The Voice of the Private Financial Sector
Contents

Who we are .................................................................................................................. 4
What we do ..................................................................................................................... 5
Interview with Hans-Walter Peters ........................................................................... 6
Our way of doing things ................................................................................................. 10

Where we make a difference ........................................................................................ 11
Digital banking ............................................................................................................... 12
Deposit protection ......................................................................................................... 16
Social commitment ......................................................................................................... 20
Ombudsman scheme of the private banks ................................................................. 24
Lobbying ......................................................................................................................... 28
About the Association ..................................................................................................... 30

[Source: Association of German Banks/own calculations | Deutsche Bundesbank | Eurokartenysteme | as at: autumn 2018]
The voice of the private financial sector

The Bundesverband deutscher Banken e. V. (Association of German Banks) was founded in Cologne in 1951 and in 1999 moved its head office to Berlin, where it has been ever since. As the voice of the private financial sector, we coordinate, shape and represent the interests of the private banking industry. We act as mediator between the private banks, policymakers and administrators, consumers and businesses.

The Association of German Banks is a registered association. Its bodies – the Members’ Assembly, Delegates’ Assembly, Board of Directors and Presidency – are supported by a full-time Management Board.

Diversity is the hallmark of the Association of German Banks. It represents more than 200 members, including banks and fintechs as well as regional associations. In the German Banking Industry Committee (GBIC), the Association also cooperates with the four other leading financial sector associations. Around 160 employees are responsible for handling the day-to-day operations, led by two Chief Executives and supported by the Management Board members and managing directors.

We encourage open dialogue between businesses, policymakers and society.

Andreas Krautscheid
Chief Executive

WHAT WE DO

Mediate, shape, build trust

The Association of German Banks pursues a wide range of tasks. Externally, the Association defends the economic and fundamental interests of its members vis-à-vis policymakers, legislative bodies as well as supervisory and regulatory authorities – always keeping overall economic considerations in mind.

Internally, we support our members in implementing statutory requirements, assist them in legal as well as practical and political issues and inform them about current political and economic developments. In close cooperation with domestic and foreign associations, we pool our interests, forge alliances, develop solutions and involve ourselves in political and economic decision-making processes.

We also inform the public about the activities of private banks: this is done by providing press releases and information services, publications and teaching material as well as by using social media or staging events.

Two further areas of responsibility play a key role in building mutual trust: our ombudsmen and women – independent mediators – find quick and simple solutions to disputes between consumers and member institutions. And our deposit protection fund offers a high degree of protection for customer deposits.
Mr Peters, you’re the incumbent President of the Association of German Banks and have been working in the banking industry for more than 40 years. What was it that originally prompted you to pursue a career in this particular industry? After leaving school, I took a joint degree in statistics and economics. As I already had a keen interest in stocks and shares at that time, this combination proved ideal: when I was working for my PhD, I applied to a bank – and was accepted surprisingly quickly. And then I was “in”, as they say. I’ve remained loyal to the industry to this day as it’s in a continuous process of change and there are always new challenges and interesting tasks and projects to explore.

How has the industry changed of late? The 2008 financial crisis was undoubtedly a major turning point. It’s often the case: something dramatic happens, and everything is done to prevent it from happening again. This applied to the financial sector after 2008 as well – and both banks and consumers are feeling the consequences even today. That sometimes has the strangest of effects. A particularly striking example is the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID): customers today must agree to allow all their telephone consultations with their banks to be recorded. And anyone engaging in intensive discussions with their adviser will find themselves talking not only about money but also about themes such as healthcare, family, career – in other words all aspects of life planning. The customer cannot object to having these recordings made and I’m not the only one who finds this problematic.

How much bureaucracy is involved in today’s investment and lending business? Regulation was essentially correct, but it’s been far too extensive. Thousands of pages of new provisions were implemented, capital ratios strengthened and supervision tightened. All in all, the pressure to act often resulted in a loss of a sense of proportion. Policymakers have now recognised this themselves, in the USA earlier than here. After imposing countless regulatory measures in past years, they now need to give banks some breathing space to reposition themselves. After all, banks are a cornerstone of the economy. By co-financing innovation and German exports, they contribute to maintaining prosperity and jobs in Germany. 88 per cent of export-oriented companies have a private bank as a partner. Our economic model wouldn’t function if banks weren’t competitive.

