

10 years Working Group Halal and Kosher

Ladies and Gentleman,



the food of a country is closely linked to its culture and traditions. And religion also has a role to play. In many faiths, there are clear rules for what adherents may and may not eat.



It is not just food producers from Lower Saxony who are making increasing use of the opportunities that are offered by the market for products prepared according to Islamic (halal) or Jewish (kosher) dietary requirements. More than 4 million Muslims live in Germany alone, and there is also growing demand for halal food all over the world. There is similar growth in the markets for kosher items in countries such as Israel, the US, France and Russia.



Businesses that offer kosher or halal food, both in Germany and elsewhere, have to abide by certain regulations. Without a halal or kosher certificate, they do not have access to the market. The halal and kosher group of the Hannover Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK) has been supporting producers and exporters for ten years; with its practical know-how, the group helps open up such markets for them. Congratulations to them on this milestone anniversary!



Within this specific area, the group at IHK Hannover is the only one in the whole of Germany; it provides training on halal and kosher standards, and promotes interaction within the trade. I am delighted that the group has been so well received right from the beginning. Currently, it has 120 members and many additional interested parties from both the food and logistics industries.



It is commendable to see your commitment reaching far beyond the borders of our federal state. This helps our firms in the halal and kosher food sectors to enjoy business success. The growing level of trade with these special food products also helps to promote cultural coexistence, as well as furthering understanding between faith communities with their different ways of living.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Stephan Weil'.

Stephan Weil
Minister-President of Lower Saxony

with the support of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture



The production and distribution of halal and kosher products present a great opportunity for companies but also involve specific requirements. The Halal/Kosher Working Group is the only existing platform in Germany which enables responsible representatives from the food sector to support each other in meeting these requirements based on close and trusting exchange.



The Working Group engages in dialogue with certifiers and is actively and in a solution oriented way involved with certifying bodies and authorities at international level. Thanks to the Working Group and the personal commitment of its members, a wide variety of possibilities to assist in implementing activities related to halal and kosher products is nowadays available to the German food sector.



We explicitly welcome this entrepreneurial commitment and appreciate to have been an integral part of this network for already over 10 years.



Dr. Artur Ickstadt
Head of Division 424 "International Commodities,
Export, Trade Promotion"
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture



under the umbrella of the Hannover Chamber of Commerce and Industry



The working group (AG) thrives on intensive exchange amongst its members. We address current issues and problems – from the joint search for solutions in the production process to international sales and marketing. And we form a strong network addressing the certification companies and politics. Today, the working group comprises around 260 members and interested parties and it continues to grow – in addition to the food industry, more and more companies from the pharmaceutical, chemical and logistics sectors are actively involved.



Tilman Brunner
Head of International Department, IHK Hannover



Working Group Halal and Kosher

IHK Hannover, Schiffgraben 49, 30161 Hannover, Tel: 0511/3107-431, -232, E-Mail: rausch@hannover.ihk.de

www.hannover.ihk.de/halal-koscher