



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
17th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 30 October 2013

**German questions and recommendations to
Malta**

**Statement
by
Germany**

Mister President,

Germany commends Malta for the progress made, in particular with regard to strengthening national human rights institutions and with respect to the institutions and laws safeguarding the occurrence of arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

With regard to criminal justice, we remain worried, however, about the relatively long periods which the accused spend in pretrial detention, the high rate of detainees on remand as compared to the overall prison population, as well as the fact that courts do not apply the rules of release on bail equally to Maltese citizens and foreigners.

Germany would like to ask:

What does Malta intend to do, firstly, to speed up the asylum process and secondly, to provide for a targeted treatment especially pertaining to particularly vulnerable asylum seekers?

How does Malta plan to transform its refugee policy so that both human rights-compliant standards in refugee camps are in place and practical procedures are operational safeguarding fast-track identification of particularly vulnerable refugees and providing for best possible care of these groups?

Thank you, Mister President.