

Ladies and Gentlemen, Prof. Hoppe, Prof. Grewenig,

on behalf of the Berlin Senate I want to give you a warm welcome to Berlin. We are proud and happy to host this year's ERIH Conference after previous stations in Bologna (2018) and Copenhagen (2017). I am sure Berlin is a good place to exchange ideas about European industrial heritage.

As you will have noticed, Berlin is definitely not a medieval city. It grew in the 19th and 20th century, with the city and its industry growing together – there are quarters with blocks built for workers, there are parks named “Volkspark” that were meant for the recreation of the industrial workers. Named “Elektropolis”, Berlin became Germany's biggest industry metropolis. Werner von Siemens and Johann Georg Halske as well as August Borsig founded their „Startups“, Siemens and Borsig, here. Almost 600.000 people were employed in the industry sector during the 1930s. This, of course, included Germany's booming arms industry preparing the Second World War.

I have seen on the programme that you are going to visit the Nazi Forced Labour Documentation Centre tomorrow – Berlin's second ERIH anchor point within the European network reminds us of the crimes against humanity committed here by Germans / Berliners in the context of forced labour.

The devastation during the war and subsequent east-west separation put an abrupt end to Berlin's industry, resulting in many companies leaving the divided city.

And, even worse, what was left were prolonged workbenches (subsidised production) in West Berlin and major socialist combines in the city's eastern part. So when the wall finally came down nothing stable was left – which resulted in a rapid structural change with a loss of around 200.000 industrial jobs.

But at least this era left us with a rich industrial heritage throughout Berlin, showing the city's history, defining its urban character and offering diverse possibilities for subsequent use.

First of all, we still see ongoing production at many historic industrial sites throughout Berlin: the results are products like BMW motorcycles and Siemens turbines that are still shipped

into the entire world. Also, the city is again a growing and promising industrial centre – around 100.000 people find work in this sector. Berlin industry benefits from its universities and many start-ups and digital businesses that bring in new ideas and trendsetting partnerships. Sometimes, these alliances take place at historic sites: take, for example, a campus for additive manufacturing that used to house a gas power station. The campus is run by Deutsche Bahn, several 3D printing providers as well as digital businesses. Or take the Siemens Campus planned in Siemensstadt / Spandau, where science, innovation, production and living are going to define a completely new urban quarter.

But today, Berlin's economy is mainly defined by the service sector, including the culture and tourism sector. Like in many other places – I grew up in the Ruhr area, so I'm quite familiar with what you will hear later from Mr. Spiering and Mr. Schlutius – the industrial heritage is interesting and inspiring for artists and cultural workers. Many of Berlin's industrial monuments have found exciting follow-up uses: The Kulturbrauerei in Prenzlauer Berg, the Schulz in Neukölln – there are many more.

Industrial heritage does not only inspire entrepreneurs, founders and artists, but also visitors. Therefore, this heritage has been witnessing an increasing interest throughout Germany and Europe during the past years.

This year's annual conference topic is how to embed industrial heritage into the touristic portfolio as a whole. We in Berlin also deal with this topic – you will later hear a contribution from Bettina Quäschning from visitBerlin, our Destination Management Organisation.

Berlin Tourism is booming and we are proud that people from all over the world show interest in our city and feel good here. We aim to keep it like that and, as in some areas there is already a certain risk of over-tourism, we introduced a new Tourism Concept last year, comprising an array of measures to ensure that Berlin remains a city worth living in for Berliners and guests alike.

Industrial heritage as a touristic point of interest can contribute to city-compatible tourism, since the industrial sites are located in many different parts of the city. If we manage to make these sites part of the tourist trail this will hopefully somewhat relieve the Hotspots. And it is an offer to a target group that we would like to attract: People who have been here several times, feel attached to the city and are therefore more likely to consider the "natives" wellbeing than the omnipresent rowdy stag- or hen-party visitors.

To sum it up and return to your programme for the day: Industrial Heritage can and should be approached from several perspectives: city development, preservation of historical monuments, culture, tourism, and industry itself. With an overarching strategy, we can preserve and develop our industrial heritage appropriately. One organisation that is doing this very successfully in Berlin is the BZI ("Berliner Zentrum für Industriekultur) – thank you very much!

Thank you all for listening patiently and I wish you an interesting and fruitful meeting!

Dr. Anna Hochreuter