

DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG
Delegation
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
in der Parlamentarischen Versammlung
des Europarates
- Leiter -

Folketinget
Chairperson of the delegation of PACE
Mrs Hanne Severinsen
Christiansborg Slot

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Denmark

11011 Berlin, 6. Juli 2005
Platz der Republik 1

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Referentin Dr. Birgit Schröder

Sehr geehrte Frau Präsidentin,

wie Sie sicherlich im Verlauf der vergangenen Sitzungswoche in Strassburg erfahren haben, hat die deutsche Regierung entschieden, mich für das Amt des Menschenrechtskommissars des Europarates vorzuschlagen.

Sie kennen mein Engagement für die Werte des Europarates, den Schutz der Menschenrechte, der Rechtsstaatlichkeit und Demokratie sowie mein Interesse an pan-europäischer Kooperation aus der gemeinsamen Arbeit in der Parlamentarischen Versammlung des Europarates (ER PV).


In diesem Rahmen durfte ich unter anderem an der Formulierung der Stellungnahme der Versammlung zur Ausgestaltung des Amtes des Menschenrechtskommissars mitwirken. Dieser unabhängigen Einrichtung im Rahmen des Europarates habe ich von Anfang große Bedeutung beigemessen. Sie hat das Potential, Menschenrechtsfragen stärker in das Bewusstsein der Öffentlichkeit hineinzutragen und die Achtung der Menschenrechte in den Mitgliedstaaten zu fördern. Die erfolgreiche erste Amtszeit von Alvaro Gil-Robles hat in dieser Hinsicht bereits hohe Maßstäbe gesetzt, und ich möchte versuchen, die Arbeit auf diesem Niveau fortzusetzen. Mit der zusätzlichen Unterstützung, die das Amt infolge des Aktionsplans des Dritten Gipfels von Warschau erhalten soll, wird es sogar möglich sein, die Arbeit in einigen Bereichen zu verstärken.

In dieser Phase des Verfahrens zur Neubesetzung des Amtes geht es noch nicht um die definitive Festlegung auf einen Kandidaten. Zunächst wählt das Ministerkomitee am 7. September 2005 drei Kandidaten unter den Bewerbern aus und erstellt eine Vorschlagsliste. Auf der Grundlage dieses Vorschlages wird die Parlamentarische Versammlung in der Woche vom 3.-7. Oktober die Wahl vornehmen.

Sofern Sie der Ansicht sind, dass ich als Kandidat auf der Vorschlagsliste des Ministerkomitees stehen sollte, wäre ich Ihnen dankbar, wenn Sie Ihrem Außenminister einen entsprechenden Hinweis geben würden.

Darüber hinaus würde ich mich freuen, wenn Sie meine Kandidatur auch im weiteren Verlauf unterstützen könnten.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Rudolf Bindig', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rudolf Bindig, MdB

Vizepräsident und Leiter der deutschen Delegation in der Parlamentarischen Versammlung
des Europarates

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Mr. President, Madam President,

As you doubtless heard in the course of the past week in Strasbourg, the German government has decided to propose me for the office of Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

You know my commitment to the values of the Council of Europe, the protection of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, as well as my interest in pan-European cooperation from having worked with me in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

In this context it was my privilege to be involved in the process of formulating the Parliamentary Assembly's recommendation with regard to the terms of reference of the Commissioner for Human Rights. From the outset I have attached great importance to this independent institution within the Council of Europe. It has the potential to increase public awareness of human rights issues and to promote respect of human rights in the member states. Alvaro Gil-Robles' success as the first person to hold this office has set a high standard and I would like to try to maintain this same high standard during my term in office. It will be possible to strengthen the work being done in some areas on the basis of the additional support the office is to be given as a result of the action plan adopted at the Warsaw Summit.

This phase of the procedure does not yet involve a definitive choice of candidates. On 7 September the Committee of Ministers will select three candidates from among the applicants and place them on a list. On the basis of this list the Parliamentary Assembly will elect the new Commissioner for Human Rights during the week 3 -7 October.

If you feel that I should be included on the list of candidates I would be grateful if you could inform your foreign minister of this.

I would be greatly pleased if I could count on your support for my candidacy.

