The Committee on Internal Affairs and Community
“Security and freedom are guaranteed in Germany by a state which upholds and defends the rule of law and by a pluralist democracy. This fundamental order forms the basis for our work to achieve secure future prospects for our community and our cultural identity in the 21st century. A Europe which is capable of taking action and which is united in diversity remains essential, including from the perspective of internal affairs, so that effective decisions can be taken in the fight against crime and terrorism, in the management of migration or in the digital sphere.”

Andrea Lindholz, CDU/CSU
Chairwoman of the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community
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.
The Committee on Internal Affairs and Community deals with all policy issues which traditionally fall under the heading of internal affairs. These include internal security, migration and integration, civil protection and disaster preparedness and prevention, but also data protection, digital security or the modernisation of the federal administration. The inclusion of the term “community” (Heimat) in the Committee’s name underlines the fact that efforts to boost social cohesion and promote equal living conditions in Germany are a key priority for internal-affairs policy in the current electoral term.

The Committee on Internal Affairs and Community
The Committee makes a major contribution to ensuring internal security, promoting social cohesion, upholding the constitution and fostering the peaceful coexistence of people of different religions and cultures. Consequently, the Committee faces major challenges. With 46 members, chaired by Andrea Lindholz (CDU/CSU), it is also one of the Bundestag’s largest committees. Besides deliberating on bills and motions, one of its most important tasks is to ensure parliamentary scrutiny of the work of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community. To this end, the Committee deals with Federal Government reports on matters such as internal security. The Committee’s agenda also regularly features reports on the protection of the constitution and police-recorded crime statistics. In addition, the Committee receives reports from the Federal Statistical Office, the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and the Constituency Boundaries Commission, on the basis of which it draws up recommendations for action for the Federal Government.

Number of members: 46
Chairwoman: Andrea Lindholz, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairman: Jochen Haug, AfD
The Committee has a heavy workload. In every week when the Bundestag is sitting, the Members have to grapple with a large number of topics. This does not simply mean reading Bundestag printed papers. The Members can also draw on the expertise of academics and practitioners at public hearings on subjects such as facilitating labour-market access for asylum seekers, citizenship issues or the residents’ registration system. The agenda is not limited to topics for which the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community is the lead committee. It also examines bills on which other committees are taking the lead, but which touch on its area of responsibility. This applies to important items of business relating to the fight against crime and corruption, for example. Regulations at European level, such as the EU General Data Protection Regulation or a joint European IT security strategy, are becoming more and more important. The Committee therefore requests regular briefings from the Federal Government on the meetings of the European Union’s Justice and Home Affairs Council. In addition, the Committee has to examine a growing number of docu-
The board of trustees of the Federal Agency for Civic Education

The board of trustees of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, bpb) is attached to the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community. The board, which consists of 22 Members of Parliament, monitors and supports the work of the Federal Agency for Civic Education. Above all, it scrutinises whether the bpb is providing information effectively, independently and in a politically balanced manner. For example, the Director of the Agency transmits the bpb’s draft annual budget and its planning and activity reports to the board of trustees to give it an opportunity to comment.

ments from the Council, the European Parliament or the European Commission and decide whether and how the Bundestag’s position should be fed into the European decision-making process. In certain cases, the Committee contacts the relevant EU Commissioners direct, for example with regard to the joint Security Union or the reform of the Common European Asylum System.
The Director also informs the board of trustees of all significant plans. The Federal Agency for Civic Education has the task of promoting understanding of political issues, reinforcing democratic awareness and encouraging participation in politics. To this end, the bpb cooperates nationwide with regional centres for civic education, educational institutions and educational providers. The bpb is an executive agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, and so the board of trustees is attached to the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community. The parliamentary groups in the Bundestag are represented on the board of trustees in line with their relative strengths in Parliament. On their proposal, the members of the board of trustees are appointed by the President of the Bundestag at the start of each electoral term.

