

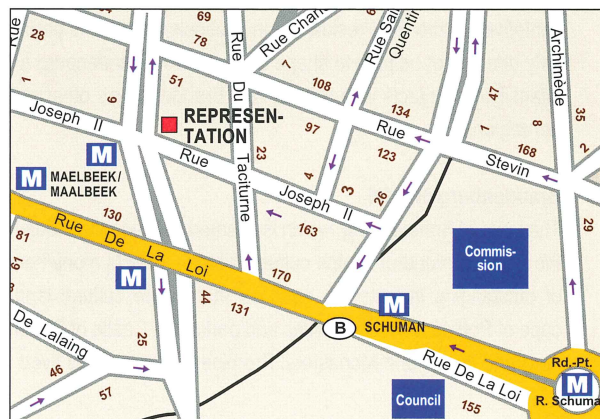
- Promoting the interests of Brandenburg in the decision-making process of the EU via its contacts with representatives of the EU institutions, other regional offices, the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany in the EU and the EU representations of other Member States.
- Cooperating with the EU liaison offices of the other German Länder and of Brandenburg's partner regions and cooperating regions in Brussels.
- Keeping in touch with Brandenburg's representatives in the European Parliament and with people of Brandenburg working in Brussels.
- Acting as a means of communication between Brandenburg's county and local administrations, universities, companies, associations and other institutions on the one hand, and EU decision-makers on the other.
- Engaging in public relations work.

Staff members

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- Birgit Urban – 0032 27 37 74 63 (business, economic affairs)
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Access by public transport

The Representation of
 the Land Brandenburg
 to the European Union

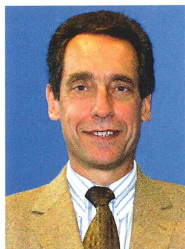
Brandenburg in the European Union

Brandenburg has been part of the European Union since the reunification of Germany in 1990. Being citizens of the European Union, the people of Brandenburg enjoy the advantages of freedom of movement and residence across all 27 EU Member States, as well as access to the free movement of goods and capital in a common market of almost 500 million people. The single European market, the introduction of the Euro and the enlargement of the EU have opened up new potential for employment and production growth for the export-oriented German economy. This is an opportunity that can be fully exploited by Brandenburg's companies.

Of particular importance is the financial support which Brandenburg receives from the EU: The money from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the programmes for cross border and interregional cooperation has been used in Brandenburg for a number of years in order to promote sustainable major investment projects, for example, the expansion of infrastructure, the modernisation of agriculture and the development of small and medium-sized companies and industries with a promising future. Other EU programmes, such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), the 7th Research Framework Programme and the various EU cultural and educational programmes, offer several means of financing regional challenges and thereby creating new development opportunities available in Brandenburg. The enlargement of the EU, in particular the accession of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe, has brought Brandenburg from a position on the periphery of the EU's borders into the centre of a dynamic economic Union. The cooperation with neighbouring Poland, which has been given constitutional status in Brandenburg, as well as cooperation with other states in Central and Eastern Europe is intensifying because of common EU membership. In the long term it will bring to Brandenburg both economic advantages and cultural enrichment.

The more strongly the citizens of Brandenburg are aware of Europe, the better they will be able to take advantage of the great development opportunities offered by the EU. Every citizen of Brandenburg can benefit from extended knowledge of the EU and its extensive support programmes.

Brandenburg's Plenipotentiary for Federal and European Affairs



State Secretary Dr Gerd Hams, Plenipotentiary for Federal and European Affairs, is in charge of coordinating the measures taken by the Brandenburg government in European affairs. In particular, he is responsible for intensifying the promising cross border cooperation with neighbouring Poland.

In the context of the conference of German ministers and senators for European affairs, and via the Bundesrat (the upper house of the German Parliament), the State Secretary contributes to major EU political initiatives. In Brussels he actively promotes the implementation of Brandenburg's interests in the EU institutions. He is a member of the Committee of the Regions and holds close contact with Brandenburg's members of the European Parliament, as well as with the members and senior representatives of the European Commission and the Council of the EU, and with representatives of the EU Presidency. In Brussels his work is particularly directed at helping to shape EU funds for Brandenburg and intensifying contacts with Poland and Brandenburg's other partner regions.

Brandenburg in brief

The Land of Brandenburg, which is situated between the Elbe and the Oder, is proud of its rich cultural history. It hosts monuments of outstanding importance, such as the unique cultural landscape of Potsdam with its castles and parks, the Castle of Rheinsberg and the Chorin Monastery. Prominent personalities lived in

Brandenburg like Bettina von Arnim, Albert Einstein and Otto Lilienthal. In addition to this the history of German film had its beginnings in Babelsberg and has been revived in recent years. There are impressive landscapes in Brandenburg namely the forests of the Schorfheide, the hills of the Uckermark and the waters of the Spreewald, and the area can boast that more than one third of it is covered with forests. The countless lakes and major rivers – Havel, Elbe, Spree and Oder – make Brandenburg the Land with the largest water surface in Germany. It makes an attractive destination for short trips and holidays. Brandenburg offers expertise in various economic and scientific sectors and is a home for internationally competitive production sites. It also serves as a residential and recreational area for the Capital Region of Germany. Berlin and Brandenburg are not only closely intertwined, both geographically and culturally, they are also economically growing together more closely.

Brandenburg basic data:

Surface area: 29,478.61 sq km

Capital: Potsdam

Population: 2,535,700 (December 31, 2007)

The work of the EU representation of Brandenburg

The Representation of the Land Brandenburg to the European Union was established in 1992. It promotes the interests of the Land at European level and informs the government on pending EU initiatives. It is a unit in the Department for European and International Affairs in the State Chancellery and reports via the director of the department to the State Secretary.

The representation fulfills the following tasks:

- Informing the ministries of the Land Brandenburg of the results of European Summits, Council meetings, sessions of the European Parliament and the European Commission as well as on initiatives of EU institutions relevant to the respective ministries in Potsdam.