

The Committee
on the Affairs of the European Union
1998-2002

Final Report

German Bundestag
Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
- Sekretariat -
Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
Phone: (+49 30) 227-32650
Fax: (+49 30) 227-30171
E-Mail: europaausschuss@bundestag.de

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Preface



The 14th legislative term of the Bundestag was marked by three events, which also influenced the work of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union: Firstly the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union too had to draw its conclusions about the 1998 change of government, which meant that the parliamentary groups SPD and BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN formed the majority in the Committee and that an MP of the CDU/CSU was elected Chairman of the Committee. When looking back on the four years of the 14th legislative term, it can be said that the basic consensus in European affairs existent in the previous years remained by and large unaffected by the change of government. This was good for the interests of the Federal Republic of Germany and one has to thank the parliamentary groups in the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union for making it possible. Special thanks go to their spokespersons, Günter Gloser (SPD), Peter Hintze (CDU/CSU), Christian Sterzing (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN), Prof. Dr. Helmut Haussmann (FDP) and, with considerable restrictions, Uwe Hixsch (PDS). The Deputy Chairman, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Meyer (SPD), also contributed a considerable share.

The second event affecting both the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the whole Bundestag was the move from Bonn to Berlin: It can be stated that also in this respect the functioning of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union—after initial difficulties—

was at no point impaired by the problems connected with this historical move. Being responsible within the Bundestag for the process of the enlargement of the European Union to the countries of central and eastern Europe as well as to Malta and Cyprus, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has rather moved to a place that could not be of greater symbolic meaning to this historical process.

The most significant event, however, was definitely 11 September 2001, changing the political agenda from one day to another: The horrible terrorist attack showed over night that it is urgently necessary to strengthen the capacity of an enlarged European Union faced with global challenges to act internally and externally. The processes of unification, constitution and defence of Europe thus experienced new legitimacy and new dynamics. It was in this respect significant that the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union obtained the responsibility within the Bundestag for the whole process of European Union enlargement. This was made possible by an unprecedented agreement between the chairmen of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. As the responsible committee the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has since the ratification of the Agenda 2000 and the Treaty of Nice provided an essential contribution to laying the financial and institutional foundations for enlargement.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has also stimulated the process of constitutionalising the European Union: Against much resistance—even from governments in European Union Member States—it put through the European Convention that is intended to work out a draft constitutional treaty prior to July 2003. Regarding this Dirk Koch wrote in the 9 February 2002 edition of *Spiegel* magazine, “The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union of the Bundestag has made history...The Berlin Committee stopped the High Personages. The MPs, even those of the red-green coalition, demanded that the government guarantee the complete independence of the European Convention. In addition, they organised resistance in the other capitals through the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of all Parliaments. The Berlin government gave in. Foreign Minister Fischer promised to adopt all

demands of the Berlin Committee and to represent them towards the EU partners.”

In the light of the events of 11 September 2001 the Committee has made every effort to assure a coherent Common Foreign and Security Policy. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union will have to deal with the complex questions resulting from the unification, constitution and defence of Europe during the next legislative term as well.

The present review of the work of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union in the 14th legislative term shows that the Committee has maintained its constitutional position and expanded it in constitutional practice. In the 14th legislative term the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has developed further into a recognised partner of the Federal Government in formulating and enforcing German European policy. Without the Committee the political debates on Europe within Germany would have been less transparent and the decisions taken less democratic. During the next legislative term this position will have to be further reinforced in light of the great challenges facing European politics. This could be helped by the establishment of a regular “Hour of Europe” in the plenary and a parliamentary liaison office at the seat of the European Parliament in Brussels/Strasbourg. The spokespersons of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union agreed to these proposals in one of their talks concluding the legislative term and referred them to the President of the Bundestag.

Berlin, August 2002

Dr. Friedbert Pflüger, MP
Chairman of the Committee
on the Affairs of the European Union

The essential functions of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

Definitely since the Maastricht Treaty and the inclusion of Articles 23 and 45 into the Grundgesetz, European politics are no longer only or mainly a government matter. In the context of the Maastricht Treaty many attributes of sovereignty have been transferred from the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union. This and the resulting increasing democratic deficit have shown that a parliamentary and democratic corrective is needed: The change in the Grundgesetz made it quite clear and constitutionally binding that European politics can only be handled successfully by the Federal Government and the Bundestag together. To regulate this co-operation the “Law on the co-operation of the Federal Government and the Bundestag in matters of the European Union” has been enacted. European politics is the only area in which the relations between the Federal Government and the Bundestag are legally regulated at all. It is also the only area in which these relations are seen as taking the form of co-operation. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union is the committee that brings life into this co-operation with the Federal Government within the Bundestag. It has essential functions in the area of European policy.

Transparency

On the one hand the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union assures that the debates and the formation of public opinion on European political issues take place publicly, thus establishing a feedback process with citizens. This is accomplished not only by public Committee meetings: Of the overall 102 meetings of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union during the 14th legislative term, 26 were public, which means that nearly every fourth meeting of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union was open to the public. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union thus counts among the Committees meeting publicly most often. The numerous public hearings of the Committee had great public impact—in relation to both the enlargement and the constitution of the European Union—as did the meetings carried out jointly with the Committee on Questions of the European Union of the Bundesrat.

The frequency of these latter meetings rose considerably over the 14th legislative term: While there was only one joint meeting of the Committees on European Union Affairs of the Bundestag and the Bundesrat during the previous legislative term regarding a topic of special interest to the Länder—the principle of subsidiarity—, during the 14th legislative term the two Committees gathered no less than three times for joint public sessions. The topics of these meetings reflect the advanced integration process: One dealt with the project of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and another with the project of a European Constitution. With all of these important European plans, it is not least the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union that has established publicity.

Democracy and legitimacy

By contributing to a transparent debate on European political issues the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union makes an essential contribution to the democratic content of European politics. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has underscored this time and again by taking on especially those issues that directly affect and interest citizens, including problem of fighting dogs, the transfer system in European football, the conclusions from the judgement of the European Court of Justice on women's service in the Bundeswehr, the protection of the financial interests of the Community, the question of the abolition of the obligation to hold a visa for Bulgaria and Romania, questions of an internet tax, problems in the context of a European Commission tobacco directive and in the context of the introduction of euro notes and coins. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union thus succeeded in making its own parliamentary dimension in European politics visible. The Committee sees itself as an advocate of taxpayers, which is evident in its continuous accompaniment of the European Anti-Fraud Office OLAF at the parliamentary level. This concern is shared and exercised in close cooperation with the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has contributed to increasing the degree of democracy of European political decisions mostly by initiating debates in the plenary of the Bundestag—and this not only on the occasion of the usually four European Councils per year. Thus more than 40 plenary debates on European issues took place during the 14th

legislative term, reflecting not only the increasing Europeanisation of national policies but also that the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union is successfully playing its part as guarantor of democracy.

