



Deutscher Bundestag

**The Sports Committee**





“Supporting and funding the framework for elite sport is at the heart of the Sports Committee’s work. This includes discussing effective systems to preserve the integrity of sport, and in particular to fight doping in sport, for example. Of course, the Sports Committee also deals with the importance of sport in other areas of life, such as education, health, integration and the economy. It maintains close links with sports federations, a wide variety of other organisations and external experts, enabling it to give impetus to sports policy and support legislative processes.”



Dagmar Freitag, SPD  
Chairwoman of the  
Sports Committee

The German Bundestag's decisions are prepared by its committees, which are established at the start of each electoral term. Four of them are stipulated by the Basic Law, the German constitution: the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Defence Committee, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the Petitions Committee. The Budget Committee and the Committee for the Rules of Procedure are also required by law. The spheres of responsibility of the committees essentially reflect the Federal Government's distribution of ministerial portfolios. This enables Parliament to scrutinise the government's work effectively.

## **The Bundestag committees**

The German Bundestag sets political priorities of its own by establishing additional committees for specific subjects, such as sport, cultural affairs or tourism. In addition, special bodies such as parliamentary advisory councils, committees of inquiry or study commissions can also be established. The committees are composed of members of all the parliamentary groups, reflecting the balance of these groups in the German Bundestag. The distribution of the chairs and deputy chairs among the parliamentary groups also reflects their relative strengths in the plenary. In the current electoral term, the committees have between nine and 49 members.

The committees discuss and deliberate on items referred to them by the plenary. They also have the right to take up issues on their own initiative, allowing them to set priorities in the parliamentary debate. When necessary, they draw on external expertise – usually by holding public hearings. At the end of a committee's deliberations, a majority of its members adopt a recommendation for a decision and a report, which serve as the basis for the plenary's decision.

For around 50 years, the Sports Committee has been examining all issues relating to elite sport, in particular. Subjects such as sport's implications for society as a whole or its importance as part of a healthy lifestyle are also matters for the Committee. Its agenda features discussions about award criteria or bids for major sporting events, as well as topics such as sport for people with disabilities, sports science, and voluntary work with local clubs. Through its Sports Committee, the Bundestag recognises the importance of sport in Germany. The Committee's origins date back to 1969, when the Bundestag established a "Special Committee on Sport and the Olympic Games". This special body soon became a

## **The Sports Committee**

permanent committee, with a remit to support German elite sport and its sports federations, and to monitor and encourage the development of high-performance sport. Ever since then, the Committee has ensured that the importance of sport and its values, such as performance, fairness, team spirit and tolerance, is firmly rooted in the parliamentary consciousness.

Like all Bundestag committees, the Sports Committee also helps to ensure parliamentary scrutiny of the government. Government sports policy is primarily the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of the

Interior, Building and Community, which can rely on a constructive partner in the form of the Bundestag's Sports Committee. Sport and exercise are among the most popular leisure activities in Germany, as is shown by the more than 90,000 sports clubs boasting over 27 million members. But sports policy is about much more than that. For example, it also touches on policy fields such as health, education, the environment, youth and family affairs, economic and social issues, and even foreign policy, and it influences many areas of society. And so the 18 members of the Sports Committee, which is chaired by Dagmar Freitag (SPD), see it as their task to take a constructive and critical look at sport in its full variety and significance.

- 6 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ CDU/CSU
- 4 ■ ■ ■ ■ SPD
- 2 ■ ■ AfD
- 2 ■ ■ FDP
- 2 ■ ■ The Left Party
- 2 ■ ■ Alliance 90/The Greens

Number of members: 18

Chairwoman: Dagmar Freitag, SPD

Deputy Chairman: Dieter Stier, CDU/CSU

The subjects the Committee examines are very diverse. They include, for example, the economic and foreign-policy dimensions of sport. Sport's economic significance is visible in the jobs it creates, for example. The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy has compiled facts and figures about the sports industry which show that the jobs of around 1.2 million people are connected to sport. Germany is not just a car-building nation but also a sporting nation, as is shown by the high proportion of gross domestic product for which sport accounts: 2.3 per cent, or just under 70 billion euros. In total, Germany produces sports-related goods

and services worth around 114 billion euros, and private households spend about 65 billion euros on sports-related consumption. What cannot be taken into account in economic studies, given the difficulty of capturing it in monetary terms, is sport's impact on welfare. After all, significant costs are avoided as a result of sport's many positive effects, including its health benefits, its role in voluntary work, and its impact on social integration. Meanwhile, international encounters and the work of German sports experts abroad promote mutual understanding, support the development of democratic club and federation structures, and encourage sports-related knowledge transfers. Sport also plays an important role in development cooperation.





