The Federal Foreign Office
Facts and Figures
The Haus am Werderschen Markt

Since returning to Berlin in 1999, the Federal Foreign Office has been based in the Haus am Werderschen Markt. At 550,000 m², this is the second-largest building in Berlin after former Tempelhof Airport in terms of volume. More than almost any other building in the German capital, it symbolises and bears witness to Germany’s tumultuous and chequered history.
**HISTORY OF THE BUILDING**

**1690** The Elector’s Jägerhof is built to the south-west of Werder’s Markt, which no longer exists in its original form.

**1765** The Königliche Giro- und Lehnbank, a bank founded by King Frederick II of Prussia (Frederick the Great), moves into the building. A series of conversions and expansions are undertaken in the following decades in keeping with Prussia’s economic growth.

**1846** This growth continues when the bank becomes the Preussische Bank and from 1876, the Reichsbank. As a result, the building occupies the entire block between Jägerstrasse, Kurstrasse, Oberwallstrasse and Kleine Jägerstrasse by 1903.

**1913** Even before the First World War, the Reichsbank needs larger premises. From 1913, it begins buying up plots of land in the area.

**1932** Plans for an extension begin. Two years later, the foundation stone is laid.

**1940** Following six years of construction work, the building is completed and handed over to the Reichsbank, whose main task is to manage the financing of the war. The Haus am Werderschen Markt is linked to the Reichsbank on the opposite side of the street by a walkway on the first floor.

**1945** The Reichsbank extension is severely damaged by the end of the Second World War. Following preliminary repairs and restoration work, the Berliner Stadtkontor bank moves into the building on 5 June.

**1949** The Ministry of Finance of the newly founded German Democratic Republic (GDR) moves into the building in the autumn.

**1959** The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) moves into the building in the summer, thus making the Haus am Werderschen Markt the political powerhouse of the GDR.

**1989** In the course of the political overthrow of the GDR, the Central Committee dissolves itself on 8 December.

**1990** The building is vacated during the first weeks of the year. A short while later, it is renamed the Parliamentarians’ Building, as the members of parliament elected to the People’s Chamber of the GDR in the free elections of 18 March are allocated offices there.

**1999** Along with the new ministry building designed by the Berlin-based architects Thomas Müller and Ivan Reimann, the Haus am Werderschen Markt forms the main seat of the Federal Foreign Office. A courtyard links the two buildings. A photovoltaic system on the roof of the old building and a connection to the district heating grid provide environmentally friendly energy.
Federal Ministers for Foreign Affairs

From 1949 to March 2018

Konrad Adenauer  
15 March 1951 – 6 June 1955

Heinrich von Brentano  
6 June 1955 – 17 October 1961

Gerhard Schröder  
14 November 1961 – 30 November 1966

Willy Brandt  
1 December 1966 – 20 October 1969

Walter Scheel  

Hans-Dietrich Genscher  

Helmut Schmidt  
17 September 1982 – 1 October 1982

Klaus Kinkel  

Joschka Fischer  
28 October 1998 – 22 November 2005

Guido Westerwelle  
28 October 2009 – 16 December 2013

Frank-Walter Steinmeier  

Sigmar Gabriel  
27 January 2017 – 14 March 2018
Leadership and organisation

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Federal Foreign Office is headed by Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Heiko Maas

Ministers of State

The Ministers of State support the Foreign Minister in the performance of his official duties, assuming mainly political functions.

Michael Roth  Michelle Müntefering  Niels Annen

State Secretaries

As the highest-ranking civil servants, the State Secretaries represent the Minister at the helm of the Foreign Service as a whole.

Walter J. Lindner  Andreas Michaelis
Staff

The Federal Foreign Office has the following staff in Germany and abroad (figures from 2018):

- **Total (11,652)**
  - **In Germany (2,919)**
    - Abroad
  - **Germany-based staff (3,111)**
  - **Locally employed staff (5,622)**
  - Women (5,792)
  - Men (5,860)
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**Staff**

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- Secretarial and telephone staff: 1,020
- Ordinary service: 219
- Intermediate service: 757
- Higher intermediate service: 1,262
- Higher service: 2,466
Budget

The Federal Foreign Office’s budget amounted to approximately 1.5 percent of the federal budget in 2017 and was allocated as follows:

- **Safeguarding peace and stability** (€2,680.52 million)
- **Bilateral cooperation and fostering international relations** (€214.82 million)
- **Cultural relations with other countries** (€923.08 million)
- **Centrally estimated administrative revenue and expenditure** (€145.28 billion)
- **Federal Ministry** (€1,164.05 million)
- **German Archaeological Institute** (€37.66 million)
Population numbers and GDP* in comparison**

Sources: IWF/Eurostat

*) GDP = gross domestic product in 2016
**) Scale is only comparable within a single category (colour)
Foreign policy priorities and challenges

German foreign policy is based on our values and interests. Its cornerstones are Europe and the transatlantic partnership.

