

**Dr Thomas Köster**  
**CEO of the Düsseldorf Chamber of Crafts**

28.10.1946	born in Menden/Sauerland
25.02.1966	<i>Abitur</i> school-leaving certificate at Walram Grammar School, Menden
1966 - 1972	Studies in economics at the University of Cologne; degree: Dipl.-Volkswirt (equivalent to MSc in Economics)
since 01.07.1972	Employed by the Düsseldorf Chamber of Crafts, in various functions  1980 elected as Executive Director and 1983 elected as Deputy CEO of the Düsseldorf Chamber of Crafts 2004 elected as CEO of the Düsseldorf Chamber of Crafts
since 1984	also CEO of the representative body of the Nordrhein-Westfälischer Handwerkstag (NWHT), the regional crafts association
1984	Doctorate in Economic and Social Sciences (Dr. rer. pol.) at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences of the University of Cologne
since 1972	married, three children

Dr Köster is, inter alia, a member of the coordination group of the Bündnis für Arbeit, Ausbildung und Wettbewerbsfähigkeit in NRW (the Alliance for Work, Training and Competitiveness in Nordrhein-Westfalen), member of the steering committee of the Gründungs- und Mittelstandsoffensive NRW (the North Rhine-Westphalian initiative to promote formation and small and medium-sized companies) and chair of the working committee of the Landesgewerbeförderungsstelle des Handwerks NRW (Department for the Promotion of Industry of the Association of Craft-based Industries in Nordrhein-Westfalen).