

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you for having accepted our invitation. Allow me a personal remark. Participating at a press conference is something new for me, regardless of my other feelings on this day.

Let me make a remark on our choice of date for this press conference. Of course, we know that today is the second anniversary of the tragic catastrophe. Of course, because of our experience last year we expected that the choice of today's date might be taken amiss, in spite of the fact that criticism is once again painful! I am also sure that no matter which day we had chosen the reactions would have been the same.

We have not chosen this day to hurt the other relatives. We have chosen it because it promises the most attention for our concern, which is namely that our son did not suffer from depression at the time of crash. It does not take an anniversary for me, and certainly for the other relatives, to feel a special pain. For two years, I have felt like all the other family members. I remain shocked by this tragedy.

I do not think I need to describe this consternation and sorrow. There are no words or consolation for that. It is difficult, almost impossible, to understand and to cope with the unexpected death of a loved one.

What I am telling you now I say with great caution, because it could easily be misunderstood. My sorrow, and the sorrow of my wife and my younger son, for whom I also speak here, is another very special one: it is a sorrow that differs from the sorrow of all the other relatives.

We have to live with the fact that we have lost not only our son and brother, but also that only two days after the crash, according to the French prosecutor, Andreas was named as being solely and entirely responsible.

We have to live with the fact that he was and is still portrayed in the media as a depressive mass murderer, who with suicidal intent crashed a plane and, allegedly, without regard for the 149 people who were also killed.

We have to live with the fact that whenever there are hateful assassinations in the world, our son is mentioned every time.

We have to live with the fact that our son has been portrayed in the media as suffering from long-term depression. It is true that he suffered from depression in 2008/2009. However, six years before the tragic crash he overcame it. He returned to his original strength and joy of life, continued his pilot training and successfully completed it. At the end of 2013, he received an employment contract with Germanwings.

We have to live with the fact that his frequent doctor visits in 2014/2015, which were carried out only because of his eye concerns, were once again interpreted as consultation for depression. The Düsseldorf prosecutor confirms that these doctor visits had nothing to do with any emerging depression. I quote:

"None of the treating physicians during 2014/2015 – be it psychiatric specialists or other medical specialists – diagnosed depression with Andreas Lubitz. In addition, no doctor or therapist discovered suicidal thoughts or any reported by the patient. There are also no indications of an externally aggressive behavior. " End quote.

I would like to emphasize that we experienced our son as a life-affirming, responsible and committed person in the six years before the crash. Our son was not depressed at the time of the crash. However, all institutions dealing with the case have concentrated on a person suffering from depression and have neglected many other aspects.

Like all other relatives, we are also looking for answers and the truth. After reading through the crash investigation files we found ourselves overwhelmed by the various and complex technical aspects. Therefore, we requested Mr. van Beveren to analyse the information and to draw up an expert opinion. Mr. van Beveren was frequently recommended to us by colleagues of our son as a renowned aviation expert.

I thank you again for your presence and attention.