

SPERRFRIST Freitag, 06. November 2009, 18.30 Uhr, es gilt das gesprochene Wort

Vereinigung Hamburger Schiffsmakler und Schiffsagenten e.V.

Vorsitzender Thomas Rehder

Grußwort anlässlich des Eisbeinessens

am 06. November 2009 um 18.30 Uhr

im CCH

Senator Gedaschko,
Consuls-General,
Dear Guests,

I have great pleasure in opening the 61st Eisbeinessen of the Hamburg Shipbrokers' Association. A very special welcome to you all!

The newspaper headlines keep telling us about the economic, finance and shipping crisis. But evidently there is not an Eisbein crisis. We have more than 4,000 guests here, and certainly a few thousand more outside of the Congress Hall. They have come to Hamburg to make it the capital of the maritime world for today. That after all is a good sign of hope and optimism, indicating that we may at last be moving forward, with more cargo and better business.

At any rate, ship brokers are constantly working to get things moving again. And today is an excellent opportunity for that. We have guests here from all maritime sectors, and from more than 50 nation. I trust this will spark good talks, new contacts and fresh ideas. There is no shortage of subjects after this difficult year. And as they say: when disaster happens it is terrible, when it is over it is a very interesting story.

I would now like to extend a special welcome to one of the world's leading shipping nations – Norway, our partner country this year. I am proud to salute a partner country with such a rich tradition and such an important position in the shipping world. We have a wide range of close ties with our neighbour in the north. And let us not forget, Norway is also Germany's second largest gas supplier. I suspect, Consul-General Paulsen, without Norwegian gas, the Eisbein would have stayed cold tonight.

So while the Eisbein is prepared for serving, let me now welcome Hamburg's Senator for Economic Affairs Mr. Axel Gedaschko. Today is his first Eisbein dinner and I am not sure he knew what he was getting himself into. So please give him a roaring round of applause to make him feel at home.