**Security, civil rights and integration – the Committee’s work in practice**

Important issues continue to feature on the agenda of the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community in the current electoral term. The Committee members continuously engage with issues relating to immigration to Germany. Integration
and migration issues and the EU’s policy on refugees are among the subjects which are regularly discussed. Important public hearings of experts are planned, not least on these topics. The Committee will also continue in future to promote and scrutinise international cooperation on tackling terrorism and organised crime. In addition, the effectiveness and proportionality of the wide-ranging counterterrorism and security laws introduced in view of the growing threat posed by international terrorism are under constant review. Network security and integrity is not just a recurring topic but, due to cyberattacks, an increasingly sensitive one. This is only a small selection of the many topics dealt with by the Committee. Finally, the Federal Government regularly briefs the Committee on the work of the German security authorities. The first community report announced by the Federal Government will also cover a wide range of topics to be discussed by the Committee. In this context, combating anti-Semitism and racism is an essential element in strengthening social cohesion.
Besucher-/Pressegalerie
Anhörungssaal
Committee members

The 46 members of the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community
Marc Henrichmann, CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 1 June 1976
in Münster;
marrried; one child.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Hans-Jürgen Irmer, CDU/CSU
Senior grammar school teacher,
b. 20 Feb. 1952
in Limburg a.d. Lahn;
marrried; two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Michael Kuffer, CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 16 Mar. 1972
in Munich;
marrried; four children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Philipp Amthor, CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 10 Nov. 1992
in Ueckermünde.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Christoph Bernstiel, CDU/CSU
Political scientist (M.A.),
b. 8 Feb. 1984
in Bernburg (Saale).
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Michael Brand, CDU/CSU
Employee,
b. 19 Nov. 1973
in Fulda;
marrried; three children.
Bundestag Member
since 2005
Josef Oster, CDU/CSU
Public administration specialist, b. 4 Jan. 1971 in Zell (Mosel).
Bundestag Member since 2017

Armin Schuster, CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU spokesman on the Committee
Public administration specialist, b. 20 May 1961 in Andernach am Rhein; married; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Dr Mathias Middelberg, CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU spokesman on internal affairs
Bundestag Member since 2009

Axel Müller, CDU/CSU
Former presiding regional court judge, b. 24 July 1963 in Esslingen am Neckar.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Petra Nicolaisen, CDU/CSU
Industrial clerk, b. 12 Dec. 1965 in Schleswig; married; two children.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Detlef Seif, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, b. 15 Aug. 1962 in Euskirchen; married; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Axel Müller, CDU/CSU
Former presiding regional court judge, b. 24 July 1963 in Esslingen am Neckar.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Petra Nicolaisen, CDU/CSU
Industrial clerk, b. 12 Dec. 1965 in Schleswig; married; two children.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Detlef Seif, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, b. 15 Aug. 1962 in Euskirchen; married; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2009
Professor Lars Castellucci, SPD
University professor, b. 24 Feb. 1974 in Heidelberg, Bundestag Member since 2013

Saskia Esken, SPD
IT specialist, b. 28 Aug. 1961 in Stuttgart; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Uli Grötsch, SPD
Police officer, b. 14 July 1975 in Weiden in der Oberpfalz; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Alexander Throm, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, b. 8 Sep. 1968 in Heilbronn; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Christoph de Vries, CDU/CSU
Sociologist, b. 4 Dec. 1974 in Hamburg; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Marian Wendt, CDU/CSU
Public administration specialist and Master of Laws (LL.M.), b. 9 June 1985 in Torgau; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2013
Helge Lindh, SPD
Research assistant, b. 6 Dec. 1976 in Wuppertal; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Sebastian Hartmann, SPD
Organisational consultant, b. 7 July 1977 in Oberhausen; married. Bundestag Member since 2013

Burkhard Lischka, SPD
SPD spokesman on the Committee and spokesman on internal affairs
Lawyer, b. 1 Feb. 1965 in Marsberg; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2009

Gabriela Heinrich, SPD
Editor, b. 18 Apr. 1963 in Berlin; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2013

Elisabeth Kaiser, SPD
Public administration specialist (M.A.), b. 4 Mar. 1987 in Gera; married. Bundestag Member since 2017

Susanne Mittag, SPD
Police officer, b. 25 July 1958 in Cleveland, Ohio, USA; one child. Bundestag Member since 2013

Elisabeth Kaiser, SPD
Editor, b. 18 Apr. 1963 in Berlin; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2013
Mahmut Özdemir, SPD
Trainee lawyer (on leave of absence),
b. 23 June 1987
in Duisburg.
Bundestag Member since 2013