It is about the most important function of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union to provide the necessary democratic legitimacy for the political actions of the Federal Government in the European arena. This does not or at least does not only come about by the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union approving political decisions of the Federal Government after they have been taken, but also by accompanying these decisions in parliament and thus influencing them. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has developed an array of procedures to enable itself to have a say already in the run-up to decisions on European Union matters: At every meeting the Committee is informed by representatives of the Federal Government about upcoming meetings of all formations of the Council. This enables the Committee to contribute its parliamentary views to the formation of the Federal Government's opinion. Since the Federal Government also has an obligation to inform the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union about the results of Council meetings, the members of the Committee can examine the extent to which their deliberations have been taken into consideration.

Just what an important and recognised partner of the Federal Government the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union is when it comes to formulating and enforcing German European policies is shown by the fact that the Federal Chancellor informed the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union four times during the 14th legislative term, not only in connection with meetings of the European Council. The Foreign Minister was available for the Committee 13 times and in addition five times for the circle of the spokespersons.

But also almost all other members of the Federal Government have explained their policies to the Committee: the Federal Minister of Finance, the Federal Minister of Economics, the Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, the Federal Minister of Justice and the Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has secured legitimacy for European political decisions by

formulating recommendations in such landmark decisions as the Agenda 2000, the Treaty of Nice and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. Exercising its parliamentary rights of participation as provided in the Grundgesetz, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union insisted in a non-partisan fashion that the Treaty of Nice, which it saw as being associated with the transfer of elements of sovereignty, be ratified with the two-thirds majority prescribed for these cases in the Grundgesetz.

With all of these parliamentary decisions the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union set the course for major European political decisions and thus for further European integration.

The basic consensus on European issues

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union could only fulfil these functions because it could rely on an extensive basic consensus on European issues in the Bundestag and in the Committee itself. Such a basic consensus does not arise on its own. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union instead had to work actively for its preservation: There was not a single case in the 14th legislative term of confrontation with another Committee over fundamental political decisions on integration.

Building upon this basic consensus the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union could advance important integration projects: In this context one need only mention the protection of the financial interests of the Community or the projects for a Charter of Fundamental Rights and a European Constitution. The Grundgesetz provides the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union an exclusive instrument for fulfilling its function as a driving force behind integration: the institution of the plenary replacing decision. By decision of 29 September 1999 the Committee could thus give the Federal Government the opinion of the Bundestag in due time before the European Council in Tampere: the Federal Government should advocate the formation of a convention constituted by a majority of parliamentarians to work out a European Charter of Fundamental Rights. In a second case on 22 May 2000 before an important meeting of the ECOFIN Council, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union stated its position on behalf of the plenary of the Bundestag concerning the

future reporting practice and further development of the European Anti-Fraud Office OLAF.

The most recent and important example of a plenary replacing decision of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union stems from 4 July 2001. After protracted and tenacious preparatory work the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union advocated the formation of a convention composed of a majority of parliamentarians to prepare the Intergovernmental Conference 2004 and work out a draft European Constitution. By way of these decisions the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union not only protected the rights of the Bundestag in the formation of European opinion but also achieved effects on the European level: the Fundamental Rights Convention composed of a majority of parliamentarians was formed as was the European Constitutional Convention modelled on it, and the detailed proposals for the reporting practice of OLAF were taken up.

Two members of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Meyer (SPD), MP, and Peter Altmaier (CDU/CSU), MP, were and are representatives of the Bundestag in both conventions.

The parliamentary instruments of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

In order to be able to fulfil its important and for the European policies of the Federal Republic of Germany essential functions the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union requires special parliamentary instruments. These are to some extent provided for in the Grundgesetz and the Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag, but some procedures were also created by the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union itself in the parliamentary practice of co-operation with the Federal Government. The privilege most important in practice is provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag: to take plenary replacing decisions. This is an exclusive right of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union, which is designed to enable the Committee to influence the Brussels decision-making process in a prompt and flexible manner. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union used this privilege a total of three times during the 14th legislative term.

One procedure developed in practice is that mentioned above, according to which the Federal Government informs the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union in its meetings before and after all Council meetings. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has achieved that it receives all agendas and reports of these Councils early enough and that the respective negotiators of the Federal Government are nominated so that it can make use of its opportunity to exert parliamentary influence. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union is aware of the fact that its influence increases the earlier and more strongly it focuses on exerting parliamentary influence prior to Council meetings.

Likewise developed in practice was the procedure according to which the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union deals with the state of implementation of directives in the Federal Republic of Germany twice a year: This enables Parliament to call the Federal Government to account when directives are implemented late or not within the prescribed deadlines. An online system to track the state of directive implementation is currently being established. This will allow for a simultaneous parliamentary control by the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union. In June 2002 the Chairmen of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the Committee on Foreign Affairs proposed to the President of the Bundestag the establishment of a parliamentary liaison office of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union at the seat of the European Parliament in Brussels, as has been successfully practiced by a number of Member States and accession countries. This would be in the interest of optimising and improving the rights of co-operation and participation of the Bundestag in the process of European integration. At a meeting of 5 July 2002 dealing with the review the 14th legislative term and the outlook on the new term the spokespersons of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union supported this proposal wholeheartedly. They repeated the suggestion in a joint letter to the President of the Bundestag. In this context they also approached the President of the Bundestag with the idea to hold a regular "Hour of Europe" in parliament on set dates. This would illustrate to citizens that European politics are European domestic politics.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union used the previously mentioned parliamentary instruments in the 14th legislative term to fulfil its functions. Two truly historical challenges to European integration were at the centre of its work: These were the enlargement and the deepening of the European Union. In addition, after 11 September 2001 the capacity of the European Union to act internally as well as externally demanded stronger attention. The agenda of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union was also dominated by the triangle of the unification, constitution and defence of Europe.

