

“Ears and voice”: a link between the federal police forces and the German Bundestag

In part due to his many years of professional and parliamentary experience, Uli Grötsch sees his role as Parliamentary Commissioner as providing a link between the federal police forces and the German Bundestag. His reports are intended to create an opportunity to inform Members of the Bundestag on problems and challenges in the work of the federal police authorities and allow joint solutions to be pursued.

Uli Grötsch

Uli Grötsch trained as a police officer in Sulzbach-Rosenberg, Nuremberg and Munich. From 1996 to 1998, he served as a police officer in Bad Reichenhall, from 1998 to 1999 in Nuremberg and subsequently in Waidhaus.

From 2013, until his appointment as Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities on 15 March 2024, Uli Grötsch was a Member of the German Bundestag. During the 18th electoral term, he was spokesman for the SPD parliamentary group on the 2nd Committee of Inquiry “BKA” (regarding the Federal Criminal Police Office) and the 3rd Committee of Inquiry “NSU II” on the far-right terrorist group National Socialist Underground, as well as deputy spokesman on internal affairs for the SPD parliamentary group from 2018 to 2021. From October 2014 to December 2023, Uli Grötsch was a member of the Parliamentary Oversight Panel.



Photo, left:
Appointment by Bundestag President Bärbel Bas on 15 March 2024

Photo, above:
Uli Grötsch during the presentation of his report at the Federal Press Conference.



Deutscher Bundestag

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities

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The first Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities, Uli Grötsch

The first Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities: Uli Grötsch, was elected on 14 March 2024 with the support of a large majority of Members of the German Bundestag and sworn in by Bundestag President Bärbel Bas on 20 March.

The Parliamentary Commissioner forms a link between citizens, those working for the federal police authorities and the German Bundestag. The legal basis for his work is the Act on the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities (PolBeauftrG), published on 4 March 2024. In accordance with this Act, the Commissioner has a five-year term of office and may be re-elected once. On 30 June every year, the Commissioner is required to present to the responsible bodies and the public an annual report on the results of his work. This report can be found on his homepage at polizeibeauftragter.de.

What does the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities do?

Employees of the Federal Police, the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Bundestag’s own police force (“the federal police authorities”) serve as points of contact for citizens; they protect them in problematic or critical situations and even against risks to life and limb – meaning they play an important role in safeguarding our democracy. Should structural deficits or problems exist within the federal police authorities, the Parliamentary Commissioner’s task is to help identify these as early as possible and work to alleviate them. Information or tip-offs to the Parliamentary Commissioner can be provided either via mail or in person – confidentiality regarding the source of the information is guaranteed if requested.



„I want to be a fair partner for everybody: both the federal police forces and citizens.“

The advocate of police officers

The Commissioner has a dual role regarding the federal police authorities: on the one hand, he can investigate misconduct or possible problems; he does so independently and outside state administrative structures or official channels and is not bound by instructions in his work. In concrete terms, this means that his office provides an additional option for investigating and evaluating information or tip-offs regarding problematic developments – alongside the other options still available in individual cases, namely investigations by the relevant administrations, procedures under disciplinary or labour law, and legal redress through the courts. At the same time, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities sees himself as an advocate for federal police officers. He also seeks to help find solutions to the everyday problems of those employed by the federal police authorities where he is asked to assist – from the state of the building stock, to questions of reconciling family life and work.

Point of contact for citizens

In addition, the Parliamentary Commissioner is an important point of contact for citizens wishing to draw attention to what they view as police misconduct (by the federal police authorities), or to problems. His core tasks include looking into submissions by citizens on possible misconduct by police officers from the Federal Police, Federal Criminal Police Office and the Bundestag police force, or investigating whether such submissions indicate structural deficits or undesirable developments within the federal police authorities.



Photo, top left: Uli Grötsch, in office since March 2024

Photo, centre, left: Swearing-in by the Bundestag President on 20 March 2024 in the plenary chamber

Photo, above, right: Uli Grötsch talking to representatives from the Federal Police Regional Office in Stuttgart

Photo, centre, right: Uli Grötsch speaks to police officers at the Federal Police Centre for Basic and Advanced Training in Bamberg.