German foreign policy is a policy for peace. Germany works worldwide to foster peace, security and stability. Germany primarily shapes its foreign and security policy in the multilateral context within the framework of the European Union, NATO and the United Nations and takes on security responsibility throughout the world. The German Bundestag must give its consent for German participation in international military missions.

German foreign policy promotes democracy and the rule of law and calls for human rights to be respected worldwide.

Germany is committed to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. It endorses the long-term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

German foreign policy seeks to make the most of the opportunities globalisation offers and to minimise the risks. Managing globalisation requires ground rules. In this context, Germany is also focusing on new issues such as migration, resource security, climate protection, water-related issues and freedom of the internet.
These priorities and basic coordinates of German foreign policy have proven to be sound. The debate during Review 2014 – A Fresh Look at German Foreign Policy, a project launched by then Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, also verified this. The discussions with experts from Germany and abroad, members of the German public and Federal Foreign Office staff on the aims, interests and instruments of German foreign policy showed that we want to and will adhere to these priorities and basic coordinates.

However, the review process also revealed that in a world which is changing rapidly and dramatically, German foreign policy faces three key challenges in the medium term. These challenges are crisis, order and Europe.
FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini
Crisis

Crisis is becoming a permanent state of affairs. The conflicts in Ukraine, Syria and Libya; the terrorist threat posed by so-called Islamic State; the challenges arising from the global flows of refugees and migrants; and the rapid spread of epidemics, such as Ebola in West Africa, are merely a few examples of how crisis is not an exception to the rule in globalisation, but rather a constant by-product of it. German foreign policy needs to adapt more effectively to this situation.

We live in a world that is growing ever more interconnected, but whose contrasts are clashing ever more fiercely. This is not happening despite globalisation, but rather because of it. We need to realise that economic, technological and digital globalisation alone do not guarantee political rapprochement, let alone a sound order. Furthermore, the stable economic and political situation Germany enjoys is more the exception than the rule. This creates a special responsibility for Germany and challenges it to deal with uncertainty and volatility in a better way.
Defusing crises in time and countering them through a balancing of interests, mediation and prevention before damage control is the only option left to us must be one of the key interests and concerns of German foreign policy. Germany enjoys a high level of respect worldwide in this area. However, it can do more to set international benchmarks in this field, as it has a duty to use its resources and capacities to foster peace. We want to act earlier, more decisively and more tangibly – not only during acute crises, but also increasingly in conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding.

As part of the Review 2014 process, the Federal Foreign Office set up a new Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance with the aim of pooling its skills and enhancing the components of foresighted foreign policy, namely crisis prevention, strengthening fragile states, peace mediation and post-conflict peacebuilding. We do not know when or where the next crisis will erupt. But we do know that it will come. And this can also occur very close to home, not only in more distant parts of the world. German foreign policy needs to be forearmed for this.
Order

Germany is more interconnected with the world beyond its borders than almost any other country. It depends on this interconnectedness and, as a country with an export-oriented economy, thrives on it. Germany has seized many of the opportunities of globalisation, forging new ties with emerging economies and nations. We benefit greatly from an intensive exchange of ideas, people, products and information with other countries. The more orderly these connections are, the better it is for Germany. That is why the endeavours to ensure a fair, peaceful and resilient international order are a key interest of German foreign policy.

The world around us is changing. In some places, there is pressure on the existing order, whose parameters, along with the global balance of power, are changing, primarily due to the unprecedented rise of China. The pressure of globalisation is also eroding the established order, calling it into question, fragmenting it through parallel structures and regionalism, and challenging it through the continued growing importance of the internet.

Germany promotes binding rules and effective international institutions that facilitate orderly and close cooperation in an increasingly interconnected world. At the same time, the country needs to define its own contributions to the preservation and creation of international structures of order more precisely. It must continue its endeavours to protect precious public assets, that is, the oceans, outer space and the internet. The aim is to find the right balance between strengthening proven and essential institutions and structures such as the European Union, NATO, the United Nations and the G7 and – where necessary – developing new elements of order, partnerships
and international regimes, for example within the framework of the G20 or in the agreement with Iran on the nuclear dispute.