All three processes are closely connected with each other. In a globalised environment, an enlarged European Union can only be capable of acting and taking on its due responsibility if it has efficient structures and a clear distribution of competence, set forth by constitution if possible. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has played an important and persistent role in all three fields.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the unification of Europe

During the 14th legislative term the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union dealt constantly with the historical process of the enlargement of the European Union to ten states of central and eastern Europe as well as Malta and Cyprus and in a longer perspective to Bulgaria and Romania as well as with the candidate status of Turkey. A precondition for this was an unprecedented agreement with the Committee on Foreign Affairs that assigned the responsibility within the Bundestag for enlargement questions after the formal opening of accession negotiations to the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union. By approving the Agenda 2000 and adopting its corresponding recommendation the committee set the course for the financial prerequisites of enlargement.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union accompanied the accession negotiations themselves—which will not be concluded until late 2002—intensively in parliament. It accomplished this by introducing a regular item on the agenda of almost every committee meeting: information from the Federal Government about the current state of the accession negotiations. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union had

additionally agreed with the Foreign Office that the Minister of State in the Foreign Office, Dr. Christoph Zöpel, would inform the spokespersons and rapporteurs monthly on all aspects of the accession negotiations. It was thus ensured that the members of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union were kept informed on the current state of the negotiations. This also gave the members of the Committee the opportunity to give the Federal Government its opinion to take along the way.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union made its own active contributions and emphasised features of importance to it through a series of public hearings. On 27 October 1999 a talk with experts took place during which representatives from international and European financial institutions informed the members of the Committee about the financial means available for enlargement as well as the intended purposes of the funding. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union detected clear problems concerning the co-ordination between the different financial institutions and it made an effort to resolve them. On 1 December 1999 the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union had a talk with all ambassadors of the central and eastern European accession countries as well as the ambassadors of Malta and Cyprus with the aim of getting information on the self-assessment of the accession countries. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union held a joint hearing with the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Forestry on 17 January 2001. This public hearing dealt with an especially sensitive feature of the enlargement debate: the effects of EU enlargement on the Common Agricultural Policy as well as on the regions.

The series was continued with a public hearing on the topic "Economic opportunities and challenges of EU enlargement". This hearing aroused much attention, and was followed on 4 April 2001 by a public hearing dealing with common fears and anxieties of the population. On 14 May 2001 the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union held for the first time a joint public meeting with the Committee on European Integration of the Polish Sejm in Slubice. The participants dealt with such sensitive topics as the economic situation in the border area and cross-border co-operation, the freedom of movement for workers and internal security.

In order to underscore the particular significance of Poland as an accession country a meeting of the EU Committees of the Weimar Triangle took place at the initiative of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union in Berlin on 19 and 20 March 2002 (the D el egation Europ eenne of the French Assembl ee Nationale, the Committee for European Integration of the Sejm and the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union). This meeting contributed to demonstrating Franco-German support for Poland's EU accession.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union could demonstrate with these meetings that it takes the concerns of the population in the border areas regarding EU enlargement seriously. It nevertheless played an important part in spreading the insight that these concerns and fears are compensated by the opportunities and advantages of enlargement. Since the concerns in the population often linked with EU enlargement point to communication difficulties, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has dealt repeatedly with the Federal Government's communication strategy concerning enlargement, for instance at its meeting on 24 January 2001. Journeys by delegations of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union to almost all countries applying for accession as well as visits by delegations of central and eastern European countries to Berlin provided valuable insights for the formation of opinion in the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the constitution of Europe

Besides and parallel to the hitherto biggest round of enlargement of the European Union, the constitutionalisation of the European Union also made great strides during the 14th legislative term of the Bundestag. EU enlargement does not only presuppose that the accession countries are fit for accession but also that the European Union is fit for the inclusion of these countries. Because of this the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union also had to deal in the 14th legislative term with institutional reform. The Committee made an important contribution to creating the institutional prerequisites for enlargement by accepting the Nice Treaty. Since the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

held the view that the Nice Treaty transfers elements of sovereignty to the European Union it advocated across all parliamentary groups to pass the legislative proposal contrary to the introductory formula of the Federal Government by a two-thirds majority—which was also done.

However, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union not only gave the important domestic order for application of the law by ratifying the Nice Treaty, but it also accompanied its creation intensively on a parliamentary level. As with EU enlargement the negotiations leading up to the Nice Treaty were also a regular item on the agenda and leading figures of the Foreign office informed the small circle of spokespersons and rapporteurs. The Federal Government could thus put its negotiating positions to a parliamentary test of feasibility, while the Bundestag had the possibility to introduce its ideas into the considerations of the Federal Government.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union made an important contribution to the constitutionalisation of the European Union regarding the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, now one of the most modern fundamental rights catalogues in the world and an important element for a future constitution of the European Union. It was fundamental that the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union was given the responsibility within the Bundestag for this important project of European integration. Already at a very early stage—on 29 September 1999—the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union became active regarding the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Member State parliaments.

It was on this day that the Committee passed a plenary replacing decision using its constitutional privileges by which it gave the Federal Government the position of the Bundestag in due time before the European Council in Tampere. The Bundestag wanted the Federal Government to advocate the formation of a convention composed of a majority of parliamentarians to draft a European Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union intensively accompanied the deliberations of the Fundamental Rights Convention, which took less than a year. On 5 April 2000 the Committees on European Union Affairs of the Bundestag and the Bundesrat held a public hearing on the topic of the Charter of

Fundamental Rights. The results of this hearing were deliberated in the Bundestag before the forum of the nation on 18 May 2000 and influenced the work of the convention in Brussels. Moreover, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union influenced the contents of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights with recommendations for decisions by the plenary of 5 July 2000 and 8 November 2000. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has attached great importance to including all committees participating in an advisory capacity in the deliberation of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. It organised a meeting of all committees participating in an advisory capacity with the Chairman of the Convention, former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Roman Herzog. The talk took place on 16 May 2000 immediately before a plenary debate on the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. For the Committee's own deliberations it was assured that the ongoing state of the deliberations in the Convention would be a regular item on the agenda of Committee and spokespersons' meetings.

After and simultaneously with the Nice Treaty and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union dealt during the second half of the legislative term with the so-called Post-Nice or constitutionalisation process of the European Union in a narrower sense. At the centre of its deliberations, initiatives and decisions was the conviction that the next intergovernmental conference in 2004 would have to be prepared by a convention comparable to the Fundamental Rights Convention and that this convention would also have to be composed of a majority of parliamentarians. Of the many relevant activities of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union only the following stages are mentioned below. The publication series of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union provides more detailed information.