MiFID is short for the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive of the European Union (EU), which aims to harmonise financial markets in the European internal market.
“Our economic model wouldn’t function if banks weren’t competitive.”
Hans-Walter Peters
President

Looking beyond national borders: would the banking industry benefit from greater European cooperation?
It most certainly would! We need to work more closely together and that requires greater coordination. The Association of German Banks is in clear support of more, and not less, Europe. At a time when borders and isolation are becoming acceptable again, we see an even greater need to move forward towards a genuine single financial market. What applies to trade in goods and services in general also applies to financial services: a single market boosts prosperity. We’re therefore faced with the task of rescuing capital markets union from neglect and promoting it together with banking union. Monetary union must also be placed on a stable, long-term footing, and this will inevitably involve reforms. We’re playing a constructive role in this debate in order to advance integration in Europe.

A brief word on fintechs: rivals or partners and equals?
Digitalisation will radically transform all areas of the financial industry. Fintechs have initiated a number of developments, and it’s difficult to imagine life without them today. They’ve become the partners of banks in many areas; both sides complement each other and can learn from one another. We work together with them and are engaged in jointly promoting new services and products.

The Association of German Banks has also become involved in school education. Why?
Together with the newspaper F.A.Z., we’ve developed a school project called “Jugend und Wirtschaft” (“Youth and the Economy”) in order to introduce economic themes into schools. When we award prizes to the authors of the best articles each year, it’s a pleasure to see so many young people approaching business topics with such enthusiasm. But this is still the exception in our educational system: economics does not feature particularly strongly in lessons in schools. And that in a strong economy like Germany of all places! We firmly believe that economics should be put on the school curriculum. There is still too much purely factual knowledge being taught at schools and not enough about how things interrelate. But this encourages us to continue the Association’s strong commitment in this area.

How difficult is it to strike a balance between representing the interests of banks and those of consumers?
I don’t see any contradiction here. It’s very much in our own interests to ensure customer satisfaction: after all, only a satisfied customer will remain loyal to his or her bank. Consumer protection based on a reasonable cost-benefit ratio is part and parcel of the banking system, but customers shouldn’t be patronised.
TRANSPARENCY AND SOUND ARGUMENTS

Responsible political lobbying needs clear ground rules. This is the only way to guarantee a transparent, comprehensible and politically neutral role in shaping opinion in politics, administration and among the public.

The Association of German Banks is therefore clearly recognisable as the author of all our consultation responses, articles and publications. We are registered in the List of Associations of the German Bundestag (Lower Chamber) and in the Transparency Register of the European Union.

We firmly believe that argument is always the most effective instrument. For this reason, the Association does not donate to or sponsor any political party. Instead, we provide policymakers, employees of public institutions and consumers with a range of arguments on current themes – all the while being open about the interests of our members.

We create transparency through numerous channels. In addition to traditional press work, the Association uses a number of social media and event formats to exchange information and views with the public on issues of current interest. For example, the Association regularly invites people to public talks, discussions and dialogues. It also prepares publications for its members, for small and medium-sized companies and for consumers. We provide online media with up-to-date content and use social media channels such as Twitter or Facebook.

“Whether in dialogue with policymakers or as a point of contact for the interested public – an open and constructive exchange of views and information is crucial for a successful trade association.”

Hans-Walter Peters
President

WHERE WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Digital banking
Deposit protection
Social commitment
Ombudsman scheme
Lobbying
Primed for tomorrow’s banking

Digitalisation is also well on the advance in the banking sector. Together with its members, the Association of German Banks is fully embracing this issue.

Digitalisation is also well on the advance in the banking sector. Together with its members, the Association of German Banks is fully embracing this issue.

Digital transformation also represents a key challenge for the financial sector. The Association of German Banks monitors and supports developments with its comprehensive expertise and network of specialists, identifying opportunities and potential, and working in close alliance with fintechs to ensure that tomorrow’s banking is secure, reliable and customer-friendly.

Further information on this theme (in German) can be found on our website bankenverband.de/fachthemen/digitalbanking/

"The rules of the game have changed."
Andreas Krautscheid
Chief Executive

Three questions for Andreas Krautscheid

How is the Association of German Banks positioning itself with regard to digitalisation? Digitalisation means new rules and changes for the financial industry – and we see ourselves at the forefront of this development. Both internal processes and the relations with our customers will experience an improvement in quality and become more cost-effective and individualised. Fintechs are also playing a key role here, which is why we opened our membership to fintechs at an early stage.

What are the challenges? Digitalisation means rapid change, and requires excellent technological knowledge and a high level of customer understanding. As an association, it is imperative that we understand and evaluate innovations early on – and position ourselves as an innovative and reliable platform for the exchange of views and information between banks and fintechs, policymakers, supervisors and society.

