

# **BÜNDNIS DEUTSCHLAND**



**Freedom. Prosperity. Security.**

**Our core positions**

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# Preamble

We are citizens from the centre of society. We demand rational and solution-oriented policies. Germany must once again be governed without ideology.

We regard individual responsibility, equal opportunities and the free development of the individual as fundamental values. We view the state as a regulatory framework in which defined values, virtues and legal norms ensure coexistence in security, freedom and prosperity.

We fully recognise the liberal democratic basic order and the Basic Law as the foundation of our society and of our policies.

In the following, we outline the positions that we consider most urgent for the future of our country.

## Our core positions

### I – Energy policy

We ensure a sustainable and affordable energy supply with baseload capacity.

Surging energy prices and supply security problems show: the Energiewende ('energy turnaround') has failed. In the short, medium and long term, we need a secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply able to meet baseload electricity demands. German energy prices must become competitive again on an international level.

We stand for a balanced, affordable energy mix that includes modern, safe nuclear energy as well as renewable energies and other innovative energy technologies. Energy sources with baseload capacity must always be available in sufficient quantity.

In the short to medium term, coal and gas power plants must be kept in operation. To this end, technologies must be developed further that enable a significant reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of conventional power plants.

We must become less dependent on energy imports with regard to the entire energy supply.

## II – Monetary policy

We ensure that the European Central Bank will make monetary stability a priority again.

The record inflation rates in the Eurozone show: We must restore monetary stability as soon as possible. In the short term, the surge in energy prices needs to be addressed. For medium and long-term effects, the ECB must end its long-standing policy of quantitative easing.

Government bond purchases worth trillions of euros cover financing problems in the short term but create significant stability risks over longer periods of time. As a result, the ECB is responsible for capital flight and a loss of purchasing power of the euro. In addition, the ECB QE-programme violates the provisions of relevant European treaties. Such monetary policy comes at the expense of future generations.

We must also consider that inflation is a particular burden on low-income and low-asset households, as it effectively acts as an 'asset tax without a basic allowance' – an expropriation of savers. We are committed to the unconditional preservation of cash as a means of payment and savings.

## III – Fiscal policy

We expose hidden public debt and scrutinise government spending.

We demand an honest account of the extent of public debt. We call for a comprehensive budgetary review, which will include not only explicit government debt, but also so-called Sondervermögen ('special funds'), shadow budgets and, in particular, implicit future obligations of the state, especially in the pension system.

In the interest of future generations, government spending needs to be scrutinised and aligned with our actual debt burden. The distribution of burdens within the European Union should take into account implicit debts and obligations and differences in average household wealth. The current system puts Germany at a disadvantage.

## IV – Social policy

We will make work pay and reward performance.

Work must be worthwhile again. We therefore call for more 'net from the gross'. The tax burden in Germany, one of the highest in the world, must be significantly reduced.

For low incomes, compulsory social security contributions must be reduced and the basic allowance must be increased so that being in employment always pays off. The Bürgergeld, a precursor to an unconditional basic income, clearly contradicts the idea of meritocracy. The legal principle that income from labour must always be more substantial than social security benefits must be reintroduced.

## V – Economic policy

We strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises as the backbone of our wealth.

As Germany's most common type of enterprise, small and medium-sized companies are the backbone of our economy. They contribute significantly to the financing of our country. The state must ensure good framework conditions for the establishment and operation of successful small and medium-sized enterprises.

This can be achieved by cutting red tape and by ensuring that small and medium-sized companies have sufficient access to capital. We will abolish all laws and regulations that unnecessarily restrict the freedom of these enterprises.

We call for the establishment of permanent KfW and Landesbank programmes that can provide small and medium-sized enterprises with additional liquidity if necessary. We will create programmes that facilitate investment in small and medium-sized enterprises for broader sections of the population.

## VI – Transport policy

We stand for individual mobility and the Autoland ('nation of the automobile') Germany.

Maintaining individual mobility must play a central role in all transport policy concepts. In principle, the expansion of the rail network and of public transport services is to be welcomed. However, particularly in rural areas, convenient local access to such services cannot be guaranteed in a cost-efficient manner. Cars are indispensable in rural areas.

A commitment to individual mobility also has positive effects regarding the key economic and technological flagship sector of our country, the automotive industry. We will not allow an ideologically motivated destruction of this success factor in the heartland of car-manufacturing.

## VII – Agricultural policy

We fight for the survival of regional, family-run farming.

Due to the misguided EU subsidy policy in favour of large agricultural enterprises, many German full-time and part-time farmers are forced to quit their farming family business.

In order to counteract the progressive demise of traditional farms in favour of factory farming, we call for equal farming and breeding conditions for all market participants or corresponding import duties and restrictions. Our farmers must not be placed in a worse position than international competitors by virtue of having to comply with strict domestic standards for farming and husbandry.

