



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

ELECTIONS TO THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT (BUNDESTAG)
24 September 2017

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

12-14 July 2017



Warsaw
1 August 2017

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OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

I. INTRODUCTION

Following an invitation from the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to observe the 24 September 2017 elections to the Federal Parliament (*Bundestag*) and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to Berlin from 12 to 14 July 2017. The NAM included Alexander Shlyk, OSCE/ODIHR Head of the Elections Department, and Vladimir Misev, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser, and was joined by Iryna Sabashuk, Head of Administration for Election Observation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM should recommend whether to deploy an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming elections, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Meetings were held with officials from federal institutions, including the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Election Scrutiny Board, Committee on Internal Affairs as well as representatives of political parties, civil society, and the media. A full list of meetings is annexed to this report.

The OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Federal Foreign Office for its assistance and co-operation in organizing the NAM. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank all of its interlocutors for taking the time to meet with the NAM.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 23 January 2017, the Federal President called the elections to the Federal Parliament (*Bundestag*) to be held on 24 September. Members of the *Bundestag* are elected for four-year terms through a mixed electoral system combining proportional representation and a majoritarian element.

The legal framework provides a solid basis for the conduct of genuine democratic elections and following the last federal elections it remained essentially unchanged. All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the legislation governing the federal elections.

The elections are administered by a four-tiered structure, composed of the Federal Election Committee (FEC), *Länder* Election Committees (LECs), District Election Committees (DECs) and Election Boards (EBs). Chairpersons of the LECs, DECs and EBs are appointed by the *Länder* executive authorities. Parties are entitled to nominate members to election bodies and most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the work and independence of the election administration.

Every citizen over 18 years of age by election day with a domicile or a permanent residency for at least three months is eligible to vote. Some 61.5 million citizens are entitled to vote in the upcoming elections. Citizens permanently residing abroad are eligible to vote by postal ballot if, after reaching the age of 14, they have three months of continual residence in Germany within the last 25 years or

if they can demonstrate personal and direct familiarity with the political situation and are affected by it. All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the voter registration process and accuracy of the voter lists.

Eligible voters can stand as candidates as well. Parties represented with at least five members in the *Bundestag* or a *Länder* parliament can nominate candidates and candidate lists without supporting signatures. All other parties and associations wishing to field candidates are required to formally notify the FEC of their intention to contest the elections. A total of 63 parties and political associations intended to participate in the 2017 elections. The FEC decided that 48 parties are eligible to compete, and 7 of those rejected appealed the FEC decision to the Federal Constitutional Court which upheld the FEC decision in all of the cases. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed general confidence in the candidate registration process.

The conduct of the election campaign is mostly governed at *Länder* level, while the federal legislation provides limited regulation. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors considered the campaign environment open and free. Nevertheless, some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns regarding the equality of opportunity and freedom to campaign and noted a significant number of politically motivated incidents, including physical attacks. Most political parties that the OSCE/ODIHR NAM met with indicated that they apply internal gender quotas.

The legislation does not establish limits on the amounts that political parties may raise or spend during the campaign. Parties' campaign-related income and expenditure is reported through annual financial reports submitted to the President of *Bundestag*, which are made public considerably long time after the elections. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors were satisfied with the existing party financing regulation and opined that it provides for an adequate level of transparency. However, a few OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the transparency of party and campaign funding could benefit from lowering the limit for immediate disclosure of donations, financial reporting during campaign periods, as well as accelerated publication of financial reports.

The media landscape is pluralistic and characterized by a strong tradition of public service broadcasting and print media market. Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors pointed to the increasing role of the Internet as a main source of political information. There are generally no media-related regulations at the federal level and the activities of broadcast media are regulated by the *Länder* laws. Media are required to provide plurality of opinion, balanced coverage for all important political, ideological and social forces. Parties with a list in at least one *Länder* should be granted an 'appropriate amount' of broadcasting time.

