



The German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB) is the only central local government association with an own European committee. Local politicians from all over Germany meet in this committee in order to define our association's positions on European policy. Two members of the European Parliament have been created co-opted members of our association's Praesidium. These are important contributions to the mutual understanding of European and local policy.

The DStGB is a member of the "European Association of Towns and Municipalities", the European local government umbrella organisation "Council of European Municipalities and Regions"(CEMR) which has been the biggest European local government organisation since 1951. The DStGB is also represented in the European central association of public enterprises, CEEP, as well as in the world local government association UCLG. We speak up for international town twinning.



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## E U R O P E A N O F F I C E

of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB)



**DStGB**  
 Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund

...The President of the Federal Republic of Germany (et al.)...

...resolved to continue the process of creating an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe, in which decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity ...

...have decided to establish a European Union.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Preamble of the Treaty on European Union (2nd text of the Treaty)

Local government policy and European policy are directly interwoven. A great number of laws and regulations having an effect on local self-government are caused by the EU.

*“The project Europe will only succeed with strong towns and municipalities – otherwise it will fail. Nobody is as close to the people, their problems and demands as we are. Towns and municipalities offer citizens a home and reliability – all over Europe. We offer the EU our partnership. And we expect that Europe accepts local rights and demands comprehensively. For far too long, politics in Brussels and Strasbourg has been made without or even against us.”*



*Dr Gerd Landsberg, Secretary General of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB)*

## Local Representation in Brussels

The German municipalities have been represented with an own office in Brussels as early as since 1991. Today, the European Office of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB) is working in an office partnership with the European Offices of the other German local government associations as well as the DSGVO and the VKU. The German Association of Towns and Municipalities works in the centre of European policy making in Brussels. We are the partner of the central local government associations in Europe as well as of our European umbrella organisation, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. We have a seat and a vote in the EU's Committee of the Regions (CoR) and in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe belonging to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The CoR is an EU institution in which the DStGB delegates play an active part in European policy making. Apart from contacts on a European level, the European Office is the centre for the DStGB's international relations. We particularly work in close cooperation with our local government partners in Austria and France.

*“We are the stakeholder of the German towns and municipalities in Europe. In particular for the EU Commission as well as for the European Parliament we are the point of contact for all questions concerning local self-government.”*



*Uwe Zimmermann, Director, German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB)*

## Information and Representation of Interests

The focus of our work is the active representation of interests of towns and municipalities in Brussels. We represent the political positions and demands of municipalities towards EU institutions, politics, associations and the public. We inform about all processes taking place within the EU that are important and relevant to municipalities. The range of topics is wide: Especially worth mentioning are the topics internal market (“services of general interest”), regional development, environment policy and social affairs.

*“More than 10 000 lobbyists work in Brussels. We, however, represent the democratically legitimised level in Germany which is closest to the citizens. Europe's dialogue with us has to comprehensively take this special characteristic into account.”*



*Dr Klaus Nutzenberger, Head of the European Office of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB)*



*Professor Dr Christian O. Steger, Europe Representative of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB)*