In the interest of supply security, regional food production is crucial and worthy of political support. The agricultural sector must be regarded as part of the critical infrastructure.

In addition, regional farming contributes decisively to the preservation of our cultural landscape. This contribution to land management, animal welfare and species protection must be valued more highly and must receive greater financial support. Furthermore, rapid and consistent measures are needed to protect farmers and their breeding stock from dangers and damage caused by wild animals.

## VIII – Cultural policy

*We preserve the cultural identity, regional diversity and customs of our country.*

Our cultural identity, particularly shaped by Christianity, the regional diversity as well as the traditions and customs of our country must be maintained and preserved. In the field of education, greater emphasis should be placed on communicating these aspects.

The strengthening of rural areas, including through the expansion of local infrastructure, is crucial. Rural areas in particular act as upholders of intangible cultural heritage.

Also, the promotion of (registered) associations, volunteer work and community life makes a decisive contribution to social cohesion. Volunteering should be rewarded with additional pension points for service to society.

## IX – Language policy

*We reject politically motivated interference in language evolution.*

The German language evolved organically into a globally respected cultural language of poets and thinkers. It is an elementary part of our identity. It must be protected, in particular against government interference by speech prohibitions or ideological guidelines.

‘Gendering’ and other types of grammatical and lexicographic virtue signalling serve to undemocratically manipulate the political convictions of the population by linguistic means.

In state institutions (especially in education), the German language is to be used in its natural form. In the private sector, speakers who use the German language in its natural form must not be discriminated against.

## X – Family policy

We make family (the foundation of society) a political priority again.

Family is where parents take care of children growing up in a sheltered environment, providing education and support. It is the foundation of society. Nevertheless, the concept of the traditional family has lost much of its political significance. Alternative lifestyles receive disproportionate attention.

For the purposes of family support, it must be ensured across the board that high-quality childcare facilities are available in sufficient numbers at low cost. Spending on childcare must be viewed as an investment in our future. As a pleasant side effect, a higher employment rate through the reconciliation of family and work also has a positive effect on government revenue.

The state and society as a whole are responsible for protecting children from neglect, exclusion and physical and psychological violence. To this end, we will develop policy concepts in cooperation with experts.

## XI – Pension policy

We stabilise the pension level and make it easier for citizens to make private provisions for old age.

Every citizen has a right to age with dignity. The standard of living of our pensioners must rise above social assistance levels in the interest of meritocracy.

Our current pay-as-you-go system is carried by families with children. In order to avert its collapse, it is necessary to create financial incentives in the pension system that reflect the contribution of families to system stability.

Due to demographic developments, the current pension system must be complemented by private old-age provision. For this purpose, we will, among other things, establish a sovereign wealth fund. This fund will enable broad sections of society to benefit from the profitability advantages of financial equity, without having to deal with complex investment strategies themselves. In addition, we will eliminate taxes and duties on private pension provision.

## XII – Health policy

We address the nursing crisis, even if that implies local financial burdens.

Our care system is in need of reform. We will make the nursing profession more attractive through acceptable workloads, good working conditions and adequate remuneration.

We are committed to establishing close-to-home and age-appropriate gerontological, nursing and social care services in the outpatient and day-care sector, which should be an equitable alternative to inpatient care.

In order to cover these measures, a needs-based permanent tax subsidy for long-term care insurance is indispensable. Particularly in view of the tax and duty burden reduction that we are calling for in many other areas, a care system concerned with the well-being of people justifies these expenses.

### **XIII – Pandemic policy**

**We rely on personal responsibility instead of coercive state measures with regard to Covid.**

We reject compulsory Covid vaccination, which, at best, serves self-protection purposes. Exercising coercion and interfering in fundamental freedoms to this end would amount to a fundamental violation of the principle of personal responsibility. Accordingly, facility-based vaccine mandates are disproportionate and must be rejected.

Since the coronavirus has now become endemic, other non-pharmaceutical interventions to prevent its spread are no longer effective. The priority must be placed on self-protection and personal responsibility. Only in institutions with special protection duties for vulnerable groups (for example hospitals or nursing homes), targeted restrictions may still be useful.

### **XIV – Education policy**

**We support the three-tier school system and dual education.**

Our nation's most important natural resource is our know-how. Neglecting the education and training of our children leads to an erosion of prosperity. As early as pre-school, it must be ensured that all children are sufficiently proficient in the German language to be able to follow lessons.

The tiered school system and special needs schools must be maintained in the interest of educational success for all (also for people with disabilities). The curricula must be decluttered and ideologically neutral – priority goes to STEM and other economically relevant subjects. In particular, it must be ensured that lessons actually take place by increasing the number of teaching staff and facilitating lateral entry.