The legislation states that polling shall be public. Nonetheless, the election legislation does not contain specific provisions regarding international election observation.

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM noted confidence among most of its interlocutors in the integrity of the electoral process and the professionalism and impartiality of the election administration. However, some interlocutors expressed concerns about equal campaign opportunities and campaign finance regulations. Taking into account these issues raised by OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends deploying an Election Expert Team (EET) for the 24 September federal elections to the *Bundestag* to assess the campaign environment and review the current system of regulation and oversight of campaign finance. The OSCE/ODIHR stands ready to offer its assistance upon request in a post-election follow-up process.

III. FINDINGS

A. BACKGROUND

Germany is a federal republic composed of 16 states (*Länder*) vested with large autonomy. The federal legislative power rests in the Federal Parliament (*Bundestag*), with members directly elected for four-year terms. The Federal Council is the body through which the *Länder* participate in the legislation at the federal level with its members delegated by the respective state governments.

Executive power is vested in the Federal Cabinet led by the Federal Chancellor, who is elected by the parliamentary majority on the proposal of the Federal President. The Federal President is elected by a Federal Convention, which consists of members of the federal parliament and *Länder* parliaments, as well as members elected by the *Länder* parliaments. On 23 January 2017, the Federal President called the elections to the *Bundestag* to be held on 24 September.

Following the last parliamentary elections on 22 September 2013, five political parties were elected: the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) with 253 seats, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) with 193 seats, the Left with 64 seats, Alliance '90/The Greens with 63 seats, and the Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU) with 56 seats.¹

The OSCE/ODIHR previously deployed an Election Expert Mission (EET) for the 2013 parliamentary elections. The 2013 EET assessed the legal framework and party and campaign finance issues. The EET final report concluded that overall, the legal framework provides a solid basis to conduct genuine elections and that the party financing framework allows political parties to compete based on equal treatment before the law and by the authorities.²

B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Elections are governed by the 1994 Basic Law, the 1993 Federal Electoral Act (FEA), the 2002 Federal Electoral Regulations (FER), and the 2012 Law on the Scrutiny of Elections, as well as by relevant Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) rulings. Relevant provisions of the 1994 Political Parties Act, the 1999 Law on Election Statistics, and the 2002 Civil and 1998 Criminal Codes are also applicable for the conduct of federal elections. Following the last federal parliamentary elections, the legislation remained essentially unchanged.³ All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the legislative framework governing the federal elections.

Members of the *Bundestag* are elected through a mixed electoral system combining proportional representation and a majoritarian element.⁴ A total of 299 members are elected in single-seat electoral districts under a first-past-the-post system. The remaining members are elected proportionally through closed party lists in one multi seat constituency.

¹ In addition there is one independent member. While the CDU and CSU are separate political entities, they cooperate at the federal level and together represent the largest political bloc in the *Bundestag*.

² See all previous OSCE/ODIHR [reports on Germany](#).

³ Minor changes related to prohibition of filming in the polling stations and regarding the postal voting were made in the FER.

⁴ The FEA provides that the *Bundestag* shall consist of 598 members, subject to variations, which, in practice, due to the electoral system, means that the number might be larger.

Voters are entitled to cast two votes. The first vote is cast for a candidate in a single-seat district. The second vote is cast for a party list. The candidate obtaining the majority of votes cast in each district is elected. Parties that have passed a five per cent threshold of valid second votes at the national level or have won seats in at least three single-seat districts are eligible to participate in the allocation of proportional seats.⁵

An independent constituency commission reviews electoral district boundaries on the basis of population changes that are subject of approval by the *Bundestag*. According to the legislation, the number of voters in each constituency in the *Länder* should not deviate from the average by more than 15 per cent and, if the deviation is greater than 25 per cent, the boundaries must be redrawn.⁶ Ahead of the upcoming elections, constituency boundaries were reviewed and boundaries were redrawn in 34 constituencies.⁷ In general, OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not express concerns with the electoral system and the distribution of seats in the *Bundestag*.