Why is the Association of German Banks the right partner for this? As a leading association, we represent a closely-interwoven international network characterised by competence and a sense of responsibility. We are experts on the regulation of bank-specific, technological processes and offer others the opportunity to share expertise fairly and develop common positions.
Viewing transformation as an opportunity

The Association of German Banks supports the digital transformation processes in the banking sector and is involved in multiple activities. Here are some of the most important:

Digital Banking Project Committee
The Association supports the alliance between banks and fintechs – through, among other things, the Digital Banking Project Committee founded in 2017. The committee, which brings together chief digital officers of banks and leading figures from the German fintech industry, is rigorously driving the interdisciplinary issue of digitalisation.

Its activities were launched in April 2016 at the Digital Banking Communications Forum, where around 40 fintechs met with representatives of banks and the Association of German Banks. In various working groups, discussions focused on themes of equal relevance for banks and fintechs – from the European Payment Services Directive PSD2 and digital investing (RoboAdvice) to the fight against money laundering. Since then, the forum has been convening four times a year.

Fintechs in the Association of German Banks
The number of fintechs which have joined the Association as extraordinary members is growing steadily. By autumn 2018 there were more than 20.

In tune with the times

The Association of German Banks regularly invites guests to the Digital Banking Forum. This event aims to pool the expertise of brilliant minds from politics, business, the banking world and the fintech scene and find answers to the pressing questions of digitalisation.

Through lectures, panels and lively discussions, we search for answers, positions and, not least, solutions that can be translated into practice. For us, the key point regarding digitalisation is to focus not simply on the technological possibilities but also on the related political, economic and social issues with the latest developments in mind.

The 2017 Digital Banking Forum, for example, dealt with Brexit and its impact on the financial centres of Frankfurt and Berlin, while the 2018 event explored the position Germany could secure for itself in a digital world of the future.

Introduced in 2016, the Digital Banking Forum has become a permanent feature on the events calendar of the Association of German Banks and continues to be held once a year. We look forward to many exciting discussions.
Making sure your money is safe

Deposit protection safeguards consumers and ensures financial stability. Deposit protection exists in numerous countries – but the comprehensive cover provided by the German deposit protection system is unique across the world.

In brief

The German financial sector offers its customers a unique level of protection for their savings. Statutory and voluntary protection schemes combine to form a system that ensures security and stability in the financial sector. As mediator between policymakers and financial institutions, the Association of German Banks plays a key role in continuously developing this protection system.

The main purpose of the Deposit Protection Fund is to ensure trust. And with good reason – in the interests of investors, it provides assistance to banks faced with or already experiencing financial difficulties, in particular an imminent suspension of payments.

The protection covers call, time and savings deposits, i.e. credit balances on current accounts, savings accounts, and instant access and fixed-term deposit accounts, up to a bank’s individual protection ceiling. The Deposit Protection Fund covers solely non-bank deposits, primarily the assets of private individuals. At the moment, the protection ceiling per customer is 20 per cent of a bank’s own funds.

If the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) reaches the conclusion that a bank has no chance of continuing its business activities, or if the moratorium has already been in place for six weeks, BaFin determines that a so-called compensation event has occurred. This is when the Deposit Protection Fund steps into action by first informing investors and then providing them with compensation.

150
Approx. 150 member banks participate in the voluntary protection scheme

1976
The year in which the Association of German Banks founded its voluntary protection scheme

20
The protection ceiling is currently 20 per cent of a bank’s own funds

*From 2020: 15%
The Deposit Protection Scheme at a glance

The Deposit Protection Fund has been in existence since 1976 and almost all private banks in Germany are members. In 1998 it was supplemented by the statutory Compensation Scheme of German Private Banks (Entschädigungseinrichtung deutscher Banken, or “EdB”). The voluntary Deposit Protection Fund takes over as soon as the limit of the EdB’s statutory deposit guarantee is reached. If a participating bank becomes insolvent, the Deposit Protection Fund pays compensation for deposits exceeding 100,000 euros up to the level of the bank’s protection ceiling.

The fund is financed by regular payments from the participating banks. An obligation also exists for members to make additional contributions to provide assistance over and above their regular payments, should need be.

Comparison between voluntary and statutory deposit protection

The statutory Compensation Scheme of German Private Banks (EdB) protects 100 per cent of deposits, but only up to a maximum of 100,000 euros per customer. Ninety per cent of liabilities arising from securities transactions are also covered, but only to a maximum of 20,000 euros per customer.

