

HWG Newsletter 07/2015

“We are 100 % committed to the Port of Cuxhaven”

Interview with Daniela Behrens, State Secretary at the Lower Saxony Ministry of Economic Affairs, Employment and Transport



Mrs Behrens, as you mentioned at the Maritime Conference in Cuxhaven at the end of June, you are not very amused by the funding plans for the offshore terminal in Bremerhaven – especially since the needed infrastructure already exists in Cuxhaven. In your opinion, was this not communicated effectively? Or is there perhaps enough demand for both terminals?

My lack of amusement concerned the talks with the Federal Government regarding the distribution of the financial burden when constructing new port infrastructure. The offshore location Northern Germany has excellent potential. After the very difficult past months, the industry appears to be recovering. In the past decade, the state of Lower Saxony has itself invested more than 200 million Euros into port expansions for the offshore industry. The only German heavy lift dock is located in Cuxhaven. When the Federal Government gets involved financially in the creation of additional offshore infrastructure, we emphasize that those states, which have made advance concessions in this regard, should not be disadvantaged. The talks regarding this topic are still under way.

The preservation and expansion of its infrastructure is imperative for Germany. What is the current position of the State Government regarding the expansion of the Port of Cuxhaven?

Cuxhaven has great potential. Since their election, the State Government, led by the Social Democratic Party (SPD) with Prime Minister Stephan Weil and Minister of Economic Affairs Olaf Lies, has been committed to the potential and necessities of infrastructure expansion at the Port of Cuxhaven. In the first year, we already tackled the realisation of berth no. 4 (LP4) and have committed to its construction. The legal planning permission was granted years ago. It was the previous government that had not managed to get into gear. Through NPorts,

we will be investing 36 million Euros in the expansion of the terminal capacities. The necessary notification at the European Commission is currently in progress. The tender for the new operator has been arranged. We will be able to start the construction next year. In addition, we have invested nearly three million Euros in the new dolphin berth at the *Amerikahafen* for the development of Cuxhaven's automobile handling capacities. The dolphin berth has gone into operation this month. We are also renovating the Helgoland Fracht-Kontor site and the blacktop at the Cuxport site. And we will invest two million Euros into the retrofitting of the Steubenhoeft dock in order to clear the way for the new Cuxhaven-Brunsbuettel ferry connection. We are standing by for berths no 8 and 9 as well as the offshore base port, if the investors require adjustments. Finally, we will continue to develop berths no 5 to 7 according to demand. We are 100% committed to the Port of Cuxhaven.

In June, the German seaport and shipping organisations held a joined press conference in Berlin, where they issued an appeal to save the German seafarers. Which influence or contribution can the State Government issue in order to, for example, implement the rules and regulations for the subsidy of seafarers in Lower Saxony that is already valid for the rest of Europe?

We are worried about Germany as a shipping location. Lower Saxony and the other four North German states have launched several initiatives to continue to point out essential changes and request the Federal Government to act. In February 2015, the states issued a declaration regarding this topic. It concerns, among other things, the compulsory insurance for "ship proceeds pools" or the income tax abatement for German seafarers. The continuing critical situation of the shipping industry in addition to the increased cost pressures lead to problems for the German shipping companies. The operation of ships under German flag is not competitive compared to the rest of Europe. The results and consequences are catastrophic. More and more shipping companies flag out their ships. More and more German seafarers lose their jobs. We demand improvements. Time is short. My hope is that the Federal Government will have implemented some of these improvements by this autumn, when the National Maritime Conference will be held in Bremerhaven.

Santjer hosts Maritime Conference in Cuxhaven

The result: animated discussions and joined demands for Cuxhaven and the North German seaports

On 30 June 2015, the SPD state parliamentary representative and port spokesman Uwe Santjer hosted, in conjunction with the SPD North-Lower Saxony regional group, the First Regional Maritime Conference at the havenhostel in Cuxhaven. The topic of discussion was the significance of the maritime economy in Cuxhaven and Lower Saxony. Among the high-ranking guests were Lord Mayor Dr. Ulrich Getsch, chairman of the HWG Hans-Peter Zint and Holger Banik, CEO of Niedersachsen Ports (NPorts). Daniela Behrens, State Secretary at the Lower Saxony Ministry of Economic Affairs, Employment and Transport, was the keynote speaker.