Voters can submit complaints to the election administration on issues related to voter registration, polling cards and nomination of candidate and party lists. Complaints regarding the validity of elections can be submitted to the Election Scrutiny Board (ESB). The ESB is composed of nine members appointed by the *Bundestag* for the duration of the newly-elected legislature and delivers decisions that are subsequently passed to the *Bundestag* for adoption. Eligible voters may file an appeal to the ESB within two months of the elections.⁸ Decisions by the ESB are subject to appeal with the FCC.⁹

C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The elections are administered by a four-tiered structure, composed of the Federal Election Committee (FEC), 16 *Länder* Election Committees (LECs), 299 single-mandate District Election Committees (DECs) and some 90,000 Election Boards (EBs).

All committees are chaired by returning officers and EBs by electoral officers. The Federal Returning Officer and *Länder* returning officers are appointed by the Federal Ministry of Interior and the *Länder* executive authorities, respectively. District returning officers and electoral officers are appointed before each election by the *Länder* executive authorities. The 11-member FEC includes the Federal Returning Officer as the chairperson who appoints eight members and two judges of the Federal Administrative Court.¹⁰ The LECs and DECs have seven members with a returning officer as a chairperson who appoints the other six members. Two judges of the *Länder*

⁵ Ahead of the 2013 federal elections, amendments to the seat allocation method were introduced. By law, following the calculation of seats to be allocated to parties at the national level, and subsequently in each *Länder*, the number of seats won by a party in a majoritarian contests in each *Länd* is deducted from the overall number of seats allocated to the party on the basis of results in the proportional contest. The remaining mandates are distributed according to the order of candidates on the list. The 'excess' seats are retained by the party, resulting in an increase in the total number of seats in the *Bundestag*.

⁶ Additionally, the number of constituencies in the individual *Länd* must correspond to the population in the *Länd* as close as possible

⁷ The commission prepared two reports in 2014 and adjustment report 2015 and the *Bundestag* adopted a [law with the new constituency boundaries](#) which entered into force on 10 May 2016. According to the [2002 Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters](#), the permissible departure from the norm should not be more than 10 per cent, and should certainly not exceed 15 per cent except in special circumstances.

⁸ Following the 2013 federal elections, 224 complaints were submitted to the ESB and were all rejected.

⁹ According to the FCC, 60 complaints were submitted to the FCC and in all cases except two the FCC upheld the ESB decisions. Currently, there are two pending cases with the FCC related to the right to vote of the persons with mental disabilities under custodian and the five per cent threshold for parties to be eligible for mandate allocation.

¹⁰ Traditionally, the Federal Returning Officer is the head of the Federal Statistical Office (*Destatis*).

Higher Administrative Court are additionally appointed to each LEC. EBs have an electoral officer as the chairperson, plus a deputy, and from three to seven members appointed from among voters.

Parties are entitled to nominate members to election bodies at different levels. Although, the legislation does not contain clear criteria for selecting members from the political parties, OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors informed that parties represented in the *Bundestag* or *Länder* parliaments are represented. In addition to these nominations, local authorities request nominations from various federal and local public bodies and institutions to staff the EBs. In total, some 650,000 people will be recruited to administer the federal elections. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the work and independence of the election administration.

D. VOTER REGISTRATION

Every citizen over 18 years of age by election day with a domicile or a permanent residency for at least three months is eligible to vote. Voter registration is passive and voter lists are extracted from municipal civil registers based on a voter's permanent residence. From 20 to 16 days before the elections, voters may review voter lists and request corrections in cases of mistake or incomplete information.¹¹ Some 61.5 million citizens are entitled to vote in the upcoming elections.

Individuals placed in psychiatric hospitals by a court decision for committing an unlawful act in a state of insanity, persons with disabilities under full custody or convicted for specific serious crimes by a court are ineligible to vote.¹² According to OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors some 83,000 citizens are affected by these restrictions. All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the voter registration process and accuracy of the voter lists.

