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## **Koelnmesse preserves everyday objects from its 100th anniversary year in a time capsule for future generations at its new Confex building**

**The time capsule ceremonially lowered in Deutz today will not be reopened until the 150th anniversary of Koelnmesse on 11 May 2074**

**The Dean of the Cologne Cathedral Robert Kleine blesses the new Confex building as a place of encounter and peaceful exchange**

**Koelnmesse and guests at the company's 100th anniversary celebration support Cologne's cathedral construction association, which was founded in 1842, with a donation for the cathedral's preservation**

In its 100th anniversary year, Koelnmesse is once again building a bridge between history and the future. On Wednesday, Koelnmesse CEO Gerald Böse lowered a time capsule at the base of the recently opened Confex building. Representatives of the Cologne Cathedral provided their support. Among other things, Cologne's cathedral construction association and Cologne's head cathedral builder Peter Füssenich contributed a piece of the cathedral itself to the time capsule. The Dean of the Cologne Cathedral Robert Kleine also blessed the Confex afterwards. "In addition to promoting business, Koelnmesse's founding principle 100 years ago was to contribute to peace and understanding between peoples and generations," said Koelnmesse CEO Gerald Böse. "We are proudly committed to this mission for another 100 years."

The time capsule contains artefacts and contemporary documents that can provide a future generation with an impression of life and work at Koelnmesse and in Cologne today when it is opened in 2074 on the 150th anniversary of Koelnmesse.

The time capsule contains newspaper articles about the anniversary celebrations as well as a book of reports produced by Koelnmesse about the internationally active company's day-to-day work. Current photos and a carnival medal from Koelnmesse's first participation in the Rose Monday parade this year were also placed in the capsule.

Mementos from the pandemic were included as a reminder of the major turning point in the history of the company and the lives of Cologne's inhabitants. The time capsule contains a set of FFP2 masks and a COVID-19 test as well as photos of the large Cologne vaccination centre at the trade fair grounds in Deutz in 2020. The time capsule also contains a personal memento from Koelnmesse CEO Gerald Böse, a memento from the European Championships in Germany and much more, which will remain a secret.

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Cologne

District Court Cologne, HRB 952

In the run-up to the event, Koelnmesse had called for suggestions from its 800 or so employees at the Cologne site and via Cologne's local newspapers as well as Radio Köln. The stainless steel time capsule was welded together today and sealed tightly beneath a steel plate.

"We are delighted to be able to contribute a piece of the cathedral to this cause and would like to thank Koelnmesse and its guests for their donations, which support our work to preserve the Cologne Cathedral," said Udo Beyers from the board of the cathedral construction association, which was founded in 1842. As part of the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the trade fair and the inauguration of the new Confex congress and event centre on 28 June, Koelnmesse asked its guests to refrain from giving gifts and instead donate to the cathedral construction association. Koelnmesse will top up the amount collected, about 10,000 euro, by an additional 1,924 euro symbolising the company's own founding year.

Head cathedral builder Peter Füssenich was also delighted: "We are very grateful to Koelnmesse for the generous donation in its anniversary year. Every contribution helps to preserve the Cologne Cathedral for future generations. We hope many more companies and institutions from Cologne will follow this good example to help maintain our cathedral!"

The Dean of the cathedral Robert Kleine then gave the new Confex building his traditional blessing. With holy water and a prayer, he asked for protection and success for the venue. "The blessing is for everyone who works and meets here, regardless of their origin or religion. Koelnmesse has been bringing people together for 100 years. The Confex is also a place of peaceful encounters and open exchange, where we Cologne residents will welcome the world. May this building fulfil this mission now and for generations to come," said Kleine.

Press photos: Use [this link](#) to find current photos of the filling of the time capsule and the blessing of the Confex.

#### **About Koelnmesse:**

Koelnmesse employs around 1,100 people. The city-centre trade fair at the heart of Europe occupies the third largest trade fair grounds in Germany and, spanning almost 400,000 square metres of hall and outdoor space, it numbers among the top ten worldwide. Each year, Koelnmesse organises and manages around 80 trade fairs, guest events and corporate events in Cologne and in the most important markets around the world. Its portfolio attracts over 43,100 exhibiting companies from 125 countries and approximately two million visitors from more than 200 nations. Until 2040, Koelnmesse is investing more than one billion euro in the development of the trade fair grounds into the most extensive investment programme in its history, to allow it to cover all event formats in the future. Koelnmesse is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2024. 100 years in which Koelnmesse has brought people and markets together worldwide. 100 years in which it has reinvented itself time and again with a visionary passion for the future: [Koelnmesse History](#) | [Koelnmesse](#)

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Page  
3/3

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