law** and in the **free democratic constitutional structure**. We are committed to values such as respect, tolerance and openness to dialogue. It is precisely these values we are expressing through our initiative and its motto, **Open to Diversity – Together against Exclusion!**”, explain the companies.