- 26 January 2000: Millennium meeting of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union on the topic "Aims and Future of the EU"
- 14 March 2001: Public Hearing of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union "On the constitutional debate in the European Union"
- 4 April 2001: Resolution submitted by the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union for the XXIV COSAC in Stockholm on 21/22 May

2001 on “Stronger participation of national parliaments in the preparation of the Intergovernmental Conference 2004”

- 22 May 2001: Contribution of the XXIV COSAC in Stockholm to the European Council
- 4 July 2001: Plenary replacing decision of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
- 10 December 2001: Joint Meeting of the Committees on European Union Affairs and Foreign Affairs in the presence of the Parliamentary Presidents of Bundestag and Assemblée Nationale in Paris
- 20 February 2002: Meeting of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union with the Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament, Mr. Napolitano
- 25 February 2002: Informal Meeting of the spokespersons, rapporteurs and Convention members of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union with members of the *Bund-Länder* working group of the Foreign Office
- 13 March 2002: Joint Meeting of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union of the Bundestag with the Committee on Questions of the European Union of the Bundesrat and the convention members Prof. Dr. Meyer, MP; Altmaier, MP; Prof. Dr. Peter Glotz; Minister-President Teufel
- 17 April 2002: Meeting of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union with the German members of the European Parliament in the EU constitutional convention: Prof. Dr. Klaus Hänsch, Dr. Joachim Würmeling and Dr. Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann
- 13 June 2002: Meeting of the spokespersons and the rapporteurs of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union with Secretary of State Dr. Pleuger (Foreign Office), Minister-President Teufel, Prof. Dr. Meyer, MP, and Altmaier, MP, concerning the work of the EU constitutional convention

- 26 June 2002: Joint hearing of the Committees on European Union Affairs of the Bundestag and Bundesrat on the European Convention with representatives from civil society and the Vice-President of the Convention Mr. Giuliano Amatao et al.
- 3 July 2002: Meeting of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union with Prof. Dr. Peter Glotz, Vice-President of the Convention Mr. Dehaene as well as with Prof. Dr. Meyer, MP, and Altmaier, MP

At the historical meeting with the Délégation Européenne of the French Assemblée Nationale on 10 December 2001 the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union sent an important parliamentary signal before the European Council in Laeken, which had to pass the mandate for the European constitutional convention. The commitment of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union was also noticed and appreciated among the public.

Spiegel magazine, for example, wrote on 9 February 2002: “The constitutional convention is finally supposed to advance the EU reform. The subject area is difficult and the interest of the media correspondingly low. Nevertheless the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union of the Bundestag has made history—thanks to a chartered privilege. (...) Due to this privilege the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has already now contributed essentially to the further development of the European Union.”

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the defence of Europe

11 September 2001 made it clear overnight to everyone in Europe how important it is for the European Union to have the capacity to act internally as well as externally. Essential questions in this context have occupied the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union intensively during the second half of the 14th legislative term.

A coherent Common Foreign and Security Policy demands lean and efficient structures, which the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has regularly advocated across all party lines. With reference to the

Common Foreign and Security Policy the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union thus advocated early in its deliberations an independent Council of Defence Ministers of the EU Member States. These efforts were successful at least in part, as regular meetings of the Defence ministers have taken place in the context of the General Affairs Council since the start of 2002. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has always paid great attention to parliamentary control of the European Security and Defence Policy. This is why it has sought the dialogue with its representatives in the European Parliament as well as with the Council of the Western European Union. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union agreed right away with the Ministry of Defence to exchange regular information about the meetings of the Defence Ministers in the context of the General Affairs Council.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has dealt from the beginning of the legislative term with all aspects and areas of Common Foreign and Security Policy. Highlighted in this context are merely the transatlantic relations, the relationship of the European Union to Russia, the northern dimension of the European Union, the Barcelona process and the Mediterranean policy of the European Union with special regard to the problems in the Middle East. But the Committee also accompanied the EU-MERCOSUR, ASEAN, ACP as well as EU-Africa foreign minister meetings and summits in parliament.

Moreover, after 11 September 2001 it became quite clear how important more intensive co-operation in the policy areas of the third column is in order to combat terrorism successfully. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union has dealt with this subject matter regularly, meeting repeatedly with the Federal Minister of the Interior.

The external relations of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

As a parliamentary European political actor the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union was active during the 14th legislative term on a bilateral, multilateral and European level.

On the one hand the Committee maintained many important contacts on a bilateral parliamentary level. Journeys of delegations composed of Committee members to EU member and accession states are intended to serve this purpose. It has developed into a tradition, for example, for a delegation of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union to visit the parliament of the incoming EU Council Presidency. Visits by delegations of members of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union to all countries applying for accession have also become tradition. During the 14th legislative term delegations of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union visited almost all applicant countries for accession. These visits provide firsthand impressions of the state of preparation for EU accession in each country. They also contribute to completing and partly relativising the picture received by the Federal Government.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union maintains special relations with the Délégation Européenne of the French Assemblée Nationale. This is illustrated by the visit of former French Foreign Minister Pierre Moscovici and former Chairman of the Délégation Européenne of the French Assemblée Nationale Alain Barrau to a Berlin meeting of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union on 19 January 2000. On May 9 2001 the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union met former French Foreign Minister Hubert Védrine to discuss the results of the Nice European Council and the debate on the future of the European Union. The joint meeting of the Committees on European Union Affairs and Foreign Affairs of Bundestag and Assemblée Nationale on 10 December 2001 in Paris had historical dimensions: it gave the first joint parliamentary impulse to the Laeken European Council and was thus crucial for the establishment of the European Constitutional Convention. Just shortly after her nomination as Europe Minister after the Assemblée Nationale elections Ms. Noelle Lenoir met the spokespersons of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union for an exchange of opinions on 4 July 2002. The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union maintains special relations not only with France, but also with Poland, a country applying for accession. The crowning event of the bilateral German-Polish parliamentary relations was a joint meeting of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Polish Sejm in Slubice on 16 May 2001.

On a multilateral level the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union initiated a trilateral parliamentary dialogue between the Committees on European Union Affairs of the so-called Weimar Triangle, i.e. the French Assemblée Nationale, the Polish Sejm and the German Bundestag. The centre of this initiative has been and still is the conviction and underlining of the tremendous importance of Poland's EU accession. The first meeting of this kind took place on 19 and 20 March 2000 in Berlin.

However, the greatest significance for the formation of European parliamentary opinion should be attributed to the "Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union," "COSAC" for short. The delegations of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union to COSAC conferences have increasingly succeeded in using this alliance on the European level to promote significant interests of the Bundestag concerning integration policy, such as the European Fundamental Rights Convention and the European Convention. The following conferences took place during the 14th legislative term:

- XIX COSAC from 23 November to 24 November 1998 in Vienna
- XX COSAC from 31 May to 1 June 1999 in Berlin
- XXI COSAC from 10 October to 12 October 1999 in Helsinki
- XXII COSAC from 29 May to 30 May 2000 in Lisbon
- XXIII COSAC from 16 October to 17 October 2000 in Versailles
- XXIV COSAC from 20 May to 22 May 2001 in Stockholm
- XXV COSAC from 4 October to 5 October 2001 in Brussels
- XXVI COSAC from 13 May to 14 May 2002 in Madrid

The COSAC in Berlin in May/June 1999 was the first major international conference in the new Bundestag plenary hall in the Berlin Reichstag—several weeks before the Bundestag took up its work in Berlin.

At the COSAC in Stockholm the delegation of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union managed after a controversial debate to bring about a decision with only one abstention calling for the preparation of the Intergovernmental Conference 2004 by a convention composed of a majority of parliamentarians.