One of the Sports Committee's core tasks is supporting elite sport. If our elite sportsmen and women are to succeed – those with and those without disabilities alike – the right framework has to be in place. Sports and training facilities as well as Olympic and federal training centres are all needed. Qualified staff are also essential for elite sport. As well as this practical side, theory also has an important role to play: Germany has outstanding centres of research and development specialising in sports science. They must be linked and supported in order to secure a high standard in elite sport. The same applies to sport in clubs at local level, as this is where the foundations are laid, talent is discovered and nurtured, social skills are acquired and integration is lived.

Support for grassroots sport is a matter for the *Länder* (federal states) and local authorities. Naturally, however, the Sports Committee monitors developments in this area, and it is up to Parliament to pass legislation to bring about improvements for the many people who volunteer with clubs and associations.



Effective anti-doping action is one of the key topics on which the Sports Committee will continue to focus in the current electoral term. The Anti-Doping Act adopted in 2015 has added important investigative and sanction options to the range of anti-doping measures available. The framework for the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), especially its long-term funding, also remains a focus of discussion, with the aim of protecting clean athletes from cheats.

Another priority in this electoral term is making the support system for elite sport and emerging athletes more efficient, and ensuring that the support provided focuses on athletes and their coaches to a greater extent.

Not all topics are in the public spotlight to the same extent as elite sport's shining triumphs and its darker side. Nonetheless, the Committee deals with other sport-related issues with the same high level of engagement. There are numerous documents for the Committee members to read, experts to consult and recommendations to draw up. One issue where this is necessary is the development of professional prospects for elite athletes with and without disabilities, in order to give them the opportunity of dual career planning. Of course, the Sports Committee also engages in a regular dialogue with active sportsmen and women so it can create an



optimum framework for them. The Committee's work also covers European regulations on sports and the process of European integration, in which sport can play an important role by building bridges in politics and in society. The members of the Committee are also keen to form their own impressions of the situation on the ground. For example, they usually attend the summer and winter Olympics and Paralympics. In addition to holding talks with athletes, they also engage with issues such as the funding of the Games, the economic significance for the host country, and the sustainability of the sports facilities strategy. Environmental protection and security measures also play an important role, as do human and civil rights in the host country.

The German government's sports policy and the interests of sports federations are subjected to constructive but critical scrutiny by the Committee – in the best interests of athletes and the taxpayers who contribute a large proportion of the funding for (elite) sport.



Dagmar Freitag,  
SPD  
*Chairwoman*  
Teacher,  
b. 3 Mar. 1953  
in Letmathe.  
Bundestag Member  
since 1994



Dieter Stier,  
CDU/CSU  
*Deputy Chairman*  
Agricultural specialist,  
b. 29 June 1964  
in Weißenfels;  
unmarried.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2009



## **Committee members**

The 18 members of the Sports Committee

Artur Auernhammer,  
CDU/CSU  
Farmer,  
b. 9 Mar. 1963  
in Oberhochstatt,  
Weißenburg.  
Bundestag Member  
from 2004 to 2005  
and since 2013



Eberhard Gienger,  
CDU/CSU  
Business administrator,  
b. 21 July 1951  
in Künzelsau;  
married; three children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2002



Fritz Güntzler,  
CDU/CSU  
Auditor,  
tax adviser,  
b. 6 May 1966  
in Cuxhaven;  
married; two children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2013



Frank Steffel,  
CDU/CSU  
*CDU/CSU spokesman  
on the Committee*  
Business administrator,  
entrepreneur,  
b. 2 Mar. 1966  
in Berlin;  
married; two children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2009



Johannes Steiniger,  
CDU/CSU  
Academic secondary  
school teacher,  
b. 18 June 1987  
in Bad Dürkheim;  
unmarried.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2013



Cansel Kiziltepe,  
SPD  
Economist,  
b. 8 Oct. 1975  
in Berlin;  
two children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2013



Mahmut Özdemir,  
SPD  
Trainee lawyer  
(on leave of absence),  
b. 23 June 1987  
in Duisburg.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2013



Detlev Pilger,  
SPD  
*SPD spokesman  
on the Committee,  
SPD spokesman  
on sports policy*  
Vocational school  
teacher,  
b. 29 Apr. 1955  
in Koblenz;  
married; one child.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2013



Jörn König,  
AfD  
*AfD spokesman  
on the Committee,  
AfD spokesman  
on sports policy*  
Electrical engineer,  
MBA,  
b. 29 Oct. 1967  
in Berlin;  
married; one child.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017