Citizens permanently residing abroad are eligible to vote if they have three months of continual residence in Germany within the last 25 years (after reaching the age of 14). Additionally, citizens who have never resided in Germany are eligible to vote if they can demonstrate their connection to the country and familiarity with the political situation, and are affected by it. Eligible voters residing abroad vote by postal ballot. Some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the procedure for registration and use of postal voting for citizens living abroad could be simplified.¹³

E. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

Eligible voters can stand independently or as party candidates.¹⁴ Parties represented with at least five members in the *Bundestag* or at *Länder* parliament can submit their nominations without supporting signatures. All other parties and associations wishing to field candidates are required to formally notify the FEC of their intention to contest the elections.

¹¹ Voters can inspect and verify the voter list in person and for other voters if she/he produces facts confirming that the voters' register is incorrect or incomplete.

¹² OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that of those under custodian due to disability relatively few are under full custodian. Germany has signed and ratified the [2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(UN CRPD\)](#), and deprivation of the right to vote on the basis of mental disability is inconsistent with Articles 12 and 29 of the UN CRPD.

¹³ On 29 June 2017, following a petition from the Association of Germans Employed in International Organizations, which, among other issues, requested simplifying the procedures for voters abroad, the *Bundestag* Committee on Internal Affairs did not support the request "due to lack of technical facilities in the embassies."

¹⁴ The only restriction is for voters which are deprived by judicial decision of eligibility to hold public or political office.

Following initial approval by the FEC, nominations of single-seat district candidates need to be submitted to their respective district returning officers accompanied by supporting signatures of at least 200 voters. Party lists must be submitted to the respective LEC returning officer and need to be supported by signatures of 1 per 1,000 eligible voters in the *Länder*, but not more than 2,000 signatures.¹⁵ Decisions on the registration of candidates and party lists are taken by the DEC and LECs, respectively.

A total of 63 parties and political associations intended to participate in the 2017 elections. The FEC decided that 48 parties are eligible to compete and 7 of those who rejected appealed the decision to the FCC. The FCC upheld the FEC decisions in all seven cases. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed general confidence in the candidate and party registration process.

F. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The conduct of the election campaign is mostly regulated at *Länder* level, and local authorities may adopt campaign-related ordinances. The federal legislation provides limited regulation, which includes provisions of the Basic Law, the 1978 Law on Assemblies and Parades regarding the organization of public events and the Political Party Act that requires authorities to treat political parties equitably.¹⁶

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors from political parties informed that campaigns are likely to include door-to-door canvassing, billboards and leaflets, meetings with voters, spots in broadcast and advertisement in print media, as well as the use of social media. In general, campaign topics include security issues, economy, social welfare, the labor market and education. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors considered the campaign environment open and free. However, some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns regarding the opportunity to campaign freely and noted a significant number of recent politically motivated incidents, including physical attacks, mostly targeting the Alternative for Germany (AfD). In general, and with regard to the complete political spectrum the Ministry of Interior, registered a rise in the number of politically motivated crimes by 6.6 per cent in 2016.¹⁷

The legislation does not provide for gender quotas for candidate nominations and party lists. However, most political parties that the OSCE/ODIHR NAM met with indicated that they apply their own internal quotas, up to 50 per cent for some of them.

G. CAMPAIGN FINANCING

The Political Party Act provides the main legal framework for party and campaign finance. The legislation does not establish limits on the amounts that political parties may raise or spend during

¹⁵ The requirement for additional signatures does not apply to lists of parties which represent national minorities.

¹⁶ Interlocutors from the Alternative for Germany (AfD) informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that the party faces unequal treatment by the authorities. For example, following a Facebook post on 16 March 2017 by the mayor of Frankfurt suggesting not to invite AfD to a public meeting because the image of the city would be harmed, the Administrative Court of Hesse in its decision from 12 July 2017 requested the post to be removed and not reposted. Previously, on 7 November 2015 following a complaint by the AfD, the FCC on similar grounds [decided](#) that that the Ministry of Education should remove a quote of its website “that a red card should be given to the AfD because of their right-wing propaganda and hate speech.”

