

(As at: 23. April 2009)

PROGRAMME



- Oversight, protection and welfare: the ombudsman institutions as advocates for military personnel -

**International conference as part of the event
“50 years of the German Parliamentary Commissioner
for the Armed Forces”
from 10 to 12 May 2009 at the German Bundestag in Berlin.**

The conference is being run by the German Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces, Reinhold Robbe, in cooperation with the Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Amb. Theodor H. Winkler

The conference languages are German and English.
(French and Spanish interpretation will also be provided for conference participants)

Introduction

This first international Conference of Military Ombudsman Institutions is being held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the German Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces. It is initiated by the Parliamentary Commissioner in cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

Many countries across the globe have established various mechanisms and ombudsman institutions for dealing with complaints related to the work and living conditions of armed forces personnel. For the purpose of this conference, an ombudsman institution for the military can be either an independent ombudsman institution for the military (e.g. a parliamentary commissioner); an ombudsman institution integrated in the military structures (e.g. inspector-general); or a general ombudsman institution with jurisdiction over the military.

At this conference, representatives of these ombudsman institutions from various countries will exchange information and experiences about the functioning of ombudsman institutions. The objective of the conference is to establish best practice and lessons learned related to the mandate, powers and functioning of these institutions. Special attention will be given to the role of ombudsman institutions in military deployments abroad.

Because this is the first international conference bringing together ombudsman institutions for the military, the conference will also look at the way ahead for establishing contacts and sharing information and experiences between ombudsman institutions at the international level. In this context, the conference will conclude with the adoption of the “Berlin Declaration”, which will address the relevance and modalities of international exchange and cooperation between ombudsman institutions.

States that do not have an ombudsman institution for the armed forces but have expressed an interest in learning from the experiences of other states have also been invited to the conference.

Sunday, 10 May 2009

All day

Arrival of the conference participants

Proceed individually to the MARITIM proArte Hotel,
address: Friedrichstraße 151, 10117 Berlin-Mitte

15.00 - 18.30 hrs

Accreditation of conference participants

at the Commissioner's welcome desk in the lobby of the
MARITIM proArte Hotel

18.45 hrs

Proceed from the MARITIM proArte Hotel
to THE REGENT

19.00 hrs

Reception and dinner

Hosted by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of
Armed Forces (DCAF), Dr Theodor Winkler
Venue: Restaurant Fischers Fritz THE REGENT,
Charlottenstraße 49, 10117 Berlin

Ca. 22.00 hrs

Proceed from the Restaurant to the MARITIM proArte Hotel

Monday, 11 May 2009

9.00 hrs

Proceed from the MARITIM proArte Hotel to the
German Bundestag, Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders Building
(MELH), Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Straße 1, 10117 Berlin,
Room 3.101

9.30 – 11.30 hrs

O p e n i n g C e r e m o n y

9.30 - 9.55 hrs

**Welcome remarks and opening of the
conference by the German Parliamentary
Commissioner for the Armed Forces, Reinhold
Robbe**

10.00 - 10.15 hrs

**Welcome remarks and opening of the
conference by the Director of the Geneva Centre
for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
(DCAF), Amb. Theodor H. Winkler**