The Deposit Protection Fund of the private banking sector steps into action when the limits of the statutory deposit guarantee have been reached. The protection ceiling per customer is 20 per cent* of the bank’s own funds.

What does that mean in concrete terms?

A bank in Germany is required to have own funds of at least 5 million euros. This would mean that up to 1 million euros would be protected per customer. In most cases, however, banks have significantly higher levels of regulatory capital. The average protection ceiling is currently 190 million euros per customer and bank.

*From 2020: 15%

Three questions for Christian Ossig

Why do we have a voluntary deposit protection scheme when a statutory deposit guarantee already exists?

The fund was set up by the private banks in 1976, in other words long before a statutory deposit guarantee even existed. It was established in response to the insolvency of Herstatt Bank, one of the biggest bank insolvencies in post-war German history. The objective of the fund was to protect customers of private banks from losses in the event of a bank insolvency without at the same time rendering the laws of the market redundant. It should be possible for a bank to disappear from the market if it is poorly managed, for example. The Deposit Protection Fund protects the savers – not the bank.

Was it possible to meet each compensation claim in the past?

Since the fund was established, compensation has been paid out in around 30 cases. To this day, every customer with an eligible claim has been fully compensated. The voluntary deposit protection system has been in operation for over 40 years and makes a significant contribution to financial stability in Germany.

How do the voluntary Deposit Protection Fund and the statutory deposit guarantee work together? Does the customer have to contact two institutions?

If a bank participates in both systems, the statutory deposit guarantee scheme pays compensation up to a coverage limit of 100,000 euros. The Deposit Protection Fund takes care of the amount in excess of that up to a ceiling of generally at least 1,000,000 euros. The compensation from both systems is provided from a single source and is paid out by the Deposit Protection Fund. The customer receives a single transfer of funds. The process is therefore simple, convenient and safe for the customer.

“Deposit protection makes a major contribution to financial stability in Germany.”

Christian Ossig
Chief Executive
Knowledge that counts

The economic and financial world is complex. It is therefore important to impart basic knowledge to schoolchildren from the very beginning and thus give them a sense of direction. This is where the Association of German Banks comes into play.

In most cases, insufficient time is given to ensuring a sound transfer of knowledge of economic themes. For years, the Association of German Banks has attached great importance to promoting the teaching of economics in schools and arousing the interest of young people in the economy.

70% of young persons consider economic information to be important or very important

65% of young persons and young adults (14 to 24 years) want economics to be put on the school curriculum

34% of 14 to 24-year-olds assess their own economic knowledge as poor or very poor

[T]here is a social consensus that greater significance needs to be attached to economic themes in the classroom. Even young people believe this to be the case. However, school curricula do not usually set aside sufficient hours for teaching such a complex issue as economics.

Yet young people require this knowledge if they are to find their way around in the world of economics and finance. It creates a foundation not only for a competent and critical examination of the economy and society but also for everyday purchasing decisions, financial investments and personal financial planning – right up to provision for retirement.

For years, the Association of German Banks has therefore set itself the task of arousing young people’s interest in business and financial themes, imparting knowledge to them and providing them with orientation. It supports teachers, among others, with a broad range of information material and resources – an important contribution within the context of its social responsibility. At the political level, the Association has long called for economics to be taught in schools as a subject in its own right.

In brief

In most cases, insufficient time is given to ensuring a sound transfer of knowledge of economic themes. For years, the Association of German Banks has attached great importance to promoting the teaching of economics in schools and arousing the interest of young people in the economy.
Imparting knowledge – interactively and creatively

From teaching material and youth-friendly textbooks on the subject of economics to interactive role-playing games on all aspects of money – the Association of German Banks offers a comprehensive range of information and teaching resources for schools. Two particular highlights are the bank simulation game “SCHULBANKER” (“School Banker”) and the newspaper project “Jugend und Wirtschaft” (“Youth and the Economy”). Every year, the Association of German Banks organises two well-known and renowned nationwide competitions for schoolchildren.

What’s it like to run your own bank? This is what schoolchildren in grades 9 to 13 experience with “SCHULBANKER”. Each team slips into the role of a bank board member and makes entrepreneurial decisions of the kind made by bank managers in real life. The goal is to manage your own virtual bank as successfully as possible over the entire period of the competition.