¹⁷ Federal Ministry of Interior [statistics](#).

the campaign. Parties are mostly financed through membership fees, private contributions and public funding, which cannot be higher than the funds the party collects from private sources.¹⁸

Donations from public and foreign entities are forbidden. There are no rules on third-parties, however given the absence of limits on campaign expenditures, in general parties are not inclined to rely on this type of support.¹⁹

A Law on the Exclusion of Anti-constitutional Parties from Party Financing was adopted on 23 June 2017 to prohibit public funding to parties that are declared unconstitutional by the FCC.²⁰

Parties' campaign-related income and expenditure are reported through annual financial reports, audited by certified auditor or auditing firm, which all parties are required to submit to the President of *Bundestag*. No separate reporting during or shortly after an electoral period is required, except for donations exceeding EUR 50,000, which must be reported immediately and sources of donations totaling above EUR 10,000 within one year to be included in the annual party finance reports. In practice, the annual reports that will cover the campaign-related expenses for these elections will be made public in about one year. By law, failure to submit a financial report or an inaccurate report may cause financial or criminal sanctions or a party can lose its legal status for six years.

Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors were satisfied with the existing regulation of party financing and opined that it provides for an adequate level of transparency and accountability. However, Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) reports and a few OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the transparency of party and campaign funding could benefit from lowering the threshold for immediate disclosure of donations, requiring at least some degree of financial reporting during campaign periods, and accelerated publication of financial reports.²¹

¹⁸ Parties that have received 0.5 per cent of the valid votes in federal elections or 1 per cent of the valid votes in a *Länder* parliament elections qualify for public funding. In 2015, amendments to the Political Party Act, increased the amount of state subsidy per each vote received (currently 0.83 EUR).

¹⁹ Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors pointed to an example of an association (*Association for the Preservation of the Rule of Law and Civic Freedoms*), with alleged links to a political party, that produced and distributed a newspaper (*Extrablatt*), effectively campaigning on behalf of that party.

²⁰ According to law, parties that “by reason of their aims or the behaviour of their adherents, seek to undermine or abolish the free democratic basic order or to endanger the existence of the Federal Republic of Germany shall be unconstitutional.” On 17 January 2017, following a complaint by the *Länder* governments represented in the upper house of the parliament (*Bundesrat*) on the far-right National Democratic Party (NPD) to be declared unconstitutional, the FCC [decided](#) that “there are no indications that the party will succeed in achieving its anti-constitutional aims.”

²¹ The GRECO [reports](#) on the transparency of party funding in Germany, among others, recommended that the country: “i) should introduce a system for the publication of election campaign accounts at the federal level, which would make the information available shortly after election campaigns; ii) to lower the 50,000 Euro threshold for the immediate reporting and disclosure; iii) to consider reducing significantly the threshold for the disclosure of donations and donors; iv) to ensure that the body to which the supervision of party financing is attributed, enjoys a sufficient degree of independence and is equipped with proper means of control, adequate staffing and appropriate expertise.”

H. MEDIA FRAMEWORK

The media landscape is pluralistic and characterized by a strong tradition of public service broadcasting and print media market. Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors pointed to the increasing role of the Internet as an important source of political information.²²

There are generally no media-related regulations at the federal level and the activities of broadcast media are regulated by *Länder* laws. The Interstate Treaty on Broadcasting and Telemedia provides a general framework stipulating requirements of plurality of opinion, balanced coverage for all

important political, ideological and social forces, and requires those parties with a list in at least one *Länder* be granted an ‘appropriate amount’ of broadcasting time. The principle of ‘gradual equality’ is applied in the allocation of airtime, and the relative strength of parties in the parliament is considered. In public media, election broadcasts are provided free-of-charge, while in private media electoral contestants can purchase broadcasting time on equal conditions. According to OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors from political parties, debates among parliamentary political parties and at least one debate between the two lead candidates for the post of Federal Chancellor are planned.

