



Letter from the Federal Foreign Office (State Secretary Dr Markus Ederer) to Member
of the German Bundestag Azize Tank

25 April 2014

Your written questions for the month of April 2014
Question No. **4-151**

Dear Ms Tank,

Regarding your question:

“When and with what substantive commitments does the Federal Government intend to answer the invitation made once again to the Federal Republic of Germany on 21 March 2014 by the Polish Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Piotr Żuchowski, and the Auschwitz survivor and Head of the Council for Remembrance of Struggle and Martyrdom (Rady Ochrony Pamięci Walk i Męczeństwa), Władysław Bartoszewski, to cooperate on and contribute to financing the new memorial to the former German extermination camp Sobibor, at which, according to estimates, at least 250,000 Jews were gassed by German fascists immediately on arrival, including 10,000 German Jews from what was then the German Reich? (This follows a request already submitted in writing on 29 January 2013 by the Polish Culture Ministry to the German Ambassador in Warsaw at that time, Rüdiger Freiherr von Fritsch, for a “financial and substantive contribution [...] by public authorities” in Germany – c.f. Bundestag printed paper 17/14821.)”

My answer is as follows:

The Federal Government will reply to the letter you mention in your question over the next few days. The answer will officially reaffirm the willingness of the Federal Government to make substantial contributions to the renovation and preservation of the Sobibor memorial. At the same time, the Federal Government will ask for concrete information on what form of German financial and substantive involvement is desired.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. (m.p.) Dr Markus Ederer