

Dear wombat's employees,

We would like to inform you that we have decided to close our hostel in Berlin on 31/08/2019.

Unfortunately, due to increasing negative public reporting and open hostility both from within and outside, we have come to the conclusion that continuing to operate the hostel is not possible for us.

We cannot maintain a business with the slogans sprayed onto the street in front of the building targeted against wombat's, the constant demonstrations in front of the hostel and lately the slander against the management spread by the press.

The final straw in our decision to close the hostel, however, were two recent incidents:

- A flyer campaign, with outrageous accusations which have absolutely no basis, in front of our stand at the tourism trade fair ITB, which was actively supported by wombat's employees, the negative reporting in the BILD newspaper and B.Z. and the call for "Action against unethical work practices" to oust the hostel.

- The second, far more serious, campaign involved flyers distributed in mailboxes of our manager's neighbours (at his private address). Amongst other things, it insinuated that sexual assault on wombat's female staff was tolerated. Furthermore, the neighbours were requested to "take to task" our manager at the next opportunity.

At this point, a red line had finally been crossed which we cannot tolerate and, having checked all possibilities, one which we are powerless against.

It is, therefore, with a heavy heart that we have taken the decision to close wombat's Berlin. While the Berlin hostel is economically successful, we don't want to work in this way.

Our decision is about the values that make wombat's special and which we want to remain true to. Working at wombat's should be fun and, above all, give young people important but positive experiences.

While this works wonderfully at wombat's thanks to you everywhere, this is no longer the case in Berlin.

We would like to thank all the former and current employees who have accompanied us on our journey with wombat's Berlin.

Marcus, Sascha & Boris

berlin

budapest

london

munich

vienna - the lounge

vienna - the naschmarkt

