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Via E-Mail an: felix.duffy@lobbycontrol.de

Lobbycontrol e.V.
Herrn Felix Duffy
Am Justizzentrum 7
50939 Köln

Berlin, June 19th, 2020

Your request for information

Dear Mr Duffy,
Dear Mr Müller,
Dear Mr Bank,

Thank you for your request from June 8, 2020. Google has always strived to be transparent about our products, presence and engagement in Germany and Europe more broadly. One outlet is our quarterly [Aufbruch magazine](#), covering a wide spectrum of topics from Privacy & Security to Artificial Intelligence.

Transparency in our actions is very important to Google. You may recall a long and interesting exchange in 2016 when we hosted a group of Lobbycontrol representatives in our Berlin office, led by your colleague Timo Lange. It is our pleasure to reconnect and address the questions you have raised. Google is and always has been transparent about organizations we fund and we cooperate with. Like other companies we detail our work in the [EU transparency register](#) and we have clear policies in place to protect the independence of the people and organisations we sponsor, including a requirement to disclose funding.

Europe is a global powerhouse for innovation and culture and is home to a new generation of entrepreneurs. It also faces a range of challenges, from climate change to migration. We are here for the long term, as shown by major investments in infrastructure, communities, culture, local business, and our plans for the future. Germany is one of Google's most important locations in Europe. In Hamburg, Berlin, Munich and Frankfurt, almost 2,000 employees work on core topics such as data protection and artificial intelligence. At the same time, Google promotes the digitization of society through various initiatives.

One of these initiatives is the ["Zukunftswerkstatt"](#), providing people with digital skills training to help them find jobs, advance their careers, and grow their businesses. In Germany, we have partnered with ver.di, the Fraunhofer Institute for Intelligent Analysis and Information Systems IAIS, Chambers of Commerce for Munich and Upper Bavaria as well as for Düsseldorf to develop targeted, tailor-made programs and to play a positive role in shaping the future of work. The "Zukunftsoffensive" is intended to contribute to a general awareness for lifelong learning and training to meet the demands of an increasingly digital labor market.

We are proud to work with such a diverse set of partners in Germany to help new audiences reap the benefits of digitization. For instance, Google is a [shareholder](#) of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence. By supporting a globally renowned "Center of Excellence" in the field of AI, Google contributes to Germany's prominent

position in global AI research. In Munich, Google and the Technical University (TUM) [announced](#) a long-term partnership in February 2018, with a focus on research and innovation in the fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotics. Google was the first non-European company to become an official “Partner of Excellence” for TUM.

Since 2011, we support research on the development of the internet from a societal perspective with the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG). The HIIG was founded in 2012 by the Humboldt University of Berlin (HU), the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK) and the WZB Berlin Social Science Center, together with the Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research (HBI) in Hamburg as a partner through an [initial donation](#) from Google. We have continued to support the HIIG since then and from the beginning it was ensured through several measures that the HIIG research was done fully independently.

As Head of Government Affairs & Public Policy Europe, I also manage a team of dedicated Googlers working with governments, trade associations and third parties on a number of relevant topics for Google. In this capacity, my team in Germany oversees the company’s memberships in the following organizations:

- Atlantik-Brücke e.V.
- Bundesverband Deutsche Startups e.V.
- Bundesverband Digitale Wirtschaft e.V.
- Bundesverband Informationswirtschaft, Telekommunikation und neue Medien e.V.
- Deutsch-französischer Journalistenpreis e.V.
- Deutsche Akademie der Technikwissenschaften e.V.
- Deutschland sicher im Netz e.V.
- Eco - Verband der deutschen Internetwirtschaft e.V.
- fragFINN e.V.
- Freiwillige Selbstkontrolle Multimedia-Diensteanbieter e.V.
- game - Verband der deutschen Games-Branche e.V.
- German Marshall Fund of the United States
- Handelsverband Deutschland e.V.
- Münchner Kreis e.V.
- Selbstregulierung Informationswirtschaft e.V.
- Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft e.V.
- Wirtschaftsforum der SPD e.V.
- Wirtschaftsrat der CDU e.V.

I hope this letter and the list of memberships above helps to address the concerns you have raised. It would be our pleasure to maintain an open dialogue, and to host you again at our offices in the future.

Kind regards,



Annette Kroeber-Riel