10.20 - 10.35 hrs

**Welcoming speech by the Minister of State for
Europe, Federal Foreign Office, Günter
Gloser, Member of the Bundestag**

10.40 - 10.55 hrs

**Welcoming speech by the German Federal
Minister of Defence, Dr. Franz-Josef Jung,
Member of the Bundestag**

- 11.00 - 11.15 hrs **Welcoming speech by the Chairwoman of the German Bundestag's Defence Committee, Ulrike Merten, Member of the Bundestag**
- 11.20-11.30 hrs **Speech by the Minister of Defense of Argentina, Dr. Nilda Garré**
- (Musical interludes between the welcoming speeches by the guests of honour, performed by the String Quartet of the Joint Band of the Bundeswehr)*
- 11.30 - 13.00 hrs **Buffet lunch**
Foyer of the conference room, MELH
- 13.00 - 13.30 hrs **Introductory speech**
- “Military Ombudsman Institutions: A Comparative Perspective”**
Dr. Hans Born, Senior Fellow, the Geneva Centre for The Democratic Control of Armed Forces
- 13.30 – 13.45 hrs **Welcoming speech by the President of the German Bundestag, Professor Dr. Norbert Lammert, Member of the Bundestag**
- 13.45 – 18.00 hrs **Discussion forums**
- Part I**
Overview of Ombudsman Institutions for the Military: Challenges and opportunities
- Panels in this part:
13.45 – 14.30 hrs
- Panel 1**
Independent Ombudsman Institutions for the Armed Forces
- Panellists: Germany, Ireland, Austria*
- Pionts of Discussion:*
- *Mandate and Powers: Does your institution have sufficient mandate and powers? Is independence guaranteed?*
 - *Credibility: Is your institution perceived as credible by armed forces personnel?*
 - *Way ahead: How can the functioning of your ombudsinstution be improved?*

14.30 – 15.30 hrs

Panel 2
Integrated Military Ombudsman Institutions
Panellists: Belgium, France, Netherlands.

Points of Discussion:

- Mandate and Powers: Does your institution have sufficient mandate and powers? Is independence guaranteed?
- Credibility: Is your institution perceived as credible by armed forces personnel?
- Way ahead: How can the functioning of your ombudsinstitution be improved?

15.30 hrs

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 hrs

Panel 3
General Ombudsman Institutions with Jurisdiction over the Military

Panellists: Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Serbia, Slovenia

Points of Discussion:

- Mandate and Powers: Does your institution have sufficient mandate and powers? Is independence guaranteed?
- Credibility: Is your institution perceived as credible by armed forces personnel?
- Way ahead: How can the functioning of your ombudsinstitution be improved?

17.00 -18.00 hrs

Panel 4
States without Ombudsman Institutions for the military

Panellists: Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Luxemburg, Slovakia.

Points for Discussion:

- Rationale: Why does your state not have an ombudsman institution for armed forces personnel?
- Alternative mechanisms: What are the strengths and weaknesses of your alternative complaint mechanisms for armed forces personnel?
- Way Ahead: do you think it is necessary to initiate an ombudsman institution for armed forces personnel in your country? If yes, which modality do you prefer?

18.10 hrs

Participants proceed from the venue to the Schloss Bellevue (Bellevue Palace)

18.30 – 19.30 hrs

**Reception held by the Federal President,
Professor Dr. Horst Köhler**

Venue: Schloss Bellevue, Spreeweg 1, 10557 Berlin

19.30 hrs

Participants proceed from the Schloss Bellevue (Bellevue Palace) to MARITIM prorata Hotel

Tuesday, 12 May 2009

8.30 hrs

Proceed from the MARITIM proArte Hotel to the German Bundestag, Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Building (MELH), Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Straße 1, 10117 Berlin, Room 3.101

9.00 – 12.30 hrs

Continuation of the discussion forums

Part 2

Multilateral military deployments and the resulting special challenges for the work of the Ombudsman Institutions

Panels in this part:

9.00 – 10.00 hrs

Panel 1:

Petitions from deployment areas – subject matter and processing

Panellists: United Kingdom, Canada, Poland, USA

Points for discussion:

- *Role: What is and what should be the role of your ombudsman-institution in dealing with complaints related to military deployments abroad?*
- *Issues: what are the type and patterns of complaints related to deployments abroad? Do they differ from 'peace time' complaints?*
- *Process: Are you satisfied with the way complaints related to military deployments abroad are handled? How can it be improved?*

10.00 hrs

Coffee break

10.30- 11.30 hrs

Panel 2

Investigatory powers and deployments abroad

Panellists: Germany, France, Norway, Romania

Points for discussion:

- *Challenges: What challenges are faced when addressing complaints arising from deployments abroad?*

- Restrictions: to what extent are investigatory powers restricted when addressing these issues?
- Capacity: What is the capacity of your institution for dealing with complaints and how can the capacity be strengthened?

