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GERMAN NATIONALIST LEADER PETRY COULD LOSE IMMUNITY

BERLIN: German nationalist leader Frauke Petry could face prosecution over allegations she lied under oath, after a parliamentary panel in the eastern state of Saxony recommended yesterday that her immunity should be lifted.

Petry's Alternative for Germany party has campaigned heavily against immigration and is expected to enter the federal parliament for the first time in next month's German elections.

Unless further objections are raised by Saxony's state parliament, Petry's immunity will be lifted next week. The 42-year-old has herself requested the move, saying she wants to clear her name. The investigation centers on differing accounts given by Petry, currently a lawmaker in Saxony, and another party official



COLOGNE: Frauke Petry looks thoughtful at the party convention of Germany's nationalist party AfD (Alternative for Germany) in Cologne. —AP

to a state legislature committee in relation to a candidate list for a 2014 regional election. Separately Thursday, German media reported that a prominent member of the party - known by its acronym AfD - had ties to a suspected Russian agent. Hamburg weekly Die Zeit reported that Markus Frohnmaier, a leader of the party's youth wing, helped register a pro-Russian think tank called European Center for Geopolitical Analysis together with Polish citizen Mateusz Piskorski.

Piskorski was detained in Poland in May 2016 on allegations of spying for Russia and remains under temporary arrest.

Piskorski's arrest prompted outrage in Moscow, where he had been a regular guest invited to speak in Russian state-owned media about the danger of nationalism in Ukraine. Rafal Pankowski, the head of the Polish anti-racism organization Never Again, described Piskorski as "one of the most active and most extreme neo-Nazis in Poland." — AP

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„The Friday Times” [Pakistan], „The Kuwait Times” [Kuwejt], 18.08.2017.