

## MEDIA INFORMATION

### **G20 summit to start next week: Hamburg as the meeting place for an interconnected world**

**(Hamburg, Jun 28, 2017) - Cosmopolitan, international, modern and interconnected, steeped in tradition, and experienced: Germany's Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and Hamburg's First Mayor Olaf Scholz believe that the north German port city of Hamburg is predestined to serve as the host and meeting place for next week's G20 summit. Thus, the heads of state and government of the world's 20 major industrialised and emerging economies and their delegations will be gathering in Hamburg on 7 and 8 July for the G20 summit.**

As a cosmopolitan, liberal and international city that has maintained trade relations with much of the world for centuries, Hamburg is a good place for hosting the meeting of the G20 on 7 and 8 July. "Hamburg is a meetings location that, thanks to its port, has been regarded as a beacon of free trade for centuries," Germany's Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel said, whose decision it was to hold this high-level event in Hamburg. "Therefore, Hamburg seems to be predestined for hosting this summit," the German Chancellor, who was born in Hamburg, explained, which may be one of the main reasons for choosing this location.

For several days in early July, Hamburg will be in the spotlight of world politics. "In addition to the heads of state and government and their delegations there will be several thousand journalists from around the world gathering in Hamburg, and they will get to know our city and provide coverage on Hamburg," says Hamburg's First Mayor Olaf Scholz. It is estimated that some 10,000 participants will be attending, including more than 4,800 accredited media representatives from 65 countries. "As an optimistic, cosmopolitan and hospitable city, Hamburg is committed to being a good host to the G20 summit. Therefore, the event is also regarded as an opportunity for Hamburg," Olaf Scholz adds.

#### **Experience and tradition: the world is gathering in Hamburg**

Preparations for the G20 summit have been in full swing for several months, and now the countdown has begun: in a few days, political leaders from the world's 20 major industrialised and emerging economies and their delegations will be arriving in the Hanseatic City of Hamburg. The exhibition grounds of Hamburg Messe in the very heart of the city will serve as the main venue for the summit, with special arrangements in terms of security measures. Hamburg, the "gateway to the world" with a port that is connected to 950 ports in some 180 countries worldwide, will be the first German city to play host to a G20 summit. "In the spirit of peace [Hamburg] aims to be an intermediary between all continents and peoples of the world" – as stated in the preamble of the Hamburg Constitution.

"In view of the positive experience our city gained during the OSCE Ministerial Council in December 2016, I am even more convinced that Hamburg is the right place for bringing world leaders around one table," Hamburg's First Mayor Olaf Scholz comments. With these remarks, Olaf Scholz continues the tradition of another great Hamburg figure: the late Helmut Schmidt, who, from 1974 to 1982 served as Germany's fifth Federal Chancellor. Helmut Schmidt, a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), strongly believed that heads of state and government of major countries should get together informally to discuss the most pressing global issues.

Hamburg has repeatedly demonstrated its capacity to handle major meetings and conferences professionally and reliably, e.g. as the host to the 2013 Lions Club International Convention, which was attended by more than 24,000 participants. One of the highlights of Hamburg's upcoming event agenda will be the 2019 Rotary International Convention – the annual meeting of the Rotary International service club with an expected 25,000 participants.

### **Hamburg as pioneer with regard to G20 issues**

As part of its G20 presidency, Germany will be addressing traditional G20 issues relating to the global economy, trade, financial market regulations and fiscal policy, which have been included in the agenda ever since the financial crisis of 2008/2009. In addition, Germany aims to draw public attention to today's global challenges, such as combating pandemics, work safety, the promotion of women, ways of dealing with displacement and migration, prospects for African economies, as well as policy measures in the areas of climate protection, energy, and sustainable development. In the history of Hamburg, all of these topics have been of relevance: Hamburg maintains solid trade and business relations with much of the world, and has been fostering its ties with its twin city of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for seven years. From among those 100 consulates and consular missions to be found in Hamburg, there are more than 20 consular missions of African countries.

In an effort to combat climate change, Hamburg has set itself the goal of reducing the city's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50% by 2030. Under the umbrella of the KlimaCampus Hamburg network, some of the world's most renowned climate research institutes have joined forces in Hamburg. In the field of renewable energies, Hamburg is considered to be the global capital. And yet it is also the liberal, democratic mindset and the strong civic commitment of Hamburg's residents that makes Hamburg ideally suited for hosting the G20 summit. When, in the autumn of 2015, tens of thousands of refugees arrived in Hamburg, parts of the Hamburg Messe premises – the venue of the G20 summit – were transformed into Germany's biggest clothes depot, thanks to the "Hanseatic Help" initiative, which has received various awards in the meantime.