Yours faithfully,

Rudolf Bindig, MP

Vice President and Head of the German Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Curriculum vitae

Rudolf Bindig, MP

Member of the German Bundestag since 1976

Currently a member of the following bodies

Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid
Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development
Committee on Transport, Building and Housing

and has various functions in other bodies of the Bundestag as well.

Activities and experience in the area of human rights

Spokesman on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid for the SPD Group since 1983.

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Humanitarian Aid from 1983 to 1987.

Behind the initiative to create a full-fledged Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid in 1998.

Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since 2003.

Head of the German Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Currently a member of the following bodies of the Council of Europe:

Bureau of the Assembly
Standing Committee
Enlarged Joint Committee
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
Human Rights Subcommittee
Minorities Subcommittee
Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by
Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)
Political Affairs Committee

Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and at the same time of the Assembly of the Western European Union since 1988.

Work experience

Held various jobs in the fruit and vegetable wholesale trade as well as in the administration of mines and metalworking companies (coal-and-steel industry).

Social research staff employee at the University of Constance from 1971 to 1976.

Volunteer activities

Co-founder of the German Institute for Human Rights, Berlin, in the year 2000 and since then a member of its Board of Trustees.

President of the humanitarian aid NGO "Help - Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V.", Bonn.

Member of the Union of Persons employed in Education and Science.

Member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) since 1967.

Achievement award: Cross of the order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

Languages

Mother tongue: German

English, fluent spoken and written

French, passive, basic

Education

Academic-stream secondary school in Goslar, graduation in 1960,
studied Economics and Law at the Universities of Göttingen and Nuremberg,
degree in Business Administration,
post-graduate studies in Political Science, History, and Sociology at the University of
Constance.

Personal data

Born on 6 September 1940 in Goslar am Harz

Gender: male

Citizenship: German

Marital status: married, one son

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Berlin, 29 June 2005

Appendix to curriculum vitae, Rudolf Bindig

Selected activities in the field of human rights protection at the national level (German Bundestag resolutions drafted at his initiative or under his direction over the past five years):

- Resolution „For a reinforcement of the absolute ban on torture -*Für eine Bekräftigung des absoluten Folterverbotes“, Bundestag Doc. 15/4396, 1 December 2004
- Resolution „Strengthening human rights in Afghanistan -*Stärkung der Menschenrechte in Afghanistan“, Bundestag Doc. 15/2168, 10 December 2003
- Resolution „Protection of endangered human rights defenders -*Schutz von bedrohten Menschenrechtsverteidigern“, Bundestag Doc. 15/2078, 25 November 2003
- Resolution „Human rights as a guideline for German policy -*Menschenrechte als Leitlinie der deutschen Politik“, Bundestag Doc. 15/136, 3 December 2002
- Resolution „Human rights and development in Tibet -*Menschenrechte und Entwicklung in Tibet“, Bundestag Doc. 14/8782, 16 April 2002
- Resolution „A global ban on and campaign against torture -*Weltweite Bekämpfung und Ächtung der Folter“, Bundestag Doc. 14/8488, 12 March 2002
- Resolution „Prevention of and the fight against trafficking *in women -*Prävention und Bekämpfung von Frauenhandel“, Bundestag Doc. 14/6540, 3 July 2001
- Resolution „Protecting refugees means protecting human rights -*Flüchtlingsschutz ist Menschenrechtsschutz“, Bundestag Doc. 14/4884, 5 Dezember 2000
- Resolution „Establishing a German Institute for Human Rights -*Einrichtung eines Deutschen Instituts für Menschenrechte“, Bundestag Doc. 14/4801, 28 November 2000
- Resolution „Abolition of the death penalty in the USA -*Abschaffung der Todesstrafe in den USA“, Bundestag Doc. 14/4800, 28 November 2000

Reply by the government to a request for a detailed report „The fight against female genital mutilation at home and abroad -*Kampf gegen weibliche Genitalverstümmelung im In- und Ausland“, Bundestag Doc. 14/6682 (neu), 12 July 2001

Resolution „50th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights -*50 Jahre Europäische Menschenrechtskonvention“, Bundestag Doc. 14/4390. 24 October 2000

In the context of deliberations in committee as well as numerous fact-finding missions on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Africa, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey as well as Central and Latin America.

