PROGRAM

DRV CAPITAL CONGRESS 2026

Moderator: Andrea Grießmann

As of October 6, 2026. Please note that changes may occur. For the detailed timings of the individual program slots, please refer to the event app.

Thursday, 15.10.2026

09:00–10:00 **Welcome coffee** powered by **LUFTHANSA GROUP**

10:00–10:45 **Welcome and opening**
Achim Wehrmann, Chief Executive Officer, DRV

Keynote address
Albin Loidl, President, DRV

Welcome address by the Federal Government
Dr. Christoph Ploß MdB, Federal Government Coordinator for Maritime Economy and Tourism

10:45–11:30 **The travel industry in the European context**

Keynote: The European Commission's tourism strategy: What the travel industry can expect
Elisabeth Kotthaus, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission

Panel: The travel industry in Europe: Are we all in the same boat? (English)
Alexander Albert, Managing Director, BCD Travel Germany | DRV Executive Board Member
Tom Jenkins, CEO, European Tourism Association (ETOA)
Elisabeth Kotthaus, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission
Heli Mäki-Fränti, President, European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Association (ECTAA)

HAUPTSTADTKONGRESS

11:30–12:00	**Coffee break** powered by **LUFTHANSA GROUP**
12:00–12:45	**Focus: A changing world of travel**
	Impulse Speech: Türkiye: How can its top position among destinations be secured for the future? Gökhan Turan, Ambassador to Germany, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye
	Panel: Destinations of the future: How the holiday business is changing, using Türkiye as an example Songül Göktas-Rosati, Managing Director, Bentour Reisen | DRV Executive Board Member Ömer Karaca, CEO, Schmetterling Marcus Schnabel, CEO, SunExpress Dr. Georg Welbers, Chief Sales Officer, DERTOUR Group | DRV Executive Board Member
12:45–13:55	**Lunch** powered by URV Union Reiseversicherung
13:55–15:05	**Economic challenges for the German travel industry**
	Impulse Speech: The Federal Government's economic policy direction in addressing national and international challenges Sepp Müller MdB, Deputy Chair of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group
	Impulse Speech: Federal Republic of Germany: Status report on the economic situation of our country Prof. Marcel Fratzscher, President, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)
	Impulse Speech: How cruises drive growth in the travel industry Felix Eichhorn, President, AIDA Cruises | DRV Vice President
	Panel: The economy under pressure: What does this mean for the travel industry? Felix Eichhorn, President, AIDA Cruises | DRV Vice President Ralf Hieke, Managing Director, Reisebüro Strier, Ibbenbüren | DRV Vice President Sascha Leutner, Member of the Executive Board, schauinsland reisen Markus Orth, Managing Director, Lufthansa City Center | DRV Executive Board Member
15:05–15:35	**Coffee break** powered by **LUFTHANSA GROUP**
15:35–17:15	**Tourism, sustainability and global responsibility**
	Impulse Speech: Tourism for sustainable development: A recipe for the future? Armand Zorn MdB, Deputy Chair of the SPD Parliamentary Group
	Keynote: "The worst is yet to come." Climate change: From scientific evidence to political action Prof. Dr. Mojib Latif, Meteorologist, oceanographer, climate scientist and university professor

Impulse Speech: Travel in harmony with social and environmental sustainability (English)
Bruce Poon Tip, Founder, G Adventures

Panel: Tourism as a conservationist: How sustainable travel products actively contribute to nature conservation
Dr. Sarah Darwin, Scientist, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
Tim Dunker, CEO, Ameropa | DRV Vice President
Gebhard Rainer, CEO, HX Expeditions
Martina von Münchhausen, Senior Programme Manager Sustainable Tourism, WWF
Felix Willeke, Managing Director, Lernidee Erlebnisreisen

Presentation of the EcoTrophea
Prof. Dr. Harald Zeiss, Professor, Hochschule Harz | Chair of the DRV Sustainability Committee

17:15–17:45 **Closing of congress day**

Keynote: US midterm elections: Forecast and international impact
Julius van de Laar, International campaign and strategy consultant

17:45 **End of congress day I**

19:30 **Evening event**
in cooperation with AIDA Cruises
BeachMitte, Caroline-Michaelis-Straße 8, 10115 Berlin

Friday, 16.10.2026

08:30–08:35 **Welcome**
Achim Wehrmann, Chief Executive Officer, DRV

08:35–08:50 **Discussion with members of the German Bundestag's Tourism Committee**

Panel: Focus on tourism
Michael Kießling MdB, Tourism policy spokesperson, CDU/CSU-Bundestagsfraktion
Stefan Zierke MdB, Tourism policy spokesperson, SPD-Bundestagsfraktion Parliamentary Group

08:50–09:40 **New destinations on the tourism horizon**

Impulse Speech: Angola: From a resource-based economy to a tourism destination: How can this be achieved? (English)
Márcio de Jesus Lopes Daniel, Minister of Tourism of Angola

Panel: We built this destination on rock 'n' roll – Music and culture as drivers of creative destination development
Sebastian Zabel, Editor-in-Chief, Rolling Stone
Cornelius Tittel, Contemporary Culture
Michael Frohoff, Pop Culture Economy

09:40–10:30	**Beyond AI** **Dialogue: Between euphoria and disillusionment: The current state of AI, in conversation with Dr. Oliver Rengelshausen** Dr. Oliver Rengelshausen, Chair of the DRV Digitalisation Committee **Impulse Speech: From chat message to telephone booking: End-to-end conversational commerce in tourism** Kevin Dees, Co-Founder & CCO, BOTfriends **Impulse Speech: How artificial intelligence is changing the future of travel** Julia Stern, Managing Director Digital First, Google
10:30	**End of congress day II**
10:30–11:00	**Coffee break** powered by **LUFTHANSA GROUP**
11:00–13:15	**DRV General Meeting & Pillar Meetings** For DRV members only
13:15–14:30	**Lunch** powered by URV Union Reiseversicherung