Members of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

(22nd Committee, 36 members*)

Chairman: **Dr. Friedbert Pflüger (CDU/CSU)**, MP

Deputy Chairman: **Prof. Dr. Jürgen Meyer (SPD)**, MP

Full Members

Deputies

Substitute Members

Deputies

SPD

Bertl, Hans-Werner

Caspers-Merk, Marion

Fornahl, Rainer

Gloser, Günter

Ibrügger, Lothar

Kühn-Mengel, Helga

Mante, Winfried

Prof. Dr. Meyer, Jürgen

Nietan, Dietmar

Oesinghaus, Günter

Ohl, Eckhard

Ortel, Holger

Roos, Gudrun

Roth, Michael

Schreiner, Ottmar

Wegener, Hedi

Junker, Karin, MEP

Dr. h.c. Randzio-Plath, Christa,
MEP

Roth-Behrendt, Dagmar, MEP

Rothe, Mechthild, MEP

Schulz, Martin, MEP

Büttner, Hans

Erler, Gernot

Friedrich, Lilo

Hempelmann, Rolf

Heubaum, Monika

Höfer, Gerd

von Larcher, Detlev

Meckel, Markus

Poß, Joachim

Rehbock-Zureich, Karin

Schloten, Dieter

Schultz, Reinhard

Prof. Weisskirchen, Gert

Westrich, Lydia

Dr. Wieczorek, Norbert

Wodarg, Wolfgang

Glante, Norbert, MEP

Hoff, Magdalena, MEP

Lange, Bernd, MEP

Sakellariou, Jannis, MEP

Stockmann, Uli, MEP

CDU/CSU

Altmaier, Peter

Dr. Brauksiepe, Ralf

Dr. Göhner, Reinhard

Bernhardt, Otto

Borchert, Jochen

Prof. Dr. Hornhues, Karl-Heinz

Günther, Horst

Heinen, Ursula

Hintze, Peter

Hofbauer, Klaus

Dr. Krogmann, Martina

Dr. Müller, Gerd

Dr. Pflüger, Friedbert

Rönsch, Hannelore

Stübgen, Michael

Vaatz, Arnold

Böge, Reime, MEPr

Glase, Anne-Karin, MEP

Dr. Konrad, Christoph, MEP

Laschet, Armin, MEP

Schmitt, Ingo, MEP

Dr. von Wogau, Karl, MEP

Dr. Wuermeling, Joachim, MEP

Maaß, Erich

Otto, Norbert

Rühe, Volker

Scheu, Gerhard

Schindler, Norbert

Schmidt, Christian

Dr. Schmidt, Joachim

Dr. Schockenhoff, Andreas

Prof. Dr. Schulhoff, Wolfgang

Prof. Dr. Tiemann, Susanne

Francke, Klaus

Brok, Elmar, MEP

Ferber, Markus, MEP

Dr. Langen, Werner, MEP

Lehne, Klaus-Heiner, MEP

Lehne, Klaus-Heiner, MEP

Pack, Doris, MEP

Schleicher, Ursula MEP

BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN

Häfner, Gerald

Höfken, Ulrike

Sterzing, Christian

Rühle, Heide, MEP

Beer, Angelika

Knoche, Monika

Dietert-Scheuer, Amke

Gräfe zu Baringdorf, Friedrich-Wilhelm, MEP

FDP

Prof. Dr. Haussmann, Helmut

Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger,
Sabine

Burgbacher, Ernst

Lenke, Ina

PDS

Dr. Grehn, Klaus

Hicksch, Uwe

Dr. Kaufmann, Sylvia-Yvonne,
MEP

Dr. Bartsch, Dietmar

Müller, Manfred

Dr. Modrow, Hans, MEP

*) additionally 14 participating Members of the European Parliament.

The Secretariat of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the Europe Office

The Secretariat of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union is part of the Bundestag administration, a supreme federal authority, which provides a secretariat to each of the 23 Bundestag committees. The main function of the committee secretariats consists in the preparation, accompaniment and follow-up of committee meetings and other committee activities. The secretariats support the work of the committees, especially the chairpersons, the group of chairpersons and spokespersons (spokesperson talk) as well as the rapporteurs in scientific and organisational terms. Due to its special position, its special tasks and above all the fact that the so-called Europe Office is attached to it the Secretariat of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union is one of the largest secretariats.

The Europe Office fulfils for Union documents the same functions the parliamentary secretariat of the Bundestag fulfils for national documents. This means that the consideration of Union documents in the Bundestag is managed solely by the Europe Office. It supports the Chairman of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union in his task of submitting a referral proposal to the Bundestag president in co-ordination with the specialist committees for formally transmitted Union documents and for Union documents declared as agenda items by committees.

The Secretariat of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union additionally serves as the liaison of the Bundestag to the European Parliament in all matters not concerning the transferral of documents between the European Parliament and national parliaments.

When Germany holds the presidency of the European Council the Secretariat ultimately serves as the Secretariat of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) and fulfils the complex tasks associated therewith.

Thanks to its diversity the work of the Secretariat attracts numerous interns from Germany and abroad: During the 14th legislative term almost 100 interns from Germany, almost all EU member and accession states, but also from the United States of America, the Russian Federation as well as from the Ukraine completed internships with the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union. They gained practical insight into the functioning of the co-operation between the Federal Government and the Bundestag on matters related to the European Union.

Staff of the Secretariat and the Europe Office during the 14th legislative term

MR Dr. Michael Fuchs (head of Secretariat)

ORR'in Sylvia Hartleif

VAe Stefanie Ziemba

VA Heiko Sabatzki

RD Dr. Sven Hölscheidt

OAR Hans Rubbel

VA Herbert Walther

VA Uwe Jaensch

VAe Karin Gottschalk

VAe Waltraud Wegner

VAe Petra Mendel

VAe Angelika Merlin

VAe Hiltrud Lüert

Ms. Juliane Hübner

Ms. Nadine Forstner

Former Staff

MR Hartmut Groos (until February 1999)

RD'in Dr. Beate Hasenjäger (until November 1998)

VAe Vesna Popovic (until June 2002)

ORR'in Patrizia Schulz (until June 2000)

VA Uwe Gehlen (until November 1998)

VA Hardo Müggenburg (until May 1999)

OAR Thomas Müller-Hipper (until September 1999)

OAR'in Claudia Vass (until May 1999)

VAe Carola Vaculik (until September 1999)

VAe Sabine Bongart (until July 2000)

VA Mario Schalla (until March 2000)

Ms. Angelika Koppitz (until July 2002)

Ms. Birgit Siwek (until February 2002)

Mr. Simon Vlachopoulos (until December 2001)

Mr. Sebastian Panknin (until June 2001)

