HMDC Presents...

Country Profile: Germany

Committee: SPECPOL: Corporate Surveillance, Accountability, and Privacy

AT A GLANCE

Capital	Berlin (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Population	About 83.5 million people in 2025 (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Region	Europe and Central Asia (World Bank)
Supply chain law	In force for large companies since January 1, 2023

WHY GERMANY MATTERS IN SPECPOL

Germany helped write the first UN resolution on privacy in the digital age, and it has strong rules that make companies protect people's data and rights. It shows our committee what a country already requires of companies at home.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

- On November 1, 2013, Germany and Brazil introduced a joint UN draft resolution on privacy in the digital age. (Federal Foreign Office of Germany, November 1, 2013)
- In Germany, the data protection authorities of the federal states watch over most private companies, and a federal commissioner watches over phone and postal companies. (Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- Germany launched its National Action Plan on business and human rights in December 2016. (United Nations Human Rights Office, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- Since January 1, 2023, Germany's supply chain law has required large companies to respect human rights in their supply chains, with BAFA making companies follow it. (Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control, Last Accessed: October 2026)

OUR POSITION IN ONE SENTENCE

Germany introduced a joint draft resolution on privacy with Brazil in 2013, and its supply chain law has applied to large companies since 2023.

THREE IDEAS OUR DELEGATE CAN PROPOSE

1. Independent watchdogs: every country has an independent office that checks how companies use personal data.

2. National action plans: every country writes a plan on business and human rights.

3. Checking for harm: large companies must look for and prevent harm to people's rights, including privacy.

CAREFUL NOTE

Germany's government approved a bill to change its supply chain law in September 2025, so we check its newest status first.

QUESTIONS WE STILL ANSWER OURSELVES

1. Does our country have a data protection law, and which office makes companies follow it?

2. Does our country make companies check for harm to people's rights?
3. What has our country said or sponsored at the UN on privacy in the digital age?

WHERE WE LOOK

Privacy laws map: https://unctad.org/page/data-protection-and-privacy-legislation-worldwide

National action plans:
https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-business/national-action-plans-business-and-human-rights

Resolution 68/167: https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/764407

Every fact above names its source and date. We do our own research and write our own position paper, as the conference rules require. This profile is a starting point, not a script.