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Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mr Malcolm D. Evans
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Schweiz / Switzerland

Your reference	Your letter dated	Our reference	Contact, Extension
PG/SL/FN	20 June 2014	5111/2/12	Mr Schneider, -28

7 August 2014

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SPT advisory visit to Germany 2013

Dear Mr Evans

On behalf of all members of the National Agency for the Prevention of Torture, we would like to express our appreciation to the SPT response dated 20 June 2014 to our report on the SPT advisory visit to Germany, dated 27 January 2014.

A major point of concern in our discussions with the SPT delegation, which was also expressed in the SPT report, was the National Agency's lack of resources.

We would like to seize this opportunity to inform you on the latest state of affairs concerning the expansion of the National Agency. Further to the appointment of a Vice-Chairperson of the Federal Agency for the Prevention of Torture, the Conference of Ministers of Justice ruled on 26 June 2014 to also double the membership of the Joint Commission of the States by 1 January 2015. Until 1 October 2014, new members shall be proposed by the Conferences of Ministers of the Interior, Labour and Social Affairs, Health, and Youth and Family Affairs. The National Agency's budget will be increased from currently EUR 300,000 to EUR 540,000. We envisage an increase by 2 to 2.5 positions at the Secretariat. Under the improved circumstances, the Joint Commission of the States will be able to start monitoring facilities in the healthcare sector, such as homes for elderly persons and psychiatric hospitals. Based on the experiences in the new monitoring areas, we will be able to evaluate whether a further enlargement, in particular of the Joint Commission, is necessary.

The National Agency was also able to increase its national and international presence.

In April of this year, together with our colleagues from the Austrian Volksanwaltschaft and the Swiss National Commission for the Prevention of Torture, the National Agency initiated and hosted a regional NPM network. In the future, annual meetings shall be held in different participating

countries. We are also in contact with the chairperson of Amnesty International Germany to schedule a meeting with a focus on establishing cooperation on a higher level. Furthermore, members of the National Agency participated in international conferences in Trier and Vienna. In October, together with the Centre for Criminology, the National Agency will be hosting an international conference on human rights in detention. In November we are anticipating a study visit by agents from the Turkish Ministry of the Interior on police monitoring in the framework of the EU TAIEX programme.

We particularly appreciate your initiative in improving direct cooperation beyond the already established exchange of information between the National Agency and the SPT. In our opinion, personal contacts are the best option in the achievement of our common goal. It is a great pleasure therefore to have the German SPT member, Ms Osterfeld, attending the joint conference on human rights in detention in October, at which we will certainly have the opportunity to exchange opinions.

Additionally, we would like to extend to you, Mr Chairman, an invitation for a personal meeting at our office in Wiesbaden, to discuss issues concerning the 2013 advisory visit and pave the way for a better cooperation between the National Agency and the SPT. Should it be impossible for you to come to Wiesbaden, we would also be available for a meeting in Geneva. We suggest that our Secretariats get in contact to arrange the details.

Both the SPT response and this letter will be published on the National Agency's homepage.

Yours sincerely

Klaus Lange-Lehngut
Ltd. Regierungsdirektor ret.
Head of the Federal Agency
for the Prevention of Torture

Rainer Dopp
State Secretary ret.
Chairman of the Joint
Commission of the States