



Research Office
Legislative Council Secretariat

Fact Sheet

German-Chinese Parliamentary Friendship Group

FSC09/14-15

Structure and functions	
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bundestag has established 54 bilateral and multilateral parliamentary friendship groups, including the German-Chinese Parliamentary Friendship Group, to cultivate political relations with its partner parliaments.• The Bundestag's parliamentary friendship groups promotes ongoing dialogue with the parliamentary institutions of partner states, which involves exchanges of information and opinions with Members of other parliaments. In parallel to these discussions with their peers, the groups also organize meetings with government and civil society representatives.
Leadership of the German-Chinese Parliamentary Friendship Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The German-Chinese Parliamentary Friendship Group is chaired by Dagmar Schmidt of the Social Democratic Party of Germany. She is assisted by three Deputy Chairs, namely Hans-Peter Uhl of Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union, Stefan Liebich of The Left Party, and Cem Özdemir of Alliance 90/The Greens.
Overseas visits and receiving delegations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the course of each electoral term, each parliamentary friendship group invites one delegation of parliamentarians from its partner country or region to Germany and sends one delegation overseas. According to the Bundestag, these trips help to foster better understanding as well as deepening contacts.

Structure and functions (cont'd)

Membership of parliamentary friendship groups

- Parliamentary friendship groups are formed on a cross-party basis and do not have statutes or rules of procedure of their own. Only Members of the Bundestag may join the parliamentary friendship groups, and no Member is allowed to join more than three groups.
- Joining a particular friendship group reflects a Member's special interest in relation to the partner state or states for which it is responsible. The decision to get involved in a particular parliamentary friendship group may be prompted by existing personal links, a strong concern with a particular aspect of foreign policy, the proximity of the Member's constituency to Germany's border with the country in question, or economic and cultural ties between their constituency and the partner state.
- The parliamentary friendship groups are constituted anew at the beginning of each electoral term.

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References

1. Deutscher Bundestag. (undated) *Executives of the parliamentary friendship groups and parliamentary friendship representatives in the 18th electoral term*. Available from: http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/bundestag/international/int_bez [Accessed February 2015].
2. Deutscher Bundestag. (undated) *General information on the parliamentary friendship groups*. Available from: http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/bundestag/international/int_bez/allgemein/245920 [Accessed February 2015].