



CENTRAL EUROPEAN CHAPTER AUTUMN MEETING
KIEL, GERMANY 2026

Program:

Friday, September 11, 2026

06:00 pm - Get-Together with Dinner Option for Those Already Present in Kiel at
Restaurant "Forstbaumschule" Next to the Kiel Fjord

Saturday, September 12, 2026

09:00 am - Registration

09:15 am - Opening Remarks

09:30 am - Presentation #1: Kiel in Schleswig-Holstein (Gerald Meyer-Waeterling)

09:50 am - Introduction of Attendees with Option for Presentations

10:30 am - Coffee Break

11:00 am - Presentation #2: Horn of Africa I: Asmara – Mogadishu – Addis / MTP 2025
(Armin Schreiner)

11:30 am - Presentation #3: Antarctic Peninsula and Subantarctic Islands (Kai Nickelsen)

12:00 pm - Quiz: Travel Trivia (Reinhold Baer)

12:30 pm - Lunch and Group Photo

02:00 pm - Presentation #4: Caucasus 2025 (Jill and Uwe Bussmann)

02:30 pm - Presentation #5: Lebanon 2025 – Before the War (Lebzy Gonzales)

03:00 pm - Coffee Break

03:15 pm - Quiz Winners Announcement

03:45 pm - Cultural Performance with Gambian Drums (Djembe Percussion) by "Jekolo"

04:30 pm - Presentation #6: The Gambia and More 2018 (Dirk Hannemann)

05:00 pm - Questions and Answers

05:15 pm - Future Autumn Meetings

05:30 pm - Closing Remarks

07:00 pm - Dinner at "Gaststaette Ratskeller," Right in the Historic Kiel City Hall –
Social Evening

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Departure or Kiel Fjord Excursion to Laboe Naval Monument and Submarine "U 995"
(Gerald Meyer-Waeterling)

Protocol:

1. Opening remarks by **Armin Schreiner**. After welcoming everyone to the (very) North of Germany – and after Friday's first social gathering in the "Forstbaumschule," a traditional restaurant picked by **Gerald Meyer-Waeterling's wife Ilka** – TCC's Silver Status was awarded to **Joerg Werda**. In addition, **Thomas Straub** received a Lego tulip award from all women he had presented with wooden tulips over so many years.

2. Participants **from 11 (or even 15) countries** (see list below) introduced themselves and reported on their travel experiences during the past year as well as on their future endeavours. The total of 38 participants did not leave time for picture presentations, but this number included quite a few new faces, some had even come from outside of Europe. A hearty welcome was given to **Yvonne Brown, Thomas Driemeyer, Lebzy Gonzales, Andrea Klemt, Merryn Kolker, Gerald Meyer-Waeterling, Felix Nolte, and Wei Wei Xiang. Torsten Koenig and Baerbel Schroeder** joined as guests.

3. Presentations (according to the above program); all presentations were cheered by the audience as in every single chapter meeting before. First of all, our local host **Gerald Meyer-Waeterling** – a newby to the club, but an excellent host nonetheless – presented not only on the history and habits of Germany's coastal region, he also found some nice words about the city of Kiel... although he lives in its surely (more?) beautiful rival, the UNESCO-awarded town of Luebeck. **Armin Schreiner** took us to the Horn of Africa by reporting on the cities of Asmara, Mogadishu, and Addis Ababa, visited in the scope of the MTP Summit 2025 (to be complemented by Djibouti and Hargeisa at the next meeting in Bratislava in May 2027). Subsequently, **Kai Nickelsen** opened the freezer door and let us peek into the Antarctic Peninsula, packed with penguins and seals. But our group proved to be “bipolar” and gathered around a big polar bear statue in the hotel lobby for the obligatory group picture – with **Iain Grist** masterfully riding the animal. After lunch, **Jill Bussmann** had her second appearance on our stage already, presenting last year's Caucasus adventure together with her dad **Uwe. Lebzy Gonzales** was to follow with her view on the situation in Lebanon before the most recent war. And, finally, the focus narrowed down to The Gambia, a tiny country in Western Africa with an immensely rich culture. Six ladies with drums, who trained their skills right on the Gambia river, let us feel the indigenous rhythms when performing as “**Jekolo.**” Strongly interested, the musicians stayed for the last presentation of the afternoon, **Dirk Hannemann's** account of a trip to The Gambia and Senegal in 2018, comprising both cultural pearls and natural beauty.