The globally recognised dual education system must be further expanded and upgraded.



## **XV – Science policy**

We resolutely drive forward the further development of future technologies.

We call for a significant expansion of investments in the advancement of future technologies. Some technologies have the potential to become important determinants for economic prosperity and global influence before the end of this century. These include hydrogen technology, nuclear fusion, robotics and artificial intelligence. We must keep pace with large-scale technological developments.

Due to the high costs associated with the development of future technologies, research cooperation at the European level must be strengthened and Germany's role in cooperation projects must be expanded.

Research funding must be channelled into the most useful fields of science and funding applications must be approved more quickly. It is unacceptable that funding approvals occasionally take longer than one year.

## **XVI – Civic policy**

We increase citizen participation by introducing referenda at the federal level.

We view direct democracy and increased citizen participation at the federal level as an important addition to our representative democracy. This model is already successfully practised at the level of municipalities and in some federal states.

We will enable the population to actively participate in the legislative process at the federal level through optional or mandatory referenda (depending on the type of law).

## **XVII – Domestic & justice policy**

We will strengthen the judiciary in the interest of consistent law enforcement.

In principle, the existing laws in Germany are suitable for creating an environment of security and justice.

Unfortunately, the enforcement of those laws is drastically hampered by the excessive workload placed on the judiciary. It cannot be the case that sentencing for serious crimes takes several years.

The courts, the public prosecutor's offices and the police must be re-equipped in terms of personnel and finances in such a way that they can perform their duties properly. The judiciary and the police force should not be subject to cuts in funding.

It must also be ensured that consistent law enforcement is not made dependent on political considerations.

## XVIII – Migration policy

We support needs-oriented migration policies and clearly distinguish asylum from immigration.

Immigration is accepted when it is managed with regard to the economic needs and the integrative capacity of our society. This absolutely presupposes the legal compliance of immigrants and their willingness to integrate. The prevention of uncontrolled and illegal migration is a basic requisite for this.

The issue of asylum must be strictly separated from the issue of immigration. The facilitated entry conditions applicable to refugees must be accompanied by stricter and quicker eligibility checks in order to prevent abuse. Since refugee movements affect the whole of Europe, we must work towards a European solution that is viable for all and that places greater emphasis on local aid.

## XIX – European policy

We reorganise the European Union in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

Within the framework of the principle of subsidiarity, the European Union should decide as much as necessary and as little as possible in a centralised manner. In other words, the national level must have exclusive competence in policy areas that can reasonably be dealt with at national level. Centralised structures promote over-regulation and regulatory inefficiencies.

This principle is being flagrantly disregarded at the moment, seriously affecting the acceptance of the European Union. With this in mind, we explicitly call for the implementation of the fourth scenario (“doing less but more efficiently”) in the “White Paper on the Future of Europe” published by the European Commission in 2017.

The European Committee of the Regions also needs to be upgraded in order to decisively counteract centralisation tendencies in the EU. Regional identities and regional diversity in political preferences must be respected to a greater extent in the future.

## XX – Defence policy

We will strengthen the operational capacity of the Bundeswehr so Germany can become a strong ally.

We call for more appreciation for our parliamentary army. We stand for better, needs-oriented equipment, competent ministerial leadership and a solution to the structural problems of our armed forces. We will correct past mistakes so Germany can become a strong ally.

The defence budget, adequate in principle, must be put to efficient use. Restoring the ability of our armed forces to carry out its primary task, national defence, is a top priority.

It is imperative that the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Defence is sufficiently qualified considering its responsibilities. Germany should actively support the establishment of a well-equipped European security structure at the most modern level.

## XXI – Foreign policy

We stand for a foreign policy aligned with the actual interests of our country.

German foreign policy must serve the national interest within the framework of a European security architecture. This applies in particular to our foreign trade and economic policy.

With regard to conflict resolution, Germany's role should be that of an honest mediator whose word carries international weight, based on its commitment to Western values. Diplomacy must take precedence over foreign policy dogmatism. The fundamental goal of our foreign policy must be a world free of wars and crises.

## XXII – Climate policy

We call for a climate policy that is not about conscience-easing, but tangible results.

By its very nature, climate change is a global problem that can only be effectively addressed through international cooperation. There is no benefit to the climate if we destroy our economic foundations for ostensibly helpful, but ultimately ineffective measures.

In the interest of a real solution to the climate change issue, we will work to find global compromises with realistic aims that must be consistently implemented by all parties involved.

In Germany, priority must be given to climate change adaptation. This can only be achieved through innovation and technology, not through deindustrialisation.

The energy transition must also take into account environmental protection concerns like the preservation of natural landscapes and biodiversity. Climate policy measures must not endanger the equally important issue of environmental protection in our country.

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