

Stop rampant bureaucracy

IKS KLINGENBERG Member of the Bundestag is listening carefully.

By Gerhard Schattat

The internationally operating manufacturer of machine knives and machine components IKS Klingelberg in Bergisch Born definitely got a taste of the economic crisis. But the managing director and associate Thomas Meyer does not want to waste time on complaints. Yesterday, the local member of the Bundestag Jürgen Hardt (CDU) together with Dr. Markus Heering of the VDMA (association of German mechanical and plant engineering) visited the company's headquarters in Remscheid. And the main issue then was how to carry on with new strength after the crisis. *Please provide for simplification of tax regulations and reduction of bureaucracy* outlined Thomas Meyer as key demand. A definite point of view: Meyer wants to deal with manufacturing and marketing of knives and not with provisions that become more and more complicated. Worldwide, IKS Klingelberg employs 1,000 persons, 140 of them in Remscheid. Manufacturing plants are located at six places, most of them in Europe but also in Shanghai. Admittedly, it has been short-time work that has helped to overcome the dry spell up to now but first and foremost it has been a lot of flexibility. The employees have stayed aboard. The turnover had decreased by 28 percent; however, Thomas Meyer assumes that the last year resulted in a black "zero". Incidentally, 43 percent of IKS knives are used in the printing and paper-processing industry. Yesterday, the member of the Bundestag was full of praise for IKS Klingelberg making every effort to keep the employees and, thus, their know-how. Jürgen Hardt, who in the past was responsible for Vorwerk's company communication in Wuppertal, was prepared to listen to the manager of IKS Klingelberg and his suggestions. In the weeks to come Jürgen Hardt, who is also responsible for Solingen and a part of Wuppertal, wants to visit other companies in Remscheid to listen to the concerns of the managers there.

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