

HISTORY

“At all times the Saxon government held on to its insistently practiced political tradition. The existence of the Saxon Parliament was very silent and not well-established in the public.”
(Reinhard Paul; “Saxon insurrections at the years 1830/31 -1916”)

Until 1830 the government of Saxony consisted of the Secret Cabinet, the Secret Council and the Secret Council of Finances, which were the highest authorities of the regional government in this time. But the administration of the federal states did not have the constitutional principles as we know them today. Higher administrative jobs were covered by noblemen – often the commoners got no jobs in the higher administration.

With the reform of the country in 1831/1832 there also began the age of the Constitutional Monarchy in Saxony. At the 4th September 1831 the kingdom of Saxony got its first Constitution. The history of the Saxon Ministry of the Interior began. Based on §41 of the Constitution and an edict from 1831, the Secret Cabinet and the Secret Council were dismantled and the government created six Ministries with different competences and functions – the Ministry of Justice, of Finances, of the Interior, of Defence, of Culture, of Public Education and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. They started their work at the 1st of December 1831. From 1831 until 1834 Bernhard August von Lindenau was the first Minister of the royal Ministry of the Interior – he was significantly involved in the reorganisation of the state and he said: “Same rights, same responsibilities... that should be the word. Statesmen should work because of their capabilities.”

But although the new edicts stood for an equal status of the noblemen and the commoners, noblemen were preferred to work in higher charges. This is also the reason why there worked predominantly noblemen in the function of the Minister of the Interior until 1918. Between 1831 and 1933 altogether 26 Ministers of the Interior served Saxony and its habitants; in this position worked three of them even more than 10 years. Hermann von Nostitz-Wallwitz (1866 – 1891) has even been 25 years the Minister of the Interior in Saxony.