11.30 hrs

Closing ceremony

Adoption of a joint resolution: the Berlin Declaration

12.00 hrs

Walk to the German Parliamentary Association,
Friedrich-Ebert-Platz 2, 10117 Berlin

12.15 – 13.40 hrs

Reception and meal

hosted by the German Parliamentary Commissioner for the
Armed Forces, Reinhold Robbe
Venue: German Parliamentary Association

13.40 hrs

Walk to the North Entrance of the Reichstag Building

13.45 hrs

Tour of the Reichstag Building

Guided tour in German and English, conducted by the
Visitors' Service of the German Bundestag
Starting point: North Entrance, Reichstag Building

15.00 hrs

Opportunity for conference participants to participate in a guided tour of Berlin

Departing from Ebertplatz
Approx. 17.30 hrs: Guests return to the MARITIM proArte
Hotel

17.30 hrs

End of the programme

Teilnehmer Participants

Argentinien/Argentina	Dr. Nilda Garré	Verteidigungsministerin/ Minister of Defence
Argentinien/Argentina	Oberst José Miguel Bermúdez Ávila	Embassy of Argentina - former Military attaché -
Argentinien/Argentina	N.N.	Embassy of Argentina - delegated Military attaché
Belgien/Belgium	Klachtenmanager Claude Moerman	Klachtenmanager/ Klachtenmanager
Bosnien und Herzegowina/Bosnia and Herzegovina	Branko Zrno	Vorsitzender der Gemeinsamen Kommission für Verteidigung und Sicherheit/ Chairman of the Joint Committee of Defence and Security of BiH
DCAF - Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces	Amb. Dr. Theodor H. Winkler	Direktor/ Director
DCAF - Geneva Centre for the Democratic Con- trol of Armed Forces	Dr. Hans Born	Leitender Wissenschaftler/ Senior Fellow
DCAF - Geneva Centre for the Democratic Con- trol of Armed Forces	Aidan Wills	Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter/ Research Assistant
Deutschland/Germany	Reinhold Robbe	Wehrbeauftragter des Deutschen Bundestages/ Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces
Deutschland/Germany	MDg Friedhelm Dreyling	Leitender Beamter beim Wehrbeauftragten des Deutschen Bundestages/ Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces - Chief Administrator and Deputy
Estland/Estonia	Indrek Teder	Justizkanzler/Chancellor of Justice

Finnland/Finland	Raino Marttunen	Justitiar des finnischen parlamentarischen Ombudsmannes / Senior Legal Advisor of the Finnish parliamentary ombudsman
Frankreich/France	Contrôleur Général Philippe Nicolardot	Contrôleur Général des Armées, französisches Verteidigungsministerium/ Contrôleur Général des Armées, French Ministry of Defence
Großbritannien/ United Kingdom	Dr. Susan Atkins	Ombudsfrau für die Streitkräfte/ Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces
Großbritannien/ United Kingdom	Janet Hinchliff	Ombudsfrau für die Streitkräfte – Mitarbeiterin/ Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces – Head of casework
Irland/Ireland	Paulyne Marrinan Quinn	Ombudsfrau für die Streitkräfte/ Ombudsman for the Defence Forces
Kanada/Canada	Pierre Daigle	Ombudsmann für die kanadischen Streitkräfte/ Ombudsman of the Canadian Forces
Kanada/Canada	Mary McFadyen	Oberster Rechtsbeistand im Büro des Kanadischen Ombudsmannes und frühere vorläufige Ombudsfrau/Senior Legal Counsel at the Ombudsman's Office and former Interim Ombudsman
Luxemburg/Luxemburg	Félix Braz, MP	Mitglied des Außenpolitischen Ausschusses/ Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations
Niederlande/Netherlands	Vice-Admiral iR. Michiel van Maanen	Inspecteur-Generaal der Krijgsmacht
Niederlande/Netherlands	Staffofficer iGR. C.M.J.M. Gravemaker	Inspecteur-General der Krijgsmacht - Staffofficer
Norwegen/Norway	Kjell Arne Bratli	Der Wehrbeauftragte des Norwegischen Parlaments/ Parliamentary Commissioner
Norwegen/Norway	Egil H. Nilsen	Wehrbeauftragter des Norwegischen Parlaments – Generaldirektor/ Parliamentary Commissioner –