Oversight of media conduct in public broadcasting corporations is ensured by independent Broadcasting Councils and private broadcasters are scrutinized by supervisory bodies at the *Länder* level. The German Press Council, a voluntary self-monitoring body, reviews complaints and oversees the print media and journalistic coverage on the Internet, assessing journalistic practice against a Press Code. Most of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the professionalism of the media and considered the political and election coverage as fair and balanced. Nevertheless, some interlocutors from a non-parliamentary political party complained about the media coverage, qualifying it as “stigmatizing” reporting.

I. ELECTION OBSERVATION

The legislation states that polling shall be public and that the public shall have access to the polling station during voting, counting and announcement of results without disrupting the process. The election legislation, however, does not contain specific provisions for the presence of international election observers.²³

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM noted confidence among most of its interlocutors in the integrity of the electoral process and the professionalism and impartiality of the election administration. However, some interlocutors expressed concerns about equal campaign opportunities and campaign finance

²² On 30 June, the *Bundestag* passed a Network Enforcement Act (so-called Facebook law) which requires social media companies, such as Facebook, Twitter and others, to remove illegal content (including hate speech) within 24 hours of the publication. The law envisages fines of up to EUR 50 million for noncompliance and will be enforced from 1 October 2017.

²³ Paragraph 8 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen document states that: “the participating States consider that the presence of observers, both foreign and domestic, can enhance the electoral process for States in which elections are taking place. They therefore invite observers from any other CSCE participating States and any appropriate private institutions and organizations who may wish to do so to observe the course of their national election proceedings, to the extent permitted by law. They will also endeavour to facilitate similar access for election proceedings held below the national level. Such observers will undertake not to interfere in the electoral proceedings.”

regulations. Taking into account these issues raised by OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends deploying an Election Expert Team (EET) for the 24 September federal elections to the *Bundestag* to assess the campaign environment and review the current system of regulation and oversight of campaign finance. The OSCE/ODIHR stands ready to offer its assistance upon request in a post-election follow-up process.

ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS

Federal Foreign Office

Thomas Lenk, Head of Unit/ OSCE matters
Aron Mir Haschemi, Deputy Head OSCE and Council of Europe

Federal Ministry of Interior

Dr. Henner-Jörg Boehl, Head of Division V I 5 (Election Law, Law of Political Parties)

Committee for the Scrutiny of Elections, Immunity and the Rules of Procedure

Erhard Kathmann, Head of Secretariat
Dr. Christina Ziegenhorn, Secretariat PD 4

Parliamentary Committee on Internal Affairs

Dr. Heinz-Willy Heynckes, Head of the Secretariat

The Social Democratic Party

Dr. Ute Finckh-Krämer, Member of Parliament

The Christian Democratic Union

Bertil Wenger, Head of Unit regarding Foreign Affairs

The Left

Claudia Gohde, Head of Party Headquarters

Alliance '90/The Greens

Janik Feuerhahn, Coordinator for International Contacts, Federal-State Relations

Alternative for Germany

Beatrix von Storch, Deputy Chairperson
Julian Flak, Member of Board and Chairperson of the Convention
Christian Buchholz, Spokesperson for economic and research policy

The Free Democratic Party

Jürgen Stindt, Head of Election Campaign Planning

Humboldt University of Berlin

Prof.Dr. Silvia von Steinsdorff, Director of International Relations

Transparency International Germany

Prof. Dr. Edda Müller, President

Lobby Control

Timo Lange

German Press Council

Lutz Tillmanns, Managing Director

Media

Michaela Küfner, Deutsche Welle

Chloé Fiancette, AFP

Alexander Ratz, Reuters

Jakob Schulz, Süddeutsche Zeitung

Severin Weiland, Spiegel Online

Viktoria Bräuner, Bild