In her speech, Behrens emphasised the chance and need to use the 9th National Maritime Conference in October to address the Federal Government regarding the important topics for the North German ports as well as Cuxhaven. These include ship building, LNG, offshore and also a steady and balanced funding by the Federal Government. She also suggested that instead of repeated discussions, action is needed. Especially since the maritime economy, she said, maintains the same key function in the state as the automobile industry or agriculture.

Behrens reviewed the Federal Government's funding policy critically and said that in future, it would be necessary to develop alternative financing models. In this regard, she referred to the berth no. 4 (LP4) project in Cuxhaven. Behrens also praised the initiative for increased investments in Cuxhaven, of which the ferry liner service starting this August is the best example: "The important things are: Who needs what for their continued development, who can contribute something. In this respect, too, we want to develop port politics in dialogue with all relevant parties."

Hans-Peter Zint, chairman of the Port Association of Cuxhaven (HWG) and member of the Association of Lower Saxon Seaports (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Niedersächsischer Seehäfen), also addressed the industry's dialogue with the ministries and the Federal Government. He said the exchange of information was working well, but that there are still many unanswered questions. The Association of Lower Saxon Seaports has summarised these into a position paper, which will be presented at the National Maritime Conference later this year. Finally, Zint cautioned against the funding of excess or parallel capacities and issued a demand towards the Federal Government to increase the expansion goals for the offshore industry.

Over all, Zint thought the event's reception was largely positive: "It is immensely important to provide the maritime economy in Cuxhaven and Lower Saxony with a voice as often as possible. That is the only way our contributions and suggestions can reach the Federal Government and the public ear. The Regional Maritime Conference in Cuxhaven can develop into such a supra-regional communication tool in the future. However, it is important to note that, aside from the mutual exchange of ideas, we need to follow up our words with actions – especially regarding the current deplorable situation of the nationwide infrastructure and the development of the North German sea ports."

40th Duhnen Wadden Sea horse race was a complete success

Ten members of the HWG contributed prizes for the races on the seabed



Celebrating its 40th anniversary this July, the traditional horse race on the Wadden Sea once again attracted thousands of tourists and regular visitors to the racing course along the beach promenade in Duhnen. Despite the rainy weather, the enthusiastic spectators stuck to

the races along the 1.2 kilometers long course and bet on their favourites to win. The event, which is organised by the Association for Horse Races on the Wadden Sea in Duhnen, has a long-lasting tradition and is seen as one of the highlights of the summer season.

Many members of the Port Business Community in Cuxhaven (HWG) once again contributed prizes and sponsored the twelve horse races. The sponsors included the Kutterfisch-Zentrale, Rhenus Cuxport and DFDS Seaways, the savings banks Weser-Elbe Sparkasse, Stadtparkasse Cuxhaven and Volksbank Stade-Cuxhaven, the Cuxhaven-Niederelbe Verlagsgesellschaft, the administrative district of Cuxhaven, the Nordseeheilbad Cuxhaven and the company MIBAU-Baustoffhandel Cadenberge.

Special attention was caused by a few horses, which bolted during the races, leaving their riders behind on the track. Neither the animals nor the riders were hurt however – horses

and jockeys were finally reunited safe and sound. The next Duhnen Wadden Sea horse race will take place on 14 August 2016.

Inauguration of the new dolphin berth at „Bridge no 3” at the Amerikahafen in Cuxhaven

Successful cooperation of several HWG members for the completion and opening of the berth used for automobile handling



At the end of July, the new dolphin berth at the *Amerikahafen* was inaugurated by the port authority Niedersachsen Ports GmbH & Co. KG (NPorts). Within a short amount of time – only four months – new capacities for the growth of the automobile handling sector in Cuxhaven were created. Automobile handling in Cuxhaven currently amounts to around 400,000 vehicles

per year.

In future, car carriers of the shipping company Kess (K-Line) and of other lines will regularly utilise the berth to load and unload. Even during the opening ceremony, the first car carrier – “Elbe Highway” – was loaded with brand new VW Passat by the HWG member BLG Autoterminal Cuxhaven. Previously, two tugboats of HWG member Otto Wulf GmbH & Co. KG had towed the ship into the *Amerikahafen*, where it had reversed and docked at the new dolphin berth. The new automobile handling capacities come at exactly the right time: In 2014, Cuxhaven was able to place fifth among the automobile ports of the North Range due to an increase of its automobile handling by 6.9 percent. The new port expansion further strengthens Cuxhaven’s future in this industry.

