

## PRESS RELEASE

March 04, 2018

### Federal Chancellor Merkel to open ITB Berlin 2018

**A festive opening gala on 6 March 2018 with leading figures from politics and tourism – A spectacular programme of shows by Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the partner region of ITB Berlin, will kick off the World's Leading Travel Trade Show®**

Numerous celebrities will be attending the World's Largest Travel Trade Show®, with **Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel** due to hold a speech that will mark her opening of ITB Berlin. On 6 March 2018, on the eve of the show, ITB Berlin and this year's partner region Mecklenburg-Vorpommern will be extending an invitation to the opening ceremony in Hall B at the CityCube Berlin. For the first time the event, which is by special invitation only, will leave a zero carbon footprint. The following will welcome the guests with speeches: Governing Mayor of Berlin **Michael Müller**, President of the Federal Association of the German Tourism Industry (BTW) **Dr. Michael Frenzel**, Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) **Zurab Pololikashvili**, and Minister President of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern **Manuela Schwesig**. **Dr. Christian Göke**, CEO of Messe Berlin GmbH will represent ITB Berlin. The evening's hosts will be the well-known TV presenter **Judith Rakers** and **Tobias Voitendorf**, deputy managing director and marketing and communications director of the tourism association of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Taking as its slogan 'The Spirit of Nature', Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the official partner region of ITB Berlin, will be fascinating guests with an impressive programme of shows, where tradition will inspire modernity and vice versa. 80 performing artists from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern who are directly associated with the federal state that is Germany's most popular holiday destination will be taking part. In the 'Modern Beach Life' show a historical beach armchair, surfboards and a beach volleyball will meet each other. 'The Sound of Silence' will highlight the unique landscape of the Mecklenburg Lakeland region to the musical accompaniment of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic Ensemble. In 'Fascinating Palaces and Gardens – The Special MV Edition', models and the ballerina Lia will fascinate the audience with fashion collections from Designschule Schwerin. In 'Modern Tradition', Breitling and The Blowboys will take part in an imaginative singing contest between two shanty choirs. Appearing directly from Shanghai via a Skype video link, Kristjan Järvi will direct 'Groovin' Boat Engines', a special percussion performance by the Baltic Sea Philharmonic Ensemble, and at the show's grand finale the world-renowned DJ and music producer **Felix Jaehn** ("Cheerleader") will be conjuring a party atmosphere on stage. His songs have topped the charts in around 70 countries and he has just released his first record.

Only media representatives who have registered for the opening ceremony of ITB Berlin 2018 will be admitted. It will not be possible to register at the event itself.

Please note that only a limited number of media representatives can be granted access. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### About ITB Berlin and the ITB Berlin Convention

ITB Berlin 2018 will take place from Wednesday to Sunday, 7 to 11 March. From Wednesday to Friday ITB Berlin is open to trade visitors only. ITB Berlin is the World's Leading Travel Trade Show. In 2017 a total of 10,000 companies and organizations from 184 countries exhibited their products and services to around 169,000 visitors, who included 109,000 trade visitors. Parallel with the show the ITB Berlin Convention, the largest event of its kind, will be held from Wednesday, 7 to Saturday, 10 March 2018. Admission to the ITB Berlin Convention is free for trade visitors and exhibitors.



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More details are available at [www.itb-berlin.com](http://www.itb-berlin.com), [www.itb-convention.com](http://www.itb-convention.com) and at [ITB Social Media Newsroom](#).

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