



British Chamber of Commerce in Germany

Press Release

September 30, 2009

German National Elections – Conservative and Liberals win solid majority. British-German businesses and members see results positive for trade and investment.

The German national elections on September 27, 2009, resulted in a solid majority for a new coalition of conservatives ("CDU", winning 33.8 % of the votes, but 1.4 % less than in 2005) and liberals ("FDP", winning 14.6 % of the votes 4.8% more than in 2005), while the socialists lost significantly (with 23 % of votes, 11.2 % less than in 2005), and the left ("Linke", with 11.9 %) as well as the green parties ("Die Grünen" with 10.1 %) increased by some 3 %, or 2 %, respectively.

After the elections, the BCCG conducted a member survey with our database of over 3000 addressees, of which **over** 10 % responded directly.

The results were quite interesting, as members took a very positive view about the results.

- 66.9 % of BCCG members see the election results positive for the success of their own business and its future development.
- 66.6 % are estimating an increase in investment activity in Germany.
- 40.7 % are expecting an increase of capital investment from the United Kingdom to Germany.
- 50.6 % are expecting an improvement and increase in British-German trade.

In addition, members see the most important challenges for the new government in overcoming the financial crisis and reduction of budget deficits. Also, the simplification of the tax system, the reduction of bureaucracy and deregulation, as well as the improvement of the school and training systems are seen as most important by the BCCG membership. Less important in their view is the reduction of social benefits or the reduction of secondary wages paid by companies in Germany.

We welcome our members positive outlook which will result in our opinion in an improvement of the overall investment climate. As our members are interested in their business success, they will acknowledge any positive development in the main economic areas. If expectations are met and the new government acts in the main areas such as tax and reduction of bureaucracy, increase in investment and trade will be the results, with a simultaneous increase in jobs.

Patron: His Excellency the British Ambassador

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About the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany:

BCCG is a privately funded membership network organisation and the largest British Chamber of Commerce in Continental Europe, with more than 1100 members. The Chamber was originally founded in 1919 in Cologne and shortly thereafter in Hamburg. Since 1960, it has successfully continued its work in Germany and the UK. BCCG's aims include strengthening British-German economic relations and promoting Germany and the United Kingdom as investment locations. The chamber also serves as a link to investors in the UK. For further information, please visit our website at www.bccg.de.

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