



IPU, Anlass vom 16. Oktober 2011, Bea Expo

Rede von Alexander Tschäppät

Good evening and welcome to the most beautiful city in the world. I know that every Mayor says this about his city, with the difference that in Bern it happens to be true.

A warm welcome to the capitol of Switzerland, the very heart of Swiss democracy; Bern hosts 3 parliaments on the federal, state and city level.

The capital of Switzerland is famous for many reasons:

- The Old Town of Bern was among the first places on earth to receive the UNESCO World Heritage label, together with Taj Mahal or Macchu Picchu.
- One of the oldest UN-Organisation is located in Bern, the Universal Postal Union.

- In the Old Town you also find the Einstein House, the house where Albert Einstein lived at the beginning of the 20th century and where he developed 60% of his most revolutionizing theories about theoretical physics. Berlin, Jerusalem, Princeton; they all celebrate Einstein, but the city most entitled to celebrate Einstein, is the city of Bern. The theses about relativity were written in this one bed room apartment, which still exists in its original condition.
- Today's scientists are not bad either: The University of Bern's Climate Research enjoys an excellent reputation worldwide.
- One of the world's most famous chocolate, Toblerone, is produced for over 100 years in our city.
- And if you enjoy a coffee called Nescafé, don't forget, Bern is the birthplace of this wonderful drink.
- Unforgettable sport events took place in Bern: the Football World Cup in 1954 with the German victory is remembered as the miracle of Bern.

- Another miracle happened when 150'000 happy Dutch supporters doubled our city's population during the EURO 2008 and drunk 8,5 million liter of Beer.

Let me give you in 3 minutes a short view of Bern:

- 133'000 inhabitants, female majority
- 154'000 people work in Bern, 70% use public transportation
- Bern is a very green city, 55% of our area is still green, only 45% are urbanized, so quality of life is our USP.
- In Bern we still have 54 farms with 1'184 cattle, 717 cows, 394 sheep and 2'402 pigs. Chicken are not counted...
- We have 1'031 apple trees, 201 cherry trees, 318 plume und prune trees, but only 6 apricot trees.

In Bern we have 600 Police Officers, 348 Diplomats, 190 Flower pots in public space, 246 members of Swiss Parliament.

- We have 2'703 dogs (all tax payers / we offer them 1'002 hydrants and 21'713 trees in public space).
- We have 55'000 private cars an 80'000 bicycles.
- Bern has the longest shopping mall in the world: 6 km covered arcades (so spend your money here and enjoy the beauty of this City).

And to finish there is a last thing you have to know:

People from Bern are supposed to be slower than anybody else. According to a recent international study this prejudice has proven wrong. The study found out that people in Bahrain und Malawi walk even slower. And if you come back next summer, you will be among the 10'000 urban swimmers who swim every day in our river, the Aare, around the parliament building.

So enjoy your stay in Bern and come back, you are very welcome.