

Where the structural change catches the eye: the Federal District of Bonn

Bonn is booming: the whole city is an example of that, but most noticeably the federal district, the former governmental district between Bonn and Bad Godesberg. This former focus of German politics has experienced a fundamental reorientation on the topmost level. A completely new urban district, four kilometres along the river Rhine and one mile deep, has sprung up around the 'Central Park' of Bonn, the Rheinaue: the premises of global players, new enterprises, scientific and research institutions, federal ministries, the World Conference Center Bonn, and soon the "campus" of the United Nations. Since 1991, more than 80 new companies and institutions have settled here. Nearly 35 000 people work in this district (in 1997, before the governmental move, there have been but 20 600 jobs); so, nearly one fifth of all jobs in Bonn is concentrated here. In the near future, the number of jobs in the federal district will arise to about 42 000.

The World Conference Center Bonn will play a central role in this context. Its nucleus is the former plenary hall of the German Parliament very much appreciated by congress participants from all over the world because of its light architecture. In order to adjust the Congress Center to the needs of the United Nations in the first place, a second hall seating 5000 persons will be constructed alongside with a first class hotel. Since summer 2006, the Bonn based Secretariats of the United Nations reside in the UN Campus, the former office tower of the German Deputies called 'Langer Eugen' in the Federal Quarter. An adjacent former parliamentary building is currently being refurbished to host the United Nations' World Climate Secretariat. As it proved too small for UNFCCC even before renovation was finalised another office building will be constructed on the same site.

More highlights in the federal district:

- The "Villa Hammerschmidt" remains the Bonn seat of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany
- The former Chancellor's Office is now the seat of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), while the second official seat of the chancellor remains in the Palais Schaumburg
- In the "Tulpenfeld", the German development organisations have established themselves. Here are also the offices of the Bonn based journalists of inter-regional and international media.
- At the foot of the UN-Campus are the new prestigious studios of the German international broadcaster Deutsche Welle; since summer 2003 its programmes are transmitted world wide from Bonn.
- In autumn 2002, Deutsche Post World Net has moved into the 'Post Tower', the new building of its headquarters, just south of the Deutsche Welle studios. The building, 162.5 metres (appr. 530 ft) tall, was designed by the architect Helmut Jahn and has become the new landmark of the structural change in Bonn.
- Deutsche Telekom AG continues to expand in Bonn. The enterprise had two spacious office-buildings constructed opposite its corporate headquarters and connected the two complexes by means of a glass skywalk.

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