At the inauguration, State Secretary Daniela Behrens said: “The maritime economy is one of the most important lead markets for Lower Saxony. The Lower Saxon ports are the pivotal point here. In order to ensure the competitiveness of the Lower Saxon ports, we need to invest in their infrastructure. And we have done so with this new dolphin berth here in

Cuxhaven. With this project, we contribute to the strengthening of the location.” Also among the honoured guests were Lord Mayor Dr. Ulrich Getsch, Members of the State Parliament Susanne Menge and Uwe Santjer as well as District Administrator Kai-Uwe Bielefeld. Together with State Secretary Behrens, the chairman of the BLG Logistics Group Frank Dreeke, the Kess shipping company representative Torsten Wendt and Holger Banik of NPorts, they cut the symbolic barrier tape to open the berth (see image).

There were ample reasons to celebrate the construction of the port project, which cost a total of 2.9 million Euros. In her address, Behrens praised NPorts’ commitment to the execution and coordination of the project, which was completed on time and in line with the budget. In only four months, the construction company Bilfinger Maritime and Offshore Services had built the entire new berth structure at the *Amerikahafen*.

The new dolphin structure along the old berth bridge no 3 is especially suited to accommodate bigger vessels with more draught and maximum dimensions of 160 metres length and 25 metres width. The berth consists of five bollards and a 155 metre long pier, among other components. Over all, circa 600 steel piles of various proportions as well as around 1500 cubic metres of concrete with 120 tons of reinforcing steel were used in the construction.

HWG introduces her members: havenhostel Cuxhaven



Profile

Company name:	havenhostel Cuxhaven
Year founded:	opened in October 2014
Industry:	hotel industry/tourism
Locations:	Cuxhaven and Bremerhaven (havenhostel Bremerhaven since 2010)
Portfolio:	accommodation, conventions/events, catering with the motto: Staying overnight, experiencing and holding meetings for a fair price!

Interview with Jens Grotelüschen, havenhostel manager



With its 100 comfortable rooms and 300 beds, the havenhostel Cuxhaven, located directly at the North Sea quay, offers the service and comfort of a hotel and the open mindedness of a hostel at favourable prices. The view of the shrimpers, the Elbe estuary and the “Alte Liebe” observation deck make overnight stays an unforgettable experience. The event area, equipped with professional conference technics and audio visual equipment, as well

as the roof terrace on the 7th floor are special highlights and make every event a success.

Question 1 – How would you describe your company?

Our havenhostel aims, in all aspects, to be

- functional,
- straightforward,
- service oriented,
- communicative and
- oriented towards providing the best service for the best price.

Question 2 – Why are you a member of the HWG?

We are a member of the HWG, because we want to collectively contribute to the development of Cuxhaven. The city offers an attractive mixture of businesses centred on the economy, leisure, culture and health. Hence, the potential of the location is vast. That is why we have invested here and opened our havenhostel at the North Sea quay in October 2014. Just like the HWG, we see ourselves as service providers for the location of Cuxhaven and want to promote its strengths and potential nationwide. Together with the HWG, as the interface between the maritime economy, location marketing and regional development, we can generate synergies and more efficiently represent the members’ interests.

Question 3 – What are your personal wishes for your company?

Of course, we wish for further positive development of the havenhostel. As I said, the location offers great potential, especially if the touristic development of the old fishing port goes ahead.

53° 52' N 09° 42' E



We also hope that Cuxhaven becomes even more attractive and can expand its top position as a touristic destination – thus increasing the number of overnight guests.

Further information about the company: www.havenhostel.de

This message has been sent to you by the Cuxhaven Port Business Community (Hafenwirtschaftsgemeinschaft Cuxhaven e.V.).

Legal notice

Issue 07 / 2015, 10.08.2015

Editors: Gwendolyn Dünner - Medienbüro am Reichstag GmbH

Photo copyrights: Lower Saxony Ministry of Economic Affairs, Employment and Traffic, Nordseeheilbad Cuxhaven GmbH, Niedersachsen Ports GmbH & Co. KG, havenhostel Cuxhaven

Hafenwirtschaftsgemeinschaft Cuxhaven e.V., Hamburg-Amerika-Str. 5, 27472 Cuxhaven

Phone: +49 4721 666406, Fax: +49 4721 52629

E-Mail: info@hafenwirtschaftsgemeinschaft.de

Chairman: Hans-Peter Zint

Register court: Amtsgericht (District Court) Cuxhaven – Register number: VR 496