Dr Bernd Baumann, AfD
Clerk,
b. 31 Jan. 1958
in Wanne-Eickel;
moved.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr Gottfried Curio, AfD
AfD spokesman on the Committee and spokesman on internal affairs
Mathematician, physicist,
Bundestag Member since 2017

Lars Herrmann, AfD
Police officer,
b. 12 Apr. 1977
in Leisnig;
moved; three children.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Martin Hess, AfD
Police officer,
b. 11 Jan. 1971
in Hechingen;
moved; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr Christian Wirth, AfD
Lawyer,
b. 27 Apr. 1963
in Neunkirchen (Saar).
Bundestag Member since 2017

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b. 31 Jan. 1958
in Wanne-Eickel;
moved.
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Bundestag Member since 2017

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in Leisnig;
moved; three children.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Martin Hess, AfD
Police officer,
b. 11 Jan. 1971
in Hechingen;
moved; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr Christian Wirth, AfD
Lawyer,
b. 27 Apr. 1963
in Neunkirchen (Saar).
Bundestag Member since 2017
Benjamin Strasser, FDP  
IT entrepreneur, b. 6 Feb. 1973 in Paris; married; three children.  
Bundestag Member from 2009 to 2013 and since 2017

Konstantin Kuhle, FDP  
FDP spokesman on internal affairs  
Lawyer, b. 11 Feb. 1989 in Wolfenbüttel.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Jimmy Schulz, FDP  
Political scientist, b. 22 Oct. 1968 in Freiburg im Breisgau; married; three children.  
Bundestag Member from 2009 to 2013 and since 2017

Linda Teuteberg, FDP  
FDP spokeswoman on the Committee  
Lawyer, b. 22 Apr. 1981 in Königs Wusterhausen; married.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr André Hahn, The Left Party  
Teacher, b. 20 Apr. 1963 in Berlin.  
Bundestag Member since 2013

Manuel Höferlin, FDP  
IT entrepreneur, b. 6 Feb. 1973 in Paris; married; three children.  
Bundestag Member from 2009 to 2013 and since 2017

Konstantin Kuhle, FDP  
FDP spokesman on internal affairs  
Lawyer, b. 11 Feb. 1989 in Wolfenbüttel.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

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Political scientist, b. 22 Oct. 1968 in Freiburg im Breisgau; married; three children.  
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FDP spokeswoman on the Committee  
Lawyer, b. 22 Apr. 1981 in Königs Wusterhausen; married.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr André Hahn, The Left Party  
Teacher, b. 20 Apr. 1963 in Berlin.  
Bundestag Member since 2013
Ulla Jelpke,
The Left Party
The Left Party spokeswoman on the Committee and spokeswoman on internal affairs
Socio-economist/journalist,
b. 9 June 1951
in Hamburg.
Bundestag Member from 1990 to 2002
and since 2005

Petra Pau,
The Left Party
Teacher,
b. 9 Aug. 1963
in Berlin;
married.
Bundestag Member since 1998

Martina Renner,
The Left Party
Research assistant,
b. 11 Mar. 1967
in Mainz;
marrried; two children.
Bundestag Member since 2013

Dr Irene Mihalic,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Islamic studies specialist,
b. 17 Oct. 1984
in Greifswald;
marrried.
Bundestag Member since 2013

Dr Konstantin von Notz,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Lawyer,
b. 21 Jan. 1971
in Mölln;
marrried.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Luise Amtsberg,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Islamic studies specialist,
b. 17 Oct. 1984
in Greifswald;
marrried.
Bundestag Member since 2013
Filiz Polat, Alliance 90/The Greens spokesman on the Committee Economist, b. 11 July 1978 in Bramsche, Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr Frauke Petry, Non-attached Member Chemist, b. 1 June 1975 in Dresden; married; five children. Bundestag Member since 2017
Information online

*The Committee on Internal Affairs and Community*
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a04

*The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community*
www.bmi.bund.de/EN

*The Federal Agency for Civic Education*
www.bpb.de

*The Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information*
www.bfdi.bund.de
Contact details for the Committee Secretariat

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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