



**Kurzes Grußwort von Stadtpräsidentin Cathy Kietzer
aus Anlass des festlichen Dinners zum
50-jährigen Jubiläums der Fährverbindung der Strecke Kiel-Oslo**

Donnerstag, der 05. Mai 2011, 18.30 Uhr, Terminal am Norwegenkai

Mister Sunde,
Mister Kleivdal
Ministerpräsident Carstensen,
Mayor Albig,
Mister Knudsen,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Color Line has invited us to celebrate its 50th birthday. We do not only celebrate a successful economical idea but also the wonderful idea of having a part of Norway right here in the heart of our city.

I could not imagine the city's panorama without the big ships which are more than just impressive technical masterstrokes. They are a symbol for a common idea of economical and cultural exchange and they are a sign for a successful future between Norway and Germany. Color Line is connecting countries – which also means connecting people. More than 20 million passengers travelled between Oslo and Kiel since 1961. The Color Line means the closest connection between Norway and Germany and makes Kiel the gate to Scandinavia.

Living at the sea means also living on the sea. As an expanding international enterprise plays the shipping company Color Line an eminent role for the economy of the whole region.

Around 3.000 people are working on board of the two ships, Color Fantasy and Color Magic, and on shore. The Color Fantasy just got a new electrical supply at Kiel's shipyard HDW to purchase external power.

Watching the ships entering the harbour still fills me with enthusiasm. And it brings back good memories. Memories of wonderful trips to the fjords and the "fjäller". Memories of the people and the lively capital Oslo. As I said in a statement – I can already see Karl Johan.

And memories of last year when we had the exhibition "Nordlandreise" in Kiel which told us from Norway's untouched nature, the powerful sea and about the adventure to travel this amazing country. Even in 1893 offered the shipping company "Vesteraalens Dampskibsselskab" the first "Hurtigruten trips" which have always been popular with Germans as well as Norwegians.

As the exhibition and the millions of passengers showed over the years: Travelling and business between Germany and Norway has its own established tradition. We are celebrating the 50ths birthday of a successful idea.

The City of Kiel is part of this great occasion with the "Norwegian week ". I hope that many more people will pick up the passion for travelling and for the beautiful country up in the north. Congratulation to 50 years – many happy returns and a successful and happy future. Let us raise our glass for another 50 years.