

Message

from the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, for the program brochure of the Berlin High-Level Dialogue on Implementing Rio+20 Decisions on Sustainable Cities and Urban Transport (19 to 21 June 2013, EUREF Campus)

Distinguished participants in the Rio+20 follow-up meeting in Berlin,

On behalf of the people of Berlin, I would like to welcome you to Germany's capital city.

The international community set ambitious goals for itself at the Rio conferences. In this context, it is becoming more and more obvious in the 21st century's "urban age" that change in the cities is vital to making the transition to efficient, climate-friendly energy use and mobility that conserve resources.

Berlin is taking up that challenge. Our state government is aiming at making Berlin a climate-neutral city and a model community for urban technologies by the middle of the century. At the same time, it wants to reconcile ecological sustainability, social justice, and economic efficiency.

The prerequisites for meeting this goal are already in place. For instance, Berlin has made huge strides over the last few decades in refurbishing buildings to improve their energy efficiency. Thanks to decades of development, our transport system is already very dense, and we are continuing to pursue climate-friendly mobility suited to an urban environment. With its excellent research, scientific, and academic institutions and its creative potential, and as a start-up capital for the digital economy, Berlin is a unique breeding ground for the solutions of tomorrow. Its eminent strengths in research and development of sustainable technologies include clean energy, storage technologies, and energy efficiency. As one of Germany's electromobility pilot regions, we are both a research lab and a showcase for new mobility concepts.

The Berlin Senate has committed itself to doing its share to achieve the Rio goals. I am confident that we will be able to contribute valuable experience and expertise, especially when it comes to energy and mobility. In this spirit, I would again like to welcome you to Berlin and to wish you a productive conference and an inspiring stay in Germany's capital city.



Klaus Wowereit
Governing Mayor of Berlin