The Review 2014 process also led to a structural reform in this area at the Federal Foreign Office. The Directorate-General for Disarmament and the Directorate-General for the United Nations were merged to form the Directorate-General for International Order, the United Nations and Arms Control, thus creating a structure in which we can make extensive use of our most important principle of international order – multilateralism.
Europe

European integration and the European Union have created a Europe without internal borders, a Europe with lasting peace, a strong single market and a stable currency. Germany benefits more from this than almost any other country. European integration and the European Union will therefore remain the cornerstones of German foreign policy.

Yet here too the challenges have changed, and we must transform our old certainties into new answers. Firstly, German foreign policy must do everything possible to prevent a situation in which Germany has to choose between its international competitive strength in the globalised world on the one hand and the future of European integration – especially the cohesion of the economic and monetary union – on the other. In concrete terms, this means we must enable Europe to benefit from our strength, for we benefit from its strength. That is why it is in our interests to invest in Europe.

Secondly, we must do everything we can to keep the European Union together following the Brexit vote. On the one hand, the European Union must become capable of taking action once again in the areas where European action is most important, that is, in the fields of security and foreign policy, migration, and economic and monetary union. On the other hand, it must also meet a wide range of expectations. It must cater to those who want greater integration, while including those who want to take more time in some areas of the European project. Germany holds great responsibility for cohesion in the European Union and in the question of the future of Europe.
Our aim is to live up to the responsibility arising from the present strength of Germany’s position. We want to cultivate good and strong bilateral relations with important partner countries. But when it comes to shaping globalisation, Germany is only capable of acting within a European framework. Only in and through Europe can it play a positive and productive role in international politics. It is important to apply this “European imperative” of German foreign policy in our day-to-day activities and to make the “European reflex” an integral part of our initiatives and daily business. In the age of globalisation, our future is European.
Services provided by the Federal Foreign Office

The Federal Foreign Office provides help around the clock. You will find the following useful information online:

- **Federal Foreign Office website**
  [www.diplo.de/en](http://www.diplo.de/en)

- **Travel and security advice**
  [www.diplo.de/sicherreisen](http://www.diplo.de/sicherreisen)

- **Health advice**
  [www.diplo.de/gesuenderreisen](http://www.diplo.de/gesuenderreisen)

- **Consular information**
  [www.konsularinfo.diplo.de](http://www.konsularinfo.diplo.de)

- **Training and jobs**
  [www.diplo.de/weltweitwir](http://www.diplo.de/weltweitwir)

- **Helpline**
  [www.diplo.de/helpdesk](http://www.diplo.de/helpdesk)

- **Addresses of German missions abroad**
  [www.diplo.de/av-adressen](http://www.diplo.de/av-adressen)

- **Addresses of foreign missions in Germany**
  [www.diplo.de/botschaften-in-deutschland](http://www.diplo.de/botschaften-in-deutschland)
The Federal Foreign Office in social media
www.diplo.de/social-media

Facebook
www.facebook.com/AuswaertigesAmt

Twitter
www.twitter.com/GermanyDiplo

Instagram
www.instagram.com/AuswaertigesAmt
German missions throughout the world

With its headquarters in Berlin and its network of 227 missions around the world, the Federal Foreign Office represents Germany abroad. At present, Germany has diplomatic relations with more than 190 countries. The German embassies are based in capitals or seats of government. In larger countries, they are complemented by consulates general and consulates in other major cities. Germany also has 12 missions to transnational and supranational organisations such as the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, the European Union in Brussels and the Permanent Representation to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague.

Permanent missions, representations and delegations throughout the world:
- Brussels a) to the EU b) to NATO
- The Hague to the OPCW
- Geneva a) to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations b) to the Conference on Disarmament
- New York to the United Nations
- Paris a) to the OECD b) to UNESCO
- Rome to the FAO
- Strasbourg to the Council of Europe
- Vienna a) to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations b) to the OSCE

The terms and maps used do not imply any position on the legal status of territories or borders.

July 2016
Consular services abroad

Every year, German citizens make some 50 million journeys abroad, where many of them end up in emergency situations, often through no fault of their own. German embassies, consulates and honorary consuls provide the necessary consular assistance worldwide in cases of lost passports, theft, illness or arrest.

Our missions abroad are also the most important link to Germany as regards consular matters for German citizens resident abroad.

Detailed information about the services provided is available at www.konsularinfo.diplo.de and the websites of the German missions abroad.

Travel advice – all of the information provided by the Federal Foreign Office to ensure you have a safe journey abroad. Available as an app free of charge.

www.diplo.de/app-sicherreisen.html