

# General information, 16<sup>th</sup> CIPAC/FAO/WHO Joint Meeting and 63<sup>rd</sup> CIPAC Meeting

11 June to 20 June 2019, Braunschweig, Federal Republic of Germany

Welcome to Federal Republic of Germany – in the centre of the European Union

## About Braunschweig and the BVL

**Braunschweig**, the city of Henry the Lion, is a city of around 250000 people, located in Lower Saxony and is the biggest city located between Hannover and Berlin, north of the Harz mountains at the farthest navigable point of the Oker river, which connects to the North Sea via the rivers Aller and Weser.

The historic English name for Braunschweig is **Brunswick**.

In the centre of Braunschweig within the car-free zone the following objects of interest can be found:

The *Burgplatz* (Castle Square), comprised of a group of buildings of great historical and cultural significance: the Cathedral (built at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century), the *Burg Dankwarderode* (a 19<sup>th</sup>-century reconstruction of the old castle of Henry the Lion), the Neo-Gothic Town Hall (built in 1893-1900), as well as some picturesque half-timbered houses, such as the *Gildehaus* (Guild House), today the seat of the Craftsman's Association. On the centre of the square stands a copy of the *Burglöwe*, a Romanesque statue of a Lion, cast in bronze in 1166. The original statue can be seen in the museum of the Castle Dankwarderode. Today the lion has become the true symbol of Braunschweig.

The *Altstadtmarkt* ("old town market"), surrounded by old town hall (built between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries in Gothic style), and the *Martinikirche* (church of Saint Martin, from 1195).

The *Kohlmarkt* ("coal market"), a market with many historical houses and a fountain from 1869.

The *Magniviertel* (St Magnus' Quarter), a remainder of ancient Braunschweig, lined with cobblestoned streets, little shops and cafés, centered around the 13<sup>th</sup> century *Magnikirche* (St Magnus' Church). Here is also the *Rizzi-Haus*, a highly distinctive, cartoonish office building designed by architect James Rizzi for the Expo 2000.

The Gothic *Aegidienkirche* (church of Saint Giles), built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with an adjoining monastery, which is today a museum.

Braunschweig has been an important industrial area. Today it is known for its University and research institutes, e.g. the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), the Federal Thünen Institute (TI), the Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants Julius Kühn-Institute (JKI), the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI) and of course the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL).

By the way, since 1969, the PTB Braunschweig maintains the atomic clock, responsible for the Legal Time in Germany. The PTB contribute substantially to the making of International Atomic Time.

For more information visit the official website of Braunschweig is <http://www.brunswick.de/english/city/index.html>

## **The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) - Management Authority for Health-Related Consumer Protection**

The aim of the BVL is to improve coordination of consumer health protection between the federal government and the federal states, to make the communication of risks more transparent and to manage risks before they turn into crises.

Worldwide flow of goods also pose risks due to a lack of information about manufacture and processing. The BVL supports new EU Member States and third countries in setting up and developing an efficient food surveillance system. In order to minimise risks, the BVL puts an emphasis on dialogue with industry. Using flexible management instruments leads in many cases to better results than by means of limit values and bans.

As a scientific specialist authority with a wide range of duties, the BVL relies on extensive scientific knowledge of great subject depth. In order to process the constant increase in knowledge and information, the BVL uses electronic file handling systems and intelligent databases, with which the data available can be saved and internal and external information can be evaluated in a practical way.

The BVL champions critical and responsible consumers. With an extensive internet service, a wide range of publications and transparent public relations the BVL contributes to enable consumers to make independent decisions.

The BVL is among others responsible for approving plant protection products in Germany and is the national coordination point for evaluating active substances of plant protection products in the EU. In the approval procedure, the BVL is responsible for risk management, which is designed to avoid negative effects of plant protection products for people and the environment.

The BVL collaborates with three evaluation authorities: the Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants Julius Kühn-Institute (JKI), the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and the German Environment Agency Umweltbundesamt (UBA). After the authorisation of a plant protection product its application is surveyed by means of control and monitoring programmes. In the case of unexpected effects the BVL can change the authorisation or, if necessary, withdraw it.

The official website of the BVL is <http://www.bvl.bund.de> (English version: [https://www.bvl.bund.de/EN/Home/homepage\\_node.html;jsessionid=806339641A03ECD26CBA4F62F4F52E00.1\\_cid340](https://www.bvl.bund.de/EN/Home/homepage_node.html;jsessionid=806339641A03ECD26CBA4F62F4F52E00.1_cid340) )

## How to reach Braunschweig

The next intercontinental airport with connections to almost every main place in the world is Frankfurt. From Frankfurt you can reach Braunschweig by train within 3½ to 4 hours.

The nearest international airport to Braunschweig is Hanover. You reach Braunschweig by train within 1 hour from the Hanover airport. Another possibility is the Airport in Berlin (1,5 hours by train).

Braunschweig has a good local transport system (Bus and Tram). However, information concerning the transport to the meeting rooms will be provided in due time.

## Visa requirements

Generally speaking, all other foreigners than citizens from the EU require a visa for stays in Germany. A visa is not required for semi-annual visits of up to three months for nationals of those countries for which the European Community has abolished the visa requirement.

For details you may contact the following website:

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/visabestimmungen-node>

## About the hotel

There is a limited number of rooms pre-booked in the centre of Braunschweig.

The hotel is the **Mercure Hotel**

In total a block of 118 rooms has been reserved at special discount rates. Please note that you have to book no later than the **31<sup>st</sup> of March** and use the code "**CIPAC**" to allow you to receive the Meeting discount. Please note that after the deadline of March 31, 2019, the special rate and additional rooms in the hotels cannot be guaranteed. The organising committee is not in the position to assist participants looking for hotel rooms after the deadline has expired. The address/contact details of the hotels are as follows:

### **Mercure Hotel Braunschweig**

Berliner Platz 3

38102 Braunschweig

Tel.: +49 (0) 531 70080

Fax: +49 (0) 531 7008125

E-Mail: [h0871@accor.com](mailto:h0871@accor.com)

The rates are between 65 € and 95 € for a single-room and

Standard double room: From 75 € up to 105 €

Previledge Twin Room: 95 €

Previledge double room (Suite): 105 €

It depends on which day you stay at the hotel

Prices per night including a buffet breakfast

## About the Weather

To predict the weather for June in Braunschweig is not so easy. Normally it should be dry and moderately warm (18 °C to 20 °C). However, taken the weather of the last two years into account, the temperature raised up to 30 °C for some days in the beginning of June.

Bring along a rain jacket to protect against wind just in case.