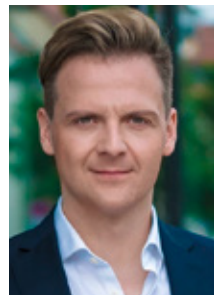
Andreas Mrosek,  
AfD  
Ship's officer,  
b. 18 Jan. 1958  
in Dessau;  
married; two children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017



Britta Dassler,  
FDP  
*FDP spokeswoman  
on the Committee,  
FDP spokeswoman  
on sports policy*  
Entrepreneur,  
b. 22 July 1964  
in Jülich;  
married; two children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017



Dr Marcel Klinge,  
FDP  
Social scientist,  
b. 4 Dec. 1980  
in Apolda.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017



Dr André Hahn,  
The Left Party  
*The Left Party spokes-  
man on the Committee,*  
*The Left Party spokes-  
man on sports policy*  
Teacher,  
b. 20 Apr. 1963  
in Berlin.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2013



Sören Pellmann,  
The Left Party  
Primary school and  
special needs teacher,  
b. 11 Feb. 1977  
in Leipzig;  
married.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017



Erhard Grundl,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
Sales manager,  
b. 7 Jan. 1963  
in Mellersdorf;  
married; two children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017



Monika Lazar,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
*Alliance 90/The Greens  
spokeswoman on the  
Committee,*  
*Alliance 90/The Greens  
spokeswoman on  
sports policy*  
Business administrator,  
baker,  
b. 13 Sep. 1967  
in Leipzig.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2004



**Information online**

*The Sports Committee*

[www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a05](http://www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a05)



### **Contact details for the Committee Secretariat**

Deutscher Bundestag

Sportausschuss

Platz der Republik 1

11011 Berlin

Tel.: + 49 30 227-35456

Fax: + 49 30 227-36006

Email: [sportausschuss@bundestag.de](mailto:sportausschuss@bundestag.de)

Published by: German Bundestag, Public Relations Division  
Coordination: Robert Schönbrodt  
Texts: Georgia Rauer; revised by: Committees Directorate (p. 4–5),  
Secretariat of the Sports Committee (p. 6–17)  
Edited by: Marianne Wollenweber  
Translated by: Language Service of the German Bundestag,  
in cooperation with Emma Hardie  
Design: Marc Mendelson  
Bundestag eagle: Created by Professor Ludwig Gies,  
revised in 2008 by büro uebele  
Photos: p. 2 Deutscher Bundestag (DBT)/Linus Lintner Fotografie;  
p. 8, 9, 10, 11 DBT/Julia Nowak; p. 19 DBT/studio kohlmeier  
Portrait photos: p. 3, 12 Die Hoffotografen GmbH Berlin (Dagmar Freitag);  
p. 12 DBT/Achim Melde (Dieter Stier); p. 13 DBT/Achim Melde (Artur  
Auernhammer); Eberhard Gienger (Eberhard Gienger); Fritz Güntzler/Mirko  
Phla (Fritz Güntzler); DBT/Thomas Trutschel/photothek (Frank Steffel);  
Tobias Koch (Johannes Steiniger); DBT/Thomas Trutschel/photothek (Can-  
sel Kiziltepe); p. 14 SPD party executive/Susie Knoll (Mahmut Özdemir);  
DBT/Thomas Trutschel/photothek (Detlev Pilger); DBT/Inga Haar (Jörn  
König); DBT/Julia Nowak (Andreas Mrosek); Britta Dassler/Sanjar Khaksari  
(Britta Dassler); Jens Hagen (Marcel Klinge); p. 15 André Hahn/Thomas  
Kläber TRIALON GmbH (André Hahn); Sören Pellmann/Saxony branch of  
the Left Party/Agentur Trialon (Sören Pellmann); Stefan Kaminski (Erhard  
Grundl); FOTOGRAFISCH (Monika Lazar)  
Graphic: p. 7 Marc Mendelson  
Printed by: Druckhaus Waiblingen Remstal-Bote GmbH

As at: July 2018  
© Deutscher Bundestag, Berlin  
All rights reserved.

This publication has been produced as part of the German Bundestag's public relations activities. It is provided free of charge and is not intended for sale. It may not be used for election campaign purposes or utilised by parties or parliamentary groups in their own public relations activities.



The German Bundestag takes decisions on what are at times highly complex and controversial bills and parliamentary initiatives relating to the entire spectrum of policy fields. The committees play a central role in parliamentary deliberations. They are the forum where the Members thrash out compromises and draw on expert advice before submitting their reports and recommendations for decisions to be voted on by the Bundestag as a whole.

[www.bundestag.de/en/committees](http://www.bundestag.de/en/committees)