

# Committee on Foreign Affairs

## ■ Facts

- Constitutional basis: Article 45 a (1) of the Basic Law
- 36 Members (13 CDU/CSU, 13 SPD, 4 FDP, 3 THE LEFT PARTY, 3 ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS)
- Chairman: Ruprecht Polenz, Member of the Bundestag, (CDU/CSU)
- Deputy chairman: Hans-Ulrich Klose, Member of the Bundestag, (SPD)
- Approx. 25 meetings per year
- 4 sub-committees
  - Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
  - United Nations
  - Globalisation and Foreign Trade
  - Cultural and Education Policy Abroad

## ■ Tasks

- Participation in foreign policy (Article 23 (1), sentence 2, Article 24 (1), Article 59 (2), Article 73 (1) of the Basic Law)
- Parliamentary flanking and oversight of the Federal Government's foreign policy
- Ratification of international treaties
- Committee responsible in the Bundestag for decisions on deployments abroad
  - Currently nine deployments abroad with over 9000 troops

## ■ Topics

- include
- Balkans
- Caucasus
- Central Asia
- Middle East
- Iraq
- Iran
- Afghanistan
- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Transatlantic Relations
- Russia
- Countries in transition
- Latin America

## ■ Instruments

- Committee meetings
- Meetings of the four sub-committees
- Incoming visits
  - approx. 150 – 200 delegations and individual visitors per year (presidents, prime ministers, foreign ministers, parliamentary speakers, members of parliament, ambassadors, high-ranking representatives of the EU and international organisations, as well as NGOs etc.)
- Outgoing visits
  - Delegation or individual trips abroad in connection with the focal points of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and its sub-committees