



Welcome Words for the International Day of the Electrician

Markus B. Jaeger

**Global Head of Political Affairs Technology Organization VDE
Chairman Board of Directors EUREL**

Dear Mr President
Dear Mr Szymczak,
Dear Mr Pienkowski,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me that you have invited me to your celebrations of the International Day of the Electrician. I bring you the warm greetings of the VDE from Germany and EUREL from Brussels.

On June 10th 1986, you organised the International Day of the Electrician for the first time. With June 10th 1986, you have chosen a very prominent date and have made it a tradition. The anniversary of the death of the outstanding French physicist and mathematician André-Marie Ampère.

Even a lawyer and like me knows that André-Marie Ampère was the outstanding founder of electrodynamics.

It is quite a while in the past when André-Marie Ampère passed away. 186 Years.

Certainly, important lessons can be learned from the past. After all, we want to do things better.

Personally, I prefer to look to the future. Because we can all actively contribute to the future today and now.

So what are the challenges for electrical engineers in the future?

Everywhere people are talking about the digital and green transformation. Some see this as a turning point.

Nothing will remain as it once was.

There are countless wishes and hopes for what the future should look like.

Now it is a matter of formulating concrete goals, describing the way to get there and then also starting consistently.

We all need a master plan for the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In today's world, we are experiencing a serious change compared to time of the Industrial Revolution.

Digitalisation does not stop at any area. The change is huge and is taking place at maximum speed and simultaneity: the transformation of energy and mobility systems, remote medicine, the "All Electric Society", artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and much more. We don't even know where to start and where to stop.

André-Marie Ampère really had quite different priorities during his lifetime.

The crucial question is how Europe is prepared for all these developments. The European Union and all its member nations must strengthen their resilience in all areas.

Putin's war against Ukraine is also an attack against European freedom. Beyond military aspects, we in the EU must be able to defend against cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, as well as attacks on critical infrastructure and communication channels. The key term is technical resilience.

What do the states in Europe and, above all, what do the engineers of electrical engineering, electronics and information technology have to do to strengthen the resilience of our countries and societies?

How do we make ourselves less dependent on supplies from Russia and China? These are the questions that need to be answered.

Europe must become technologically sovereign.

In the short term, the energy and communication sectors must each strengthen their resilience.

Social bots are increasingly being used on the internet to manipulate society. To protect the democratic process of opinion-forming, authentic pseudonyms show the way.

States in Europe urgently need to further develop their cybersecurity strategies. This also applies to increasingly digitised power grids.

But - we do not need to talk about Technological Sovereignty, Resilient Power and Communication Networks, Trusted Information, Cybersecurity and Future Scenarios in Europe if we lack well-trained engineers in electrical engineering, electronics and information technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the end of my welcome words I want to express a wish.

We can only tackle the challenges of the present and the future together. It would give me great pleasure, and that is my wish, if we could find ways to work together on our common future.

Maybe today's International Day of the Electrician is one of these initial impulses.

I would be very pleased.

Thank you very much.