### **Business capital of Hamburg as meeting place for an interconnected world**

The G20 countries account for approx. 80% of the global economic output and two thirds of the world population and may thus serve as an example of active globalisation. As a port city, Hamburg has always been international, and an ever-increasing number of global players choose Hamburg as an important test market before expanding into Europe.

Digitisation is yet another issue that is deemed relevant by all of the countries and will be topical during the G20 summit. As a city of innovation, Hamburg takes on a leading role here. With its smartPORT initiative, various digital start-up hubs, incubators and creative spaces, Hamburg is considered to be pioneering in the field. Only recently, the consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers ranked Hamburg as Germany's most digital city in the area of mobility. Innovations made in Hamburg have a strong focus on sustainability as they are rooted in living traditions: in 1558, the Hamburg Stock Exchange was among the very first stock exchanges to be established in Germany, and the reliability of Hamburg's merchants is reflected in the way the City of Hamburg drives innovations and fosters business success. In 2017, Hamburg recorded more new enterprises than Berlin and is now Germany's number one start-up capital.

## **Knowledge as a key driver for creative innovations in Hamburg**

The research landscape of the Hamburg Metropolitan Region also acts as an innovation accelerator. Renowned institutes of the Helmholtz Association, such as the German Electron Synchrotron DESY, are located in Hamburg, and the city is home to the Max Planck Society and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. The European XFEL project in the Hamburg Metropolitan Region, the largest X-ray laser in the world, is an international stronghold in the area of basic research. In collaboration with numerous international partners, the project will be officially launched in September 2017. Various disciplines, including medicine, pharmacy, chemistry, physics, materials science, nanotechnology, energy technology and electronics, will be benefitting from experiments conducted by researchers using the XFEL super laser.

## **Hamburg offers a high quality of living, with the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg as the new popular icon**

On the night of 7 July, the G20 participants and their partners are invited to a concert in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg – Hamburg's new landmark that has drawn immense international attention with its spectacular opening in January 2017. But not only that: with the opening of this amazing new concert hall, Hamburg has now positioned itself globally as one of the must-see places in 2017. Today, Hamburg records more than 13 million overnight stays annually, with more and more visitors coming from abroad.

The building, the music programme and the quality of life in Hamburg have received abundant praise in city rankings and editorials e.g. by the New York Times, Le Monde as well as by China's leading media titles. Over the past six months, more than two million people have visited the Plaza, the Elbphilharmonie's public viewing platform, and concert tickets for the Elbphilharmonie are much sought after around the globe. Now, on 7 July, the guests to the G20 summit will have the opportunity to experience the Elbphilharmonie first hand: under the baton of conductor Kent Nagano, the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra will be playing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, which also includes the "Ode to Joy" – the anthem of the European Union. For more information on Hamburg, please visit [www.hamburg.com](http://www.hamburg.com). Tourist information is available at [www.hamburg-travel.com](http://www.hamburg-travel.com).

## **Background information**

### **Facts regarding the G20 participants**

In addition to the current G7 countries – i.e. the United States, France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada – the meeting will also be attended by officials from Russia, China, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa as well as Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the European Union. Furthermore, there will be seven guest countries attending the summit.

Moreover, the heads and delegations of international organisations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the WTO, the OECD and the International Labour Organisation will be attending the summit. In addition, the chairs of regional organisations such as the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the New Partnership for Africa's Development have been invited to attend the meeting.

As part of this informal meeting, the heads of state and government and their delegations gather annually to discuss the most pressing issues in the fields of trade policy, financial markets, sustainable economics, climate and energy, employment, digitisation, health, and stability, especially with a view to the African continent. When, on 7 and 8 July, the representatives of all participating countries will be gathering in Hamburg, the summit will have been preceded by several months of preparations in the form of various thematic summits. In addition to this, recommendations from the dialogue forums with civil society have been integrated into the preparatory process. For more information, please visit [www.g20.org](http://www.g20.org).

### **Facts regarding Hamburg:**

The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg is a city state and thus a federal state of the Federal Republic of Germany. With a population of approx. 1.8 million, the city in Northern Germany is Germany's second largest city and the centre of the Hamburg Metropolitan Region comprising more than 5 million residents. The port of Hamburg is the largest seaport in Germany, and in terms of container handling volumes, it is the third largest port in Europe.

Ever since Emperor Frederick Barbarossa bestowed harbour rights upon Hamburg in 1189, the city developed into a thriving centre of the Middle Ages. With more than 600 breweries at the time, Hamburg was regarded as the "Hanseatic Brewery". In the 14th century, Hamburg was among the first members of the Hanseatic League and swiftly turned into Germany's main transit point and stockyard between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

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