Selected activities in the field of human rights protection at the international level (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe)

Report on „Honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation“ together with David Atkinson (UK), Doc. 10568, 3 June 2005,

Report on "The human rights situation in the Chechen Republic", Doc. 10283, 20 September 2004

Report on "Ad hoc committee to observe the presidential election in the Russian Federation (14 March 2004)", Doc. 10150, 26 April 2004

Report on "3rd Annual Report on the Activities of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (1 January - 31 December 2002)", Doc. 10024, 18 December 2003

Report on "Conviction of Grigory Pasko", Doc. 9926, 25 September 2003

Report and Addendum on "The Human rights situation in the Chechen Republic", Doc. 9732, 13 March 2003

Opinion on " Evaluation of the prospects for a political solution of the conflict in the Chechen Republic", Doc. 9688, 28 January 2003

Report on "Honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation " together with David Atkinson (UK) Doc. 9396, 26 March 2002

Opinions on "Conflict in the Chechen Republic - recent developments", Doc. 9329, 21 January 2002, and Doc. 8948, 23 January 2001

Report on "Rights of national minorities", Doc. 8920, 4 January 2001

Opinions on "Conflict in the Chechen Republic", follow-up to Recommendations 1444 and 1456 (2000) and the Resolution 1221 (2000), Doc. 8843, 27 September 2000, Doc. 8788, 28 June 2000, Doc. 8700, 5 April 2000, and Doc. 8631, 25 January 2000

Report on "Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights: draft terms of reference", Doc. 8295, 12 January 1999

Information Report on "Honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation", together with Ernst Mühlemann (Switzerland), Doc. 8127, 2 June 1998

Opinion on "Protection of national minorities" Doc. 7922, 23 September 1997

Report on "Protection of the rights of minorities", Doc. 7572, 5 June 1996

Report on "Honouring of obligations and commitments by Estonia", Doc. 7715, 20 December 1997

Opinion on "Situation in Chechnya" Doc. 7532, 23 April 1996

Opinion on "Russia's application for membership of the Council of Europe", Doc. 7463, 18 January 1996

Report on "Rights of national minorities", Doc. 7442, 20 December 1995

Opinion on "Russia's request for membership in the light of the situation in Chechnya", Doc. 7231, 2 February 1995

Report on "Protection of the rights of national minorities", Doc. 7228, 31 January 1995

Opinion on "Application of the Republic of Estonia for membership of the Council of Europe", Doc. 6824, 5 May 1993

Selected Publications

Protection of the rights of minorities in international and European law, in: Nikolai Genov (ed.), Ethnic relations in South Eastern Europe, Berlin-Sofia: Free University Berlin/ Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, 2004.

Integration of the human rights of women and a gender perspective, Statement at the 57th Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, 9 April 2001.

Complementarity of mechanisms within the Council of Europe. Perspectives of the Parliamentary Assembly, in: The protection of human rights in the 21st century: towards greater complementarity within and between European regional organisations, Human Rights Law Journal, vol. 21:8, 4 November 2000.

Medien als politischer Faktor in Tschetschenien-Konflikt (The media as a political factor in the Chechen conflict), in: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung /Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission et al. (eds.), Medien im Konflikt – Mittäter oder Mediatoren, Bonn: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2000.

Monitoring of the compliance of member states with obligations and commitments:
The case of Estonia, in: Bruno Haller et al. (ed.), Law in Greater Europe:
Towards a common legal area, The Hague/London: Kluwer, 2000.

Social and Economic Rights and Economic Development, in: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
(ed.), Human Rights and Civil Society in the Mediterranean, Bonn:
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 1999.

Schutz von Minderheiten in Europa und in der Dritten Welt (Protection of minorities in
Europe and the Third World), in: Udo Steinbach (Hg.),
Entwicklungszusammenarbeit in Kultur, Recht und Wirtschaft: Grundlagen
und Erfahrungen aus Afrika und Nahost. Festgabe für Volkmar Köhler zum
65. Geburtstag, Wiesbaden: Leske + Budrich, 1995.

In addition, hundreds of print, radio and television interviews on human rights issues.