Recommendations of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

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| Second recommendation and report concerning the enlargement of the European Union (Agenda 2000) | Document 14/514 |
| Recommendation and report concerning the development of a draft for a voting procedure based on common principles for the election of members of the European Parliament | Document 14/685 |
| Recommendation and report concerning the reinforcement and further development of the European Union during the German Council presidency in the first six months of 1999 | Document 14/845 |
| Recommendation and report concerning the government policy statement on the current situation in Kosovo after the NATO intervention and on the results of the Special European Council in Berlin | Document 14/1288 |
| Report concerning the composition and the working method of the body to be charged with the elaboration of a draft EU charter of fundamental rights and pertinent practical arrangements | Document 14/1819 |
| Recommendation and report concerning a government policy statement on the results of the Special European Council in Tampere on 15/16 October 1999 | Document 14/2702 |
| Recommendation and report concerning the Intergovernmental Conference 2000 and eastern enlargement—Challenges for a European Union on the threshold of the new millennium | Document 14/3472 |
| Report concerning the protection of the financial interests of the Community and the combat of fraud (annual report 1998) | Document 14/3474 |

Recommendation and report concerning the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union	Document 14/3800
Recommendation and report concerning the government policy statement on the results of the Special European Council on 23/24 March 2000 in Lisbon	Document 14/3903
Recommendation and report concerning the motion: Normalising relations with Austria	Document 14/4323
Recommendation and report concerning the European Council in Feira	Document 14/4457
Recommendation and report concerning the agreed debate on the EU charter of fundamental rights, draft of the Charter of fundamental rights of the EU, European charter of fundamental rights as a cornerstone of a European constitution	Document 14/4584
Recommendation and report concerning the bill on the protocols adapting the Europe agreements between the European Communities and their member states	Document 14/4837
Recommendation and report concerning the resolution of the European Parliament with its suggestions for the Intergovernmental Conference	Document 14/4980
Recommendation and report for a binding and extendable Charter of fundamental rights	Document 14/5379
Recommendation and report concerning the European Council in Nice on 7/8 December 2000	Document 14/5386
Recommendation and report concerning the enlargement of the European Union	Document 14/5475
Recommendation and report concerning the bill on the own-resources system	Document 14/6464
Report concerning the future of the European Union	Document 14/6643

Recommendation and report concerning EU eastern enlargement	Document 14/6644
Recommendation and report concerning the Stockholm EU summit (employment and social policy)	Document 14/6646
Recommendation and Report concerning the progress of the eEurope actions	Document 14/6708
Recommendation and report concerning the motion by the parliamentary group of the PDS (re-negotiating the Treaty of Nice)	Document 14/7002
Recommendation and report concerning the bill for the Treaty of Nice of 26 February 2001	Document 14/7172
Recommendation and report concerning the support for regions bordering the accession states	Document 14/7970
Recommendation and report concerning the government policy statement by the Federal Chancellor on the meeting of the European Council in Laeken on 14/15 December 2001	Document 14/8182
Decision replacing the plenary concerning OLAF	Document 14/8323
Recommendation and report concerning the constitutional reform of the EU convention	Document 14/9500
Recommendation and report concerning the 62nd report of the Federal Government on the integration of the Federal Republic of Germany into the EU	Document 14/9560

List of important events

13/11/1998	1 st meeting, constituent meeting
18/11/1998	2 nd meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
02/12/1998	3 rd meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
20/01/1999	5 th meeting (public), Prof. Dr. Bernhard Friedmann, Member of the Federal Audit Office
21/01/1999	Talk of the spokespersons with the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
25/01/1999	Meeting with the President of the European Parliament, Mr. José Maria Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado
27/01/1999	7 th meeting (public), Head of the “Task Force Accession Negotiations” of the European Commission, Mr. Nikolaus van de Pas
03/03/1999	11 th meeting, Federal Minister of Finance, Mr. Oskar Lafontaine
04/03/1999	Talk of the Chairman with the President of National Assembly of the Hungarian Republic, Dr. János Áder
10/03/1999	12 th meeting, Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder
17/03/1999	13 th meeting, Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Mr. Karl-Heinz Funke
21/04/1999	16 th meeting, (public hearing), combat of fraud and corruption in the EU
02/06/1999	18 th meeting (public), Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer, and the Federal Minister of Finance, Mr. Hans Eichel
05/06/1999	Chairman of the Committee meets the Vice-President of the Austrian Nationalrat, Dr. Neiser, in Bonn
23/06/1999	20 th meeting, exchange of opinions with members of the

List of important events

		delegation of the Duma and the Council of the Federation of the Russian Federation headed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Duma for International and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vladimir Petrovic Lukin
28/06/1999		Members of the Committee meet a delegation from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
30/06/1999	21 st	meeting, Minister of State Günter Verheugen
08/09/1999	22 nd	meeting, the designated German Commissioner of the European Commission, Mr. Günter Verheugen and Dr. Michael Schreyer; Envoy of the Turkish Embassy, Mr. Hakan Okcal; Envoy of the Greek Embassy, Mr. Jakobos Spetsios
29/09/1999	23 rd	meeting, Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder
27/10/1999	25 th	meeting (public), expert talk with representatives of European and International Organisations concerning the aid provided to the CEES; Jean-Eric Paquet (EU Commission), Ingrid Matthäus-Maier (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau), Franz H. Kaps (World Bank), Dr. Bernd Esdar (International Monetary Fund), Frido Weber-Krebs (European Investment Bank), Jörg Ranau (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)
03/11/1999	27 th	meeting, Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul
01/12/1999	29 th	meeting (public), talk with the Ambassadors of ten central and eastern European accession countries as well as with Cyprus and Malta
02/12/1999	31 st	meeting, Commissioner Mario Monti
08/12/1999		Talk of the spokespersons with the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Joseph Fischer

List of important events

- 19/01/2000 34th meeting (public), French EU Minister, Mr. Pierre Moscovici, and President of the Délégation Européenne of the Assemblée Nationale, Mr. Alain Barrau
- 26/01/2000 35th meeting (public hearing), millennium meeting of the Committee on the topic “Aims and Future of the European Union” with former Vice-Chancellor Dr. Erhard Busek, Vienna; Dr. Christian Deubner, SWP; Prof. Dr. Klaus Hänsch, MEP; Prof. Dr. Beate Kohler-Koch, University of Mannheim; Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Werner Weidenfeld, University of Munich; former Federal President Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker
- 16/02/2000 36th meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
- 23/02/2000 37th meeting (public hearing), expert talk: “Transferral of the Schengen acquis into the framework of the European Union” with Prof. Dr. Meinhard Hilf of the University of Hamburg, Joachim Nunes de Almeida, member of the Cabinet of Commissioner António Vitorino, Dieter Schneider, Landeskriminaldirektor at the Ministry of the Interior of Baden-Württemberg, Ms. Angelika Schriever-Steinberg, Head of the Office of the Hesse Data Protection Commissioner
- 24/02/2000 39th meeting, Commissioner Michel Barnier
- 15/03/2000 41st meeting, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Keith Vaz
- 19 - 20/03/2000 Meeting of the EU Committees of the Weimar Triangle with the delegation of the Assemblée Nationale, Mr. Barrau, and the EU Integration Committee of the Sejm, Mr. Mazowiecki, in Berlin
- 22/03/2000 42nd meeting, Federal Minister of Justice, Dr. Herta Däubler-Gmelin