Director General

**OSCE-Organisation for
Security and Co-
operation in Europe –
ODIHR-Office for
Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights**

	Robert-Jan Uhl	Menschenrechtsbeauftragter/ Human Rights Officer
Österreich/Austria	Abg. z. NR a. D. Anton Gaál	Amtsführender Vorsitzender Präsident der Bundesheer Beschwerde-Kommission/Executive Commissioner Parliamentary Military Complaints Commission
Österreich/Austria	Prof. Walter Seledec	Vorsitzender der Bundesheer Beschwerde-Kommission /Commissioner Parliamentary Military Complaints Commission
Österreich/Austria	Abg. z. NR a. D. Paul Kiss	Vorsitzender der Bundesheer Beschwerde-Kommission /Commissioner Parliamentary Military Complaints Commission
Österreich/Austria	MinR Mag. Karl Schneemann	Parliamentary Military Complaints Commission -Staff
Polen/Poland	Dr. Janusz Kochanowski	Bürgerbeauftragter/ Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection
Rumänien/Romania	PhD Ioan Muraru	Ombudsmann/ Ombudsman
Rumänien/Romania	Erzsebet Rucz	Stellvertretende Ombudsfrau / Deputy Ombudsman
Rumänien/Romania	Simina Gagu	Ombudsmann – Beraterin/ Ombudsman - Counselor
Schweden/Sweden	Cecilia Nordenfelt	Parlamentarische Ombudsfrau/ Parliamentary Ombudsman
Schweden/Sweden	Sven-Åke Jansson	Parlamentarische Ombudsfrau – Ermittler/ Parliamentary Ombudsman – Investigator
Serbien/Serbia	Saša Janković	Ombudsmann/ National Ombudsman

Slowakei/Slovakia	Soňa Časanochová	Slowakische Botschaft – Politische Abteilung – Attaché/ Embassy of Slovakia - political department- attaché
Slowenien/Slovenia	Jernej Rovšek	Stellvertretender parlamentarischer Ombudsmann/ Deputy Parliamentary Ombudsman
Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika/ United States of America	Col. William Kurt Miller	Inspector General der United States Army Europe/ Inspector General of the United States Army Europe
Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika/ United States of America	Floyd Kent Allen.	Ermittler beim Inspector General der United States Army Europe/IG USAEUR Investigator

Wichtige Anschriften/important adresses

Hotel:

MARITIM proArte
Friedrichstraße 151
10117 Berlin
Tel.: 0049-30-20335
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info.bpa@maritim.de

Veranstaltungsort/Venue:

Deutscher Bundestag
Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus
Adele-Schreiber Straße 1
10117 Berlin
Raum/room 3.101
Tel.: 0049 30 227 31487, 31483
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Deutscher Bundestag

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**Geneva Centre for the Democratic
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Restaurant 10. Mai 2009:

THE REGENT BERLIN
Charlottenstraße 49
10117 Berlin
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Restaurant 12. Mai 2009:

Deutsche Parlamentarische Gesellschaft
Friedrich-Ebert-Platz 2
10117 Berlin
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Weitere wichtige Telefonnummern
More important Telefonnumbers

Wehrbeauftragter des Deutschen Bundestages	0049-30-227-38200
Leitender Beamter des Wehrbeauftragten	0049-30-227-38202
Persönlicher Referent des Wehrbeauftragten	0049-30-227-38204
Zentrale Rufnummer des Wehrbeauftragten	0049-30-227-38101
Zentrale Rufnummer des Deutschen Bundestages	0049-30-227-0
Parlamentsärztin	0049-30-227-32461
Sprachendienst des Deutschen Bundestages	0049-30-227-30009
Besucherdienst des Deutschen Bundestages	0049-30-227-32152
Fahrdienst des Deutschen Bundestages	0049-30-227-32288
Zentrale Rufnummer des Bundespräsidialamtes	0049-30-20000
Zentrale Rufnummer des Bundesministeriums der Verteidigung	0049-30-200400
Zentrale Rufnummer des Auswärtigen Amtes	0049-30-50003402