“Jugend und Wirtschaft” is a project for the upper secondary level which was initiated by the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (F.A.Z.) and the Association of German Banks in 2000 and in which around 60 schools participate every year. During the project, the young people work with the newspaper for a whole school year, reading and analysing the business section, in particular, researching economic topics and writing their own articles. The best articles appear once a month in the business section of the F.A.Z. on the “Jugend und Wirtschaft” project page as well as online at faz.net.

“A valuable experience”

Reading newspapers, analysing texts – and then writing your own articles: in the school competition “Youth and the Economy” (JuWi) organised by the Association of German Banks and the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (F.A.Z.), precisely this becomes an important part of lessons. What do those taking part say? What do schoolchildren and teachers learn from the project? This is what three former participants have to say:

“JuWi opens doors to apprenticeships and scholarships.”

Angelika Krombach
Siegburg Vocational College (teacher)

“The project has given me skills I’ll need later on in working life – including the need to be persistent on occasion.”

Ben Erik Mühlhaus
Eichsfeld Grammar School Duderstadt (pupil)

“JuWi showed me just what schoolchildren can achieve. And I gained valuable insight into the globalisation of the economy and its consequences.”

Florina Feßler
Hohenstaufen Grammar School Kaiserslautern (pupil)

For 20 years, the Association of German Banks has been organising the simulation game “Schulbanker”.

Approx. 80,000 pupils have taken part so far in 16,000 teams.

900 teams with 4,000 young persons participate in each round – 20 of which reach the final.
Solving conflicts, building trust

Customers who feel that they have been treated unfairly do not need to take the matter straight to court. The ombudsman scheme offers free and unbureaucratic assistance.

1992
The year in which the ombudsmen and women took up their work

6
Independent judges handle the requests for dispute resolution

214,000
Almost 214,000 applications for dispute resolution have now been processed in the ombudsman scheme

More than 25 years
at the service of customers

The ombudsmen and women symbolise independence, neutrality and trust. Thanks to their assertiveness and competence, the dispute resolution procedure of the private banks enjoys a high level of acceptance among customers, banks and the general public. Successful dispute resolution is based not only on the rules of procedure but also, and in particular, on the personalities of those holding office. The ombudsmen and women of the Association of German Banks not only give the proceedings a “face” but also reach the decisions they issue independently and autonomously. In the summer of 2017, the ombudsman scheme of the private banks turned 25. The statistics and subject matter of the dispute resolution cases reveal a remarkable development: in 2017, with around 5,300 applications for dispute resolution, the number of cases fell for the second year in succession.

In brief
If a customer and bank are unable to resolve a conflict themselves, the services of the ombudsmen and women can be sought. These are independent persons – retired high court judges – who help clients in disputes with their private bank by means of an unbureaucratic out-of-court dispute resolution procedure. They bring both sides together in a spirit of cooperation, work out solutions and help to restore trust.

You can find out more about the ombudsman scheme on the website en.bankenverband.de/ombudsman
How the scheme works

Independent ombudsmen and women help customers in disputes with their private bank by means of an unbureaucratic out-of-court dispute resolution procedure. As early as 1992, the Association of German Banks and its members broke new ground with their efficient form of resolving disputes and were thus able to meet changing consumer demands.

In the event of a dispute, the office of the ombudsman scheme examines the application for dispute resolution and passes it on to the management of the relevant bank. The bank now has one month to comment on the complaint. If the bank agrees with the customer and resolves the dispute to the customer’s satisfaction, the matter is settled there and then. If the dispute cannot be settled, the case is submitted to the responsible ombudsman or woman for a decision. The decision is forwarded to both parties directly.

If the amount in dispute does not exceed 10,000 euros, the decision is binding on the bank. If the customer is not satisfied, he or she can take legal action at any time. For customers, the procedure is free of charge and entails no risk: if the application is successful, they are granted their rights quickly and easily. The suspension of the statute of limitations is governed by section 204 of the German Civil Code.

Incidentally: on average around half of cases have been decided in favour of the customer up to now.

“I ensure a fair balance of interests”

How did you become an ombudswoman?
I was approached by a colleague who had also been a presiding judge at the Federal Court of Justice and who, after his retirement, became an ombudsman for the private banks. This colleague asked me if I would also be interested in such work. And since I didn't want to retire immediately at the age of 65, I was very happy to be offered such a rewarding and wide-ranging legal post – and accepted it immediately.

What skills does a good ombudsman or ombudswoman need?
Above all, sensitivity towards the special issues arising from the relationship between customers and their bank. And, of course, extensive general legal knowledge, especially of banking law.

