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### Press Release

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### Sarrazin and the Limits of Freedom of Expression

About ongoing public debate on the statements of German Bundesbank board member Thilo Sarrazin and freedom of expression, Memet Kilic, Member of Federal Parliament (Green Party) and Spokesperson for Migration and Integration said:

When Mr.Sarrazin caused a similar outcry with his previous statements, I had plead for his dismissal both from the executive board of the Bundesbank and from the party ranks of the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Honestly, I was sure that those pleas were in vain, and none would 'harm' Thilo Sarrazin. Currently derogative statements about Turks, Arabs, Muslims, Sinte or Romani people are not only considered as legally harmless but have become nearly a popular sport. To fulfill the definition for a criminal incitement to hatred and being for such statements is so difficult that any citizen can freely act in this realm.

If Sarrazin had not uttered disparaging and racist views about Jews, he could get away without sanctions for the rest of his life and give his 1001st interview about what he calls the "useless" Arab and Turkish "underclass" in poor inner-city neighbourhoods of Berlin. There would have been no reason for him to fear a dismissal from the SPD. He would have to harm the party with his statements to fear about that. Apparently this has not been the case in the past.

My apprehension is, that the beneficial dam, namely the inhibition threshold to speak out in a racist way about Jews, in the light ofholocaust and the systematic annihilation of six million people, is about to break down very soon.

I have been observing German society for about 20 years now, and I have to confess that this dam is getting weaker and weaker.

Agreeably it is not rational to react to every delinquency with tightening of the laws. Yet, I have insisted on introducing a criminal offence to penalize more severely racist motivated insults, since the days I have been the Chairman of the Federal Immigration and Integration Council .

However it is clear that such a call is ignored, as a specific law for racial insults would change the statistics of racist crimes in Germany. However the image of Germany should be valued above all!