

Delegation of Bavarian State Parliamentarians visits New Orleans



From Mai 31 to June 2 a delegation of the committee on Environment and Health of the Bavarian State Parliament visited New Orleans to gather first hand information on the health system as well as the effects of hurricane „Katrina“ and the „Deep Water Horizon“ disaster.

Dr. Christian Magerl was the leader of the delegation which consisted of Dr. Otto Hünnerkopf, Dr. Otto Bertermann, Markus Blume, Alexander König, Martin Neumeyer, Reinhard Pachner, Theresa Schoppa, Christa Stewens , Sylvia Stiersdorfer, Tobias Thalhamme'r and Ulrike Gote as well as Peter Frei as representative of the Bavarian State Ministry of Environment and Health and Thomas Pößl, office manager of the State Parliament.



Dr. John Lopez, Director, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Dr. Charles Allen, Mayor Landrieu's Advisor on Coastal and Environmental Affairs und Dr. Dr. Robert A. Thomas, Director of the Center for Environmental Communications explained the reasons for the inundations of 2005 and the reconstruction efforts undertaken since. They especially emphasized the necessity of adequate protection of the coastal area.

Dr. Thomas

An important part of the protection measures taken after 2005 is a system of pumps that are to take the water away from the City of New Orleans into Lake Pontchartrain in case of an inundation.



Dr. Carmen DeSalvo, Mayor Landrieu's Senior Health Policy Advisor, explained to the delegation the reorganization of the health system in New Orleans after the devastation by hurricane “Katrina” and the establishment of “Primary care sites”.

Dr. DeSalvo,
Honoray Consul Andersson,
Interpreter (left)
Kerstin Herrmann

Lectures by Jan Christoph Wiedemann, Managing Director, German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern US, Inc., Houston Office, about the economic situation in Louisiana and by Chris Bourna, Communication Manager, Port of New Orleans, about the port and the economic significance of the Mississippi River for the City of New Orleans completed the impressions the delegation was able to get during their short stay.