



Deutscher Bundestag

**The Committee on
Cultural and Media Affairs**





“Our cultural scene is unique, and our media report freely and independently. That is of fundamental importance for our democracy. As Chairwoman of the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs, I am an advocate for variety in culture and the media, above all, and I wish to see as many people as possible enjoy the wide range of options available. Within the German Bundestag, the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs is the central forum for debate on this field of policy. I am keen to ensure that this debate is conducted in a critical and constructive manner.”



Katrin Budde, SPD
Chairwoman of the Committee on
Cultural and Media Affairs

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 German Bundestag has had a Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs since 1998, when the Federal Government of the day, a coalition between the SPD and Alliance 90/The Greens, first appointed a Commissioner for Culture and the Media. Parliament reacted immediately and decided that a permanent committee was needed to support and scrutinise the Commissioner's work.

Although the Basic Law, Germany's constitution, stipulates that responsibility for theatres, museums and libraries rests primarily with Germany's towns and cities, municipalities and *Länder* (federal states), some subjects and projects are of national importance. That is where

The Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs

the federal level comes in, and thus also the Bundestag's Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs. In other words, when it is necessary to decide, for example, how the federal level should support the arts in Berlin, the German capital, or what should be done to keep alive the memory of prominent events in German history, then Chairwoman Katrin Budde (SPD) and the other 17 members of the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs have a key role to play.

The Committee discusses issues such as whether the right framework is in place for artists, what should be done with the files of the GDR's State Security Service, or what Deutsche Welle, Germany's state-funded international broadcaster, needs to be successful in the face of international media competition. The parliamentarians look into what action is needed to ensure that journalists can report in an independent, critical and informed manner, or they discuss what conditions are needed for Germany to remain internationally competitive as a location for film productions.

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

Number of members: 18

Chairwoman: Katrin Budde, SPD

Deputy Chairman: Johannes Selle, CDU/CSU

The agendas for the Committee's meetings reflect the diversity of topics with which it deals. One meeting might focus on how remembrance of and knowledge about the crimes perpetrated by the Nazi regime, more than seven decades after the end of its reign of terror, can be passed on to future generations. The next meeting might include a debate on the concept for the Humboldt Forum, which is to move into the rebuilt Berlin Palace in the centre of the city. On another occasion, the Committee might discuss the future of the press and debate what the digital era means for cultural and media affairs.

Bills or motions tabled by the parliamentary groups frequently form the basis for the Committee's discussions. When it is designated the lead committee for an item, it draws up a proposal for the decision that will ultimately be adopted by the German Bundestag in plenary session. In many cases, however, the Committee chooses topics on its own initiative. Scrutiny of the government's work is very important to the Members of the German Bundestag: this is why members of the Federal Government appear regularly before the Committee to answer questions and explain how decisions taken by the Bundestag are being implemented and projects driven ahead.



The Committee's members draw on external advice from time to time to ensure they do not overlook any crucial aspects in important debates. To this end, the Committee invites experts to attend hearings or consultations. In addition, the Committee often takes time for guests from institutions that receive federal funding. At such meetings, its members may hold talks with the presidents of the history museums financed by the federal level, or discuss the evolution of the Berlinale with the director of the Berlin International Film Festival.

European cultural and media policy is becoming ever more important for the Committee. Many legal acts from Brussels affect the scope policy-makers have for action in Germany. Hence the attention the Committee devotes to what is happening at EU level, without which it could not make its influence felt.



Anyone who is involved in the formulation of cultural and media policy finds themselves dealing with ideal and material values, with art for art's sake and very real economic interests. Cultural and media policy is therefore closely entwined with other fields, including economic policy and legal policy. Newspapers, books, paintings and compositions are not purely ends in themselves; they are intended to find an audience, sell, and secure an income for their creators. Whether funding programmes have been put in place for creative professionals, what levels tax

rates are set at and how distribution chains function: all of these factors are crucial to the success of the arts and the media. The cultural and creative economy, with billions in turnover and more than 1.6 million workers, is an important sector with a great deal of potential for development. The Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs examines what action is needed, across ministerial boundaries, to allow creative potential to flourish in this area. For example, it is working towards a copyright regime centred around the work of creative professionals, and supporting the Artists' Social Fund, which provides a safety net for artists when they fall ill and in old age.