List of important events

- 05/04/2000 43rd meeting (public hearing), Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Joint meeting with the Committee on Questions of the European Union of the Bundesrat)
- 12/04/2000 44th meeting, Commissioner Franz Fischler
- 10/05/2000 46th meeting (public), Diemut Theato, Chairwoman of the Committee on Budgets; Franz-Hermann Brüner, head of the European Anti-Fraud Office–OLAF; Dr. Harald Noack, OLAF Supervisory Committee; Dr. Daniela Bankier, EU Commission
- 16/05/2000 Prof. Dr. Roman Herzog, former Federal President and Chairman of the Convention on the European Charter of Fundamental Rights at the talk of the spokespersons and rapporteurs of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union, the Committee on Internal Affairs, the Committee on Legal Affairs, the Committee on Human Rights and the Committee on Petitions
- 16/06/2000 Talk of the spokespersons with the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
- 28/06/2000 49th meeting, Commissioner Günter Verheugen
- 05/07/2000 50th meeting, Echelon System, Data Protection Commissioner of Land Brandenburg, Dr. Alexander Dix and author of the STOA study commissioned by the EP, Duncan Campbell
- 01/09/2000 51st meeting, EXPO in Hanover
- 27/09/2000 52nd meeting, EP representatives to the IGC Elmar Brok and Dimitris Tsatsos
- 11/10/2000 53rd meeting, Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder
- 25/10/2000 54th meeting, Federal Minister of the Interior, Mr. Otto Schily
- 08/11/2000 Meeting of the Chairman and the spokespersons with

List of important events

	the President of the EP, Ms. Nicole Fontaine
09/11/2000	Meeting with the European commissioner responsible for institutional reform, Mr. Michel Barnier
14/11/2000	Talk of the Committee with the Secretary General of the Council and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Mr. Javier Solana
06/12/2000	57 th meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer, Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Mr. Karl-Heinz Funke
15/12/2000	58 th meeting (public), Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
17/01/2000	59 th meeting (public hearing), "The effects of EU enlargement on the Common Agricultural Policy as well as on the regions", together with the Committee of Food, Agriculture and Forestry
24/01/2001	60 th meeting, Federal Minister of Justice, Dr. Herta Däubler-Gmelin
07/02/2001	61 st meeting, Elmar Brok, MEP, Intergovernmental Conference Nice, Marieluise Beck, person commissioned by the Federal Government for alien affairs
14/02/2001	62 nd meeting (public hearing), "Economic opportunities and challenges of EU enlargement"
07/03/2001	63 rd meeting, President of the Assembly of WEU, Klaus Bühler, and Janis Sakellariou, MEP, and Armin Laschet, MEP
14/03/2001	64 th meeting (public hearing), "On the constitutional debate in the European Union" with the President of the BGH, Prof. Dr. Günter Hirsch et al.
14/03/2001	65 th meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer

List of important events

- 28/03/2001 66th meeting (public hearing) with OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve; Jo Leinen, MEP
- 04/04/2001 67th meeting (public hearing), “EU enlargement and the freedom of movement for workers”
- 05/04/2001 Jérôme Vignon of the European Commission informs the spokespersons on the White Paper on European Governance
- 09/05/2001 69th meeting (public), French Foreign Minister Védrine in the presence of Federal Minister Joseph Fischer; Mr. Edgar Meiser, member of the Executive Board of the Bundesbank
- 16/05/2001 70th meeting (public), joint meeting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Sejm in Frankfurt (Oder)/Slubice: Klaus Kröplin, IHKK Frankfurt/Oder; Emilian Poplowski, President of the Western Chamber of Commerce of Poland; Volker Kulle, DBG Head of Frankfurt (Oder) District; Irena Boruta, Secretary of State with the Polish Minister for Employment and Social Policy; Eckehart Wache, Managing Police Director of the Federal Border Guard (Bundesgrenzschutz) Office, Frankfurt (Oder) and Piotr Stachanczyk, Secretary of State with the Polish Minister for Interior Affairs and Administration
- 20/06/2001 72nd meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
- 27/06/2001 73rd meeting, Federal Minister of the Interior, Mr. Otto Schily
- 28/06/2001 Neil Kinnock, Vice-President of the Commission and the member responsible for administrative reform on the topic “Administrative reform and the Governance project”
- 04/07/2001 74th meeting, Federal Minister of Finance, Hans Eichel, Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou

List of important events

- 29/08/2001 76th meeting, Macedonian Minister of Defence, Dr. Vlado Buckovski
- 21/09/2001 Peace concert under the auspices of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union in Belgrad with DJ Bobo
- 10/10/2001 79th meeting, Minister of State Prof. Dr. Nida-Rümelin (Federal Chancellery) and the Director of “Deutsche Welle”, Mr. Bettermann
- 17/10/2001 81st meeting, Federal Minister of the Interior, Mr. Otto Schily, and the Director of Europol, Mr. Jürgen Storbeck
- 07/11/2001 82nd meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
- 08/11/2001 Committee members meet the representatives of the Belgian Prime Minister, Senator Philippe Mahoux and Mr. Pierre Chevalier
- 13/11/2001 Committee members meet a Delegation of German members of cabinets in the European Commission
- 14/11/2001 83rd meeting, Special Representative for the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, Mr. Bodo Hombach; Federal Minister of Justice, Dr. Herta Däubler-Gmelin
- 26/11/2001 The spokespersons and the Chairman meet Pascal Lamy, Commissioner at the European Commission
- 10/12/2001 84th meeting (public), joint meeting of the Committees on European Union Affairs and on Foreign Affairs of the Assemblée Nationale and the Bundestag
- 11/12/2001 The Chairman meets a delegation of Slovakian parliamentarians
- 13/12/2001 Committee members meet the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Mr. Simeon Saksoburgotski
- 17/12/2001 Talk of the spokespersons with the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer

List of important events

- 23/01/2002 87th meeting (public hearing), “Protection of the Financial Interests of the Community and on the Combat of Fraud”, Federal Minister of Finances, Mr. Hans Eichel
- 28/01–
01/02/2002 Visit of a Cyprian delegation in Berlin
- 19/02/2002 Meeting with the Slovakian Prime Minister in Berlin
- 20/02/2002 88th meeting (public hearing), talk of the Committee with members of the EU Constitutional Convention as well as with Giorgio Napolitano, MEP, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs
- 20/02/2002 89th meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Kassoulides
- 20/02/2002 Inauguration of the office of the Committee on European Union Affairs in the Paul-Löbe-Haus and exhibition
- 27/02/2002 90th meeting, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Freimut Duve
- 13/03/2002 91st meeting (public), EU Constitutional Convention: Prof. Dr. Peter Glotz, University of St. Gallen, Erwin Teufel, Minister-President of the Land Baden-Württemberg in the presence of the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer, joint meeting with the EU Committee of the Bundesrat
- 13/03/2002 92nd meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer, Commissioner Günter Verheugen, Commissioner Michaela Schreyer
- 20/03/2002 93rd meeting, Federal Minister of Economics, Mr. Werner Müller
- 17/04/2002 94th meeting, Minister for EU Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Janez Potočnik, and Federal Minister of the Interior, Mr. Otto Schily

List of important events

- 19/04/2002 Meeting of the Chairman with the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Goran Svilanovic
- 24/04/2002 Talk in the Committee with the Coordinator for the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, Dr. Erhard Busek
- 05/06/2002 97th meeting, Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation, Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul
- 07/06/2002 Talk of Committee members with the Chief Negotiator of Cyprus, Mr. George Vassiliou
- 13/06/2002 Committee members talk with a delegation of the Tunisian-German Group of Friendship of the Parliament of the Republic of Tunisia
- 13/06/2002 Parliamentarian accompaniment of the work of the EU Constitutional Convention with Erwin Teufel, Minister-President of the Land Baden-Württemberg
- 14/06/2002 99th meeting, Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder
- 25/06/2002 100th meeting, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joseph Fischer
- 26/02/2002 101st meeting (public hearing), Constitutional Convention of the EU committees of Bundesrat and Bundestag: Strengthening democracy in Europe, the capacity to act and decide in an enlarged European Union, Bundestag with representatives from civil societies
- 27/06/2002 Meeting of the Chairman with the Foreign Minister of the Tunisian Republic, Mr. Habib Ben Yahia
- 02/07/2002 Meeting of the Chairman with the Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr. Mircea Geoana
- 03/07/2002 102nd meeting, Vice-President of the EU Constitutional Convention, Mr. Jean-Luc Dehaene
- 04/07/2002 Meeting of the spokespersons with the French Europe Minister, Ms. Noelle Lenoir

List of important events

05/07/2002 Talk of the Chairman and the spokespersons on the work of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union in the 14th legislative term

Predecessors of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

The insight leading to the establishment of an independent Committee on the Affairs of the European Union grew historically and is only comprehensible when viewed against the background of progressive European integration. The history of the Committee illustrates quite clearly the development from a dependent, relatively powerless body of the Council of Elders over several intermediate stages up to a full committee mentioned in the Constitution with special constitutional privileges.

Council of Elders for Integration (4th and 5th legislative term)

The Council of Elders for Integration was founded during the 4th legislative term (1961-1965) and existed until the end of the 5th legislative term (1965-1969). Constituted on 12 January 1965 under the chairmanship of the President of the Bundestag, **Prof. Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier (CDU/CSU)**, this body composed of 16 members was responsible for the receipt and transferral of information to the specialist committees. The Federal Government was obliged by the Rome Treaties to pass this information on to the Bundestag. During the 5th legislative term the body was chaired by Vice-President **Maria Probst (CDU/CSU)**.

Europe Commission of the Bundestag (10th legislative term)



Dr. Carl Otto Lenz, MP

Until 1983 the dual mandate of European Parliament and national parliament guaranteed the necessary flow of information between the Bundestag and the European Parliament. At the beginning of the 10th legislative term (1983-1987), when hardly anyone still held a dual mandate, the Bundestag established a Europe Commission with the task of drafting recommendations for European decisions. The Europe Commission was composed of 11 members of the Bundestag and 11 members of the European Parliament.

The Chairman of the Europe Commission was **Dr. Carl Otto Lenz (CDU/CSU)**, MP. From 27 January 1984, **Dr. Renate Hellwig (CDU/CSU)**, MP, was Chairwoman of the Europe Commission. The initial Deputy Chairman was the German member of the European Parliament, **Rudi Arndt (SPD)**, followed by **Prof. Dr. Klaus Hänsch (SPD)** from 21 September 1984.



Dr. Renate Hellwig, MP

Subcommittee for European Communities Questions of the Committee for Foreign Affairs (11th legislative term)

During the 11th legislative term (1987-1990) the Committee on Foreign Affairs established a Subcommittee for European Communities Questions, consisting of 26 members, 13 of whom being members of the Bundestag and 13 being German members of the European Parliament with a right to participation. The initial Chairman was **Alwin Brück (SPD)**, MP, followed by **Robert Antretter (SPD)**, MP, from 29 November 1989. Deputy Chairwoman was Dr. Renate Hellwig (CDU/CSU).



Alwin Brück, MP



Robert Antretter, MP

EC Committee

The 12th legislative term from 1990 to 1994 saw the establishment of the first standing committee for European affairs, the EC Committee, which had 33 members of the Bundestag and 11 German members of the European Parliament with a right to participation. The Chairwoman was Dr. Renate Hellwig (CDU/CSU), MP. The initial Deputy Chairman was Dr. Christoph Zöpel (SPD), MP, followed by Dieter Schloten (SPD), MP, from 10 March 1993.

Special Committee “European Union (Treaty of Maastricht)” (12th legislative term)



Günter Verheugen, MP

On 8 October 1992 a special committee “European Union (Treaty of Maastricht)” was established for the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty.

Chairman was Günter Verheugen (SPD), MP, his deputy was Dr. Renate Hellwig (CDU/CSU), MP.

Committee on the Affairs of the European Union (since the 13th legislative term)



Dr. Norbert Wiczorek, MP

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union was established at the start of the 13th legislative term (1994-1998). The constitutive meeting took place on 14 December 1994. The Chairman during the 13th legislative term was Dr. Norbert Wiczorek (SPD). His deputy was Michael Stübgen (CDU/CSU), MP.

Predecessors of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

During the 14th legislative term Dr. Friedbert Pflüger (CDU/CSU), MP, was Chairman of the Committee. The Deputy Chairman was Prof. Dr. Jürgen Meyer (SPD), MP.



Dr. Friedbert Pflüger, MP

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Fuchs, Michael, Der Ausschuss für die Angelegenheiten der Europäischen Union–kein Ausschuss wie jeder andere! 2001

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