

Remarks for the “Stapelfest” at the Weiße Taube Housing Project

Manabu Hirabayashi, CEO of Daiwa House Europe

I am Manabu Hirabayashi, CEO of Daiwa House Europe.

Minister Hubertz — it is a great honour to welcome you here today. As the Federal Government’s Commissioner for Housing Construction, you represent the leadership and commitment needed to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Your presence sends a strong and encouraging message.

Governing Mayor Wegner and Senator Gaebler — thank you for joining us on this important milestone.

Chairmen Terboven and Bädelt of Gewobag — trusted and valued partners throughout this journey.

Dear colleagues, dear friends, distinguished guests — welcome, and thank you all for being here.

Today, we stand before not only the largest modular residential building in Europe, but a clear and tangible solution to the housing challenge we face.

Across Europe, we are experiencing a combination of housing shortages, labour constraints, rising material costs, and increasing environmental expectations. These are not abstract issues — they directly affect the quality of life of people in our cities.

Our mission is simple: to deliver practical, scalable, and sustainable housing solutions. What you see here today is proof that innovation can be translated into real impact — here in Berlin, across Germany, and beyond.

Allow me to share a personal reflection.

I first came to Berlin in the autumn of 1989, as a young Japanese student travelling through Europe. By chance, I witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall. I still remember the joy in the streets, people celebrating together, and even the guards from East Germany smiling. It was a powerful moment of hope, unity, and transformation — one I will never forget.

Today, I return to Berlin in a very different role — together with our partners, contributing to another transformation: addressing the housing needs of this great city.

These buildings are more than structures. They are homes — places where people live, grow, and build their futures with their families.

Thank you for your attention, and for being here today to mark this important moment.

I very much look forward to the conversations ahead.