Germany has a rich cultural scene and a varied media landscape which allows the public to exercise real choice. The Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs monitors matters carefully at the national level to ensure that the arts and the media receive the support from the state which reflects their fundamental significance for democracy and society.



Katrin Budde,
SPD
Chairwoman
Workplace ergonomics
specialist,
b. 13 Apr. 1965
in Magdeburg;
married;
two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Johannes Selle,
CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairman
Mathematician,
b. 13 Jan. 1956
in Lobenstein;
married;
three children.
Bundestag Member
from 1994 to 1998
and since 2009



Committee members

The 18 members of the Committee
on Cultural and Media Affairs

Melanie Bernstein,
CDU/CSU
*CDU/CSU spokeswoman on the
Committee*
Cultural studies
specialist,
b. 28 Sep. 1976
in Buchholz
in der Nordheide;
widowed;
two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Michael Frieser,
CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 30 Mar. 1964
in Nuremberg;
married.
Bundestag Member
since 2009



Volker Kauder,
CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 3 Sep. 1949
in Hoffenheim;
married.
Bundestag Member
since 1990



Yvonne Magwas,
CDU/CSU
Sociologist,
b. 28 Nov. 1979
in Rodewisch,
Vogtland.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Elisabeth Motschmann,
CDU/CSU
*CDU/CSU spokeswoman on cultural and
media affairs*
Former State Secretary
at *Land* level,
b. 13 Oct. 1952
in Lübeck;
married;
three children.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Helge Lindh,
SPD
Research assistant,
b. 6 Dec. 1976
in Wuppertal;
unmarried.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Martin Rabanus,
SPD
*SPD spokesman
on the Committee*
Civil servant,
b. 2 Sep. 1971
in Fulda;
married;
two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Marianne Schieder,
SPD
Lawyer,
b. 23 May 1962
in Schwarzberg.
Bundestag Member
since 2005



Dr Marc Jongen,
AfD
*AfD spokesman
on the Committee*
Philosophy lecturer,
b. 23 May 1968
in Merano, Italy;
unmarried.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Martin Erwin Renner,
AfD
Business administrator,
b. 5 May 1954
in Reutlingen;
married;
two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Hartmut Ebbing,
FDP
Auditor,
tax adviser,
b. 13 May 1956
in Berlin;
unmarried;
three children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Thomas Hacker,
FDP
*FDP spokesman
on the Committee*
Business administrator,
b. 9 Oct. 1967
in Bayreuth;
unmarried.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Simone Barrientos,
The Left Party
*The Left Party spokes-
woman on the
Committee*
Publisher,
b. 5 Oct. 1963
in Eisleben;
one child.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Brigitte Freihold,
The Left Party
Teacher,
b. 9 Apr. 1955
in Kaiserslautern;
divorced;
two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Erhard Grundl,
Alliance 90/The Greens
*Alliance 90/The Greens
spokesman
on the Committee*
Sales manager,
b. 7 Jan. 1963
in Mällersdorf;
married;
two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Margit Stumpp,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Senior teacher,
precision engineer,
b. 13 Apr. 1963
in Mengen;
married;
two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



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www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a22

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Published by: German Bundestag, Public Relations Division
Coordination: Robert Schönbrodt
Texts: Georgia Rauer; revised by: Committees Directorate (p. 4–5),
Secretariat of the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs (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, 11 DBT/Simone M. Neumann; p. 10 DBT/Julia Nowak;
p. 19 DBT/studio kohlmeier
Portrait photos: p. 3, 12 DBT/Thomas Köhler/photothek (Katrin Budde);
Johannes Selle/Jan Kopetzky (Johannes Selle); p. 13 Melanie Bernstein/
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(Michael Frieser); Volker Kauder/Laurence Chaperon (Volker Kauder);
Yvonne Magwas/Tobias Koch (Yvonne Magwas); DBT/Julia Nowak
(Elisabeth Motschmann); DBT/Thomas Köhler/photothek (Helge Lindh);
p. 14 SPD-Parteivorstand/Benno Kraehahn (Martin Rabanus); SPD-Parteivor-
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Martin E. Renner/Siegfried Reffgen (Martin Erwin Renner); Hartmut Ebbing/
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DBT/Inga Haar (Margit Stumpp)
Graphic: p. 7 Marc Mendelson
Printed by: Druckhaus Waiblingen Remstal-Bote GmbH

As at: January 2019
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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