

PC.DEL/511/13

14 June 2013

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

Delegation of Germany

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RÜDIGER LÜDEKING,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY TO THE OSCE, AT THE 956th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 June 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

I subscribe to the statement by the European Union regarding the report of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and should like for my own part as well to expressly thank Ms. Mijatović and her team for the active and constructive work over the past few months.

In a press release on 6 June 2013, the OSCE Media Representative, Ms. Mijatović, referred to a demonstration by the “Blockupy” movement, which took place on 1 June 2013 in Frankfurt am Main in the federal state of Hesse. The Media Representative was concerned that attacks on journalists had occurred in the course of the deployment of local police forces on the occasion of this demonstration.

Germany takes the OSCE Media Representative’s concerns very seriously. My delegation immediately forwarded the Media Representative’s statement to the relevant German authorities, in this case the government of the state of Hesse. The response that I have in the meantime received from the head of the Hessian Ministry of Justice, Integration and European Affairs states, and I quote:

“The Hessian Minister of Justice, State Minister Hahn, takes the accusations made against the police seriously and is very keen for this matter to be cleared up in a due legal process.

The accusations made by the OSCE Representative refer to measures that are the responsibility not of the criminal justice authorities but of the police and the local administrative authorities to avert danger.

Complaints have already been lodged with the public prosecutor’s office in Frankfurt am Main about the measures taken by the police against demonstrators in 1 June 2013. The judiciary will make its contribution to investigating the accusations against the police by endeavouring to establish the facts, evaluating them from a legal point of view and, depending on the outcome of these investigations, bringing criminal charges against the accused if necessary. In this way, the freedom of assembly and of the press guaranteed in the

Basic Law will at the same time be protected and exercised. The result of the ongoing investigations of the public prosecutor's office in Frankfurt am Main must therefore be awaited."

I have also been informed by the State Secretary of the Hessian Ministry of the Interior that immediately following the demonstration a police working group was set up at the police headquarters in Frankfurt am Main to conduct a full and detailed investigation of the accusations.

I reserve the right to inform the OSCE participating States about further relevant information in a suitable manner as soon as it becomes available to me.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.