

The German allotment garden federation (BDG), representing the interests of the German allotment gardeners and politics

The German federation tries to defend the interests and the needs of the allotment gardeners in a continuous dialogue and cooperation with the politicians, political bodies and all authorities.

In October 2012, President Norbert Franke had discussions with the members of the national Parliament, Sebastian Körber and Hans-Michael Goldmann of the FDP. The subjects of these discussions were, among others, the request to impose a second broadcast fee for over dimensional sheds.

Further discussions took place with the members of the national Parliament of the CDU/CSU fraction (social democrat party) Reinhard Grindel. The latter battled very much in order that a draft law for the reinforcement of voluntary work was voted in the national Parliament.

In January 2013 the president of the German federation met Mrs. Bettina Herlitzius, member of the national Parliament, in Berlin. Mrs Herlitzius assured him that the fraction Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (green party) still fully agreed with the statements made in 2009 in order to protect the allotment garden movement. The politicians of the Bündnis 90/Die Grünen will continue to ask the national governments to support the organized allotment garden movement with a regular financial support for projects submitted.

In February 2013 the German allotment garden federation met Mrs. Hans-Joachim Hacker, member of the national Parliament for the SPD fraction (socialist fraction). Subject of these discussions were the tax for second residences and the visitor's tax for garden sheds, which are already collected in different German regions and should now be introduced in other towns and communes. Already last November Dr. Franke, president of the BDG, had drawn the attention of Mr. Hacker to these two problems during a political meeting.

Other subjects, which not only concern the allotment gardeners, but also need a political solution, were also discussed. Among these one can quote the planned reform of the tax for copyright.

In a discussion with Florian Pronold (SPD), member of the national Parliament (socialist party), the financial burdens of the allotment gardeners were discussed. One has to mention among them the communal taxes like, for example, street cleaning and public sewage taxes, or the ground taxes and the tax for second residences.

On 20th February the president of the German federation, Dr. Norbert Franke had the opportunity to discuss the problems of the allotment garden movement with Heidrun Bluhm, member of the national Parliament Fraktion DIE LINKE (The Left). After the question of Norbert Franke, if the statement contained in the programme of

the party was still fully supported by the party Mrs Bluhm answered that it is important to protect the allotment garden law for a long time in its actual wording.