

Marco Oelschlegel is the new head of the Berlin Convention Office of *visitBerlin*

Berlin, 15 January 2020 Marco Oelschlegel takes over as head of the Berlin Convention Office (BCO) of *visitBerlin* on 15 January 2020. Mr Oelschlegel has been working for Berlin Tourismus und Kongress GmbH for 14 years, first as Senior Marketing Manager and since November 2017 as deputy head of Berlin's official congress office.

Burkhard Kieker, CEO of *visitBerlin*: "With Marco Oelschlegel, an experienced member of staff from our own ranks is taking over the management of the Berlin Convention Office. His great expertise and international network of contacts as well as his broad knowledge of the market will ensure the future success of one of the world's leading congress marketing organisations."

The new deputy head of the Berlin Convention Office will be Sandra Wilking. Mrs Wilking previously headed the Services, Partnerships & Projects department of the BCO.

Marco Oelschlegel takes over from Iris Lanz, who is leaving the company at her own request on 31 January 2020 to take on new responsibilities. "Iris Lanz has worked for *visitBerlin* for more than five years and has committed herself to the innovative further development of the BCO with great success. The Q Berlin Conference and the Berlin MICE Summit for the Berlin congress industry are two of the groundbreaking projects that she has successfully launched," says **Burkhard Kieker**.

Berlin's economy profits from the congress business

The congress business has developed into an important economic factor for Berlin in recent years. According to official statistics, around 12 million participants attended around 143,390 events in 2018. The market for meetings and congresses generated more than eight million overnight stays, a quarter of all stays in hotels in the German capital. The total revenue of the industry in 2018 was around 2.63 billion euros. The Berlin Convention Office of *visitBerlin* actively acquires conferences and congresses for Berlin and thus contributes significantly to the city's economic success.

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"Inspiring the world for Berlin." It is with this mission that Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH conducts destination management as well as tourism and congress marketing for Berlin. The company, which operates under the brand name *visitBerlin*, is a partner, actor, ideas provider and networker. The work focuses on sustainable product development and the marketing of tourism offers, which are compatible with the city, in all twelve districts. The aim is to preserve the quality of life of Berliners and to increase the quality of guests' stays. *visitBerlin* acts as a tour operator and issues the official tourist ticket, the Berlin WelcomeCard. The company also operates Berlin Tourist Infos and the Berlin Service Center, which can be reached at +49-30-25 00 25. At visitBerlin.de, Berlin's official travel portal, visitors to Berlin will find all the information they need for their trip to Berlin. More about *visitBerlin* at about.visitBerlin.de

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