4. Travel Trivia Quiz:
 Again, **Reinhold Baer's** fabulous quiz didn't fail to entertain – or to drive even experienced travellers into despair ;-))
 The categories this time: African coats of arms, Big islands, Weather phenomena, and Italian cities. While 2nd and 3rd place finalists received world-map headgear, the overall champion (with 52/64 points) was entirely wrapped up in a world map and got an extra little snow-leopard mascot of the 2026 World Nomad Games. And who did the trick? From place 1 to 3: **Hubert Dahl, Beatrix Hauss, and Yvo Peeters.** Congratulations (and heartfelt admiration) !!!

5. Questions and Answers:
 Since TCC's coordinator of the Mediterranean chapter, **Omer Yalkin**, organizes regular trips to Lebanon, some members wanted to be included in his mailings. **Armin Schreiner** will establish this contact.
Beat Fehr could not make it to Kiel, but donated his meeting-room share to the group. Thankfully, the money went into the Jekolo drummers' reimbursement. **Beat** also donated a few copies of his latest philosophy book. Every book was gladly taken! For more copies, please feel free to contact him any time.
 As discussed on a more private note thus far, TCC HQ has asked us Europeans about whether or not taking responsibility for one **Virtual-Exploration** subject per year. In these Zoom meetings, we could then adapt the presentation time to Central European needs in order to get more non-Americans online. What do you all think? Any “tech nerds” volunteering? Please send your direct mails to **Armin Schreiner.**

6. Future Meetings:

The next Central European Chapter Meeting in autumn (or fall) 2027 will be held in **Dresden, Germany**, on Saturday, **September 18, 2027** (in order to avoid the German school holidays). Dresden (12 votes) won over Bamberg (6 votes), Seligenstadt (6 votes), and Freiburg (2 votes). Our venue will be announced in due time. **Michael Zoch** volunteered as a location scout :)))

But first of all, let's concentrate on our 2027 Spring Meeting, which will be organized as a Regional Meet-Up, taking place in **Bratislava, Slovak Republic**, on (and after) **May 15, 2027**, with a **pre-meeting agenda in Vienna, Austria**. Please watch for the respective mailings...

7. Small wonder that **Hubert Dahl** is doing so well in the travel quiz: He joined TCC exactly 40 years ago on the day, as was proven by his welcome certificate! Of course, we celebrated this event with other long-time travellers – and two bottles of sparkling wine. Dinner was then hosted in the historic Kiel town hall cellars – with an open-end party again in Hotel Atlantic.

Next morning, our Sunday excursion – in the typical Northern German “Schietwetter” (gray and rainy skies) – took us by ferry to the Naval Monument on the beach at Laboe, sporting a bona-fide submarine from WWII (“U 995”).

After entering “Das Boot,” the “Matjes” (soused herring) sandwich later on might have left a bit of a stale taste now. Good thing that it was washed away with a beer on the return trip ;-))



38 Participants from 11 (15) countries:

Mrs. Angela	Baer	Germany
Mr. Reinhold	Baer	Germany
Mrs. Yvonne	Brown	Germany
Mrs. Jill	Bussmann	Germany
Mr. Uwe	Bussmann	Germany
Mr. Hubert	Dahl	Germany
Mrs. Nathalie	Dieckmann	Germany
Mr. Thomas	Driemeyer	Germany
Mrs. Ana-Maria	Florea	Germany
Mrs. Sabine	Engelhardt	Germany
Mrs. Lebzy	Gonzales	Portugal/Puerto Rico
Mr. Iain	Grist	Cyprus/UK
Mr. Olaf	Guettler	Germany
Mr. Dirk	Hannemann	Germany
Mrs. Beatrix	Hauss	Austria
Mrs. Andrea	Klemt	Germany
Mr. Torsten	Koenig	Germany
Mrs. Merryyn	Kolker	UK/Australia
Mr. Mario	Kornmesser	Germany
Mr. David	Langan	Ireland
Mr. Tomas	Lulovic	Slovak Republic
Mr. Gerald	Meyer-Waeterling	Germany
Mr. Kai	Nickelsen	Germany
Mr. Felix	Nolte	Germany
Mr. David	Patrician	Germany/USA
Mr. Yvo	Peeters	Belgium
Mr. Adam	Prasil	Czech Republic
Mr. Jirka	Prasil	Czech Republic
Mr. Volker	Sayer	Germany
Mrs. Anja	Schreiner	Germany
Mr. Armin	Schreiner	Germany
Mrs. Baerbel	Schroeder	Germany
Mr. Thomas	Straub	Germany
Mr. Christopher	Thorjussen	Norway
Mr. Joerg	Werda	Germany
Mrs. Dorota	Wydro	Poland
Mrs. Wei Wei	Xiang	Belgium/China
Mr. Michael	Zoch	Germany

Thanks to all of you for your participation and all of your input!!!