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Position statement

Many attempts have been made in the past to establish a European organization of communication. These initiatives reflected the wish and the need to create an opportunity for scholars to meet, exchange their ideas and present their work in an environment focused on European research and the development of the discipline in European countries. The foundation of ECREA integrated the various former initiatives for establishing a European association of communication scholars and thus succeeded to bring to life a community catering to their specific interests and providing for a strong partner of the international communication associations. The primary goal for the next years will be to build upon the successful work of the first years, further strengthen the organization and make it a voice that is also heard by political actors, institutions and in the media.

As a long-time member of ECREA and with my experiences in the field, I am convinced that I can successfully contribute to the consolidation and further development of the association. I am presently a member of the ECREA taskforce "Mapping Changes in Research Support in Media and Communications across Europe" which was set up to assess the recent changes in funding for academic research in communications and the consequences for the future. Not only in this role I am aware of the challenges facing research in the social sciences and humanities that is threatened to fall behind the natural sciences even more. To work against these trends should be one of the major objectives for ECREA in the next years. As a European association, ECREA should first promote its case at the supranational level (EU and Council of Europe) but also work bottom up from the national level.

Over the years, I have served the international scientific community in various positions and have acquired experiences within academic associations that I can profitably bring to ECREA. In the International Communication Association (ICA), I was vice-chair and chair of the Political Communication Division for four years and a member of several ICA committees such as the Outstanding Book Award Committee. In the American Political Science Association (APSA), I was Program Chair for the Political Communication Division and an At-Large-Member member of the Division's Executive Committee. Since 2012, I am

one of two chairs of the Political Communication Research Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) and have just been re-elected for another four years. I have also been engaged in mentoring programs for young scholars in the German Communication Association (DGPUK) and at my own university.

With my research interests in political communication, communication policy, freedom of the press, visual communication and gender, I cover a wide range of the discipline and have often collaborated with colleagues from other countries to incorporate the international perspective. Through these activities, I have not only experienced the challenges and benefits of cross-national research but also built up many international contacts. In several cases, these international joint ventures have led to publications in co-authorship and with contributions from all over the world. In addition to being a co-editor of one of the leading communication journals in Germany (*Publizistik*), I am a member of the editorial boards of more than a dozen national and international peer-reviewed journals in communication. Constantly acting as a reviewer provides me with an overview of what is going on in media and communication research in different parts of the world and at the same time forces me to keep abreast with new trends and research questions. Since the publishing sector is undergoing far-reaching changes due to digitalization and open-access policy, I have a particular interest in securing and expanding academic publication opportunities for the future.

The organizational experiences, my extensive activities and long-term engagement in editorial matters, the international perspective of my own research and the international network that comes along with this approach provide me with competencies that I would like to bring into the management of ECREA in the next years.