What motivates you in your daily work?
My primary goal is to settle the applications for dispute resolution quickly, to seek an amicable solution and achieve a fair balance of interests between both parties.

Are there complaints that occur particularly frequently?
All in all, the issues vary greatly. Complaints regarding incorrect investment advice or banking fees and charges are the most frequent.

How, in your opinion, can disputes between banks and consumers be prevented from occurring in the first place?
The banks could sometimes explain their actions better. I often find customers are unable to understand exactly how banks operate. This is particularly the case when third parties are involved, such as when another bank takes over an existing loan agreement. But customers could also do more: it always makes sense to read documents from the bank carefully. As in everyday life, taking a critical view and carefully examining things never does anybody any harm (she laughs).
Focus on Europe

Europe is our home market – both economically and politically. The private banks want more Europe and a better Europe, with no stepping backwards into nationally isolated markets. Despite all its internal diversity, Europe must demonstrate political unity to the outside world and use economic performance to underscore its demand for open markets worldwide based on agreed rules.

In the wake of the financial crisis, the EU succeeded in making banks more stable and secure. The crisis showed that supervision and regulation at national level are not enough to control globally interconnected financial markets. The EU took a logical step in promoting uniform financial market standards and establishing new European financial supervisory structures.

Digitalisation and climate change – what role do banks have to play?

The EU is still a long way from a single banking market. The provision of finance for businesses and financial products for retail customers still frequently comes to a halt at national borders. This is slowly changing as a consequence of the progressive digitalisation of the financial sector. We must now use this momentum to make cross-border financial services more attractive to consumers and businesses. This requires a harmonised legal framework at EU level.

Further action required to achieve banking and capital markets union

Combating climate change is currently one of the great challenges facing society as a whole. Considerable efforts are required to curb the further progression of global warming and counter the effects that are already occurring. By financing these efforts, the financial sector can make its contribution to the fight against climate change. The Commission has put forward initial proposals for a more sustainable financial industry. These must be pursued.

The debate on the future of economic and monetary union must be continued, with further action particularly required to complete banking and capital markets union. This applies, for example, to the introduction of a backstop for the Single Resolution Fund. Cross-border capital and liquidity waivers for banks also need to be established. In addition, the regulatory standards adopted at Basel level at the end of 2017 need to be implemented in a way that satisfies international requirements without unnecessarily burdening European banks. Further progress is also required in the area of risk-mitigating measures, though these should not be allowed to place an excessive burden on banks – as, for example, the currently discussed plans for reducing non-performing loans threaten to do.

In the area of capital markets, attempts should particularly be made to make stock markets more attractive to consumers.

Sound economic policy for a strong Europe

The EU therefore still has much to do in many areas of financial regulation. We are ready to support the EU in its projects, with our focus always on the added value attainable for consumers and companies. At the same time, the issue of banks’ competitiveness also needs to be addressed. Sound economic policy can also bring the EU closer to its citizens again.

The principles of our work

- We know that only policymakers are responsible for weighing up interests and defining the public good.
- We contribute to the political decision-finding process.
- Transparency and openness guide our lobbying.
- The main basis for our work is trust and reliability.
- Our lobbying is based on objective and verifiable arguments.
- In our activities, we make sure that the means we employ are appropriate.
Most regulatory projects are now initiated at European and international level. We therefore also have an office in Brussels, which enables us to make our position directly known in discussions in the European Parliament and the European Commission. This applies to the debate on the much-discussed issue of banking union, for instance, but also to tax and consumer issues such as the taxation of digital services or data protection.

The European level
It is also important for the Association to ensure that its lobbying is transparent at EU level. The Association is therefore registered in the Transparency Register of the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Global cooperation
Via the European Banking Federation (EBF), the Association is also represented at international level in the International Banking Federation (IBFed) together with the associations of all other continents. It is also a member of the Institute of International Finance (IIF), which brings together companies, banks and associations from around the world, the Institute of International Bankers (IIB), which deals with US regulation that may also have an impact on European banks, and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

About the Association

40%  
Markets share of private banks in terms of the total assets of the German banking industry*  

300  
Number of subsidiaries and branches of German private banks abroad*

88%  
Share of Germany’s export volume passing through a private bank as financial partner**

* Source: Association of German Banks/own calculations | Deutsche Bundesbank | as at: autumn 2018  
** Source: ESMT/ZEW | as at: winter 2017
You can contact the Association of German Banks at

Association of German Banks
P. O. Box 040307
10062 Berlin
+49 30 1663-0

bankenverband@bdb.de
bankenverband.de