



## **Introduction**

Germany is a strong country. Above all else, this is due to its citizens, who work hard every day to ensure that things will continue to run smoothly in the future.

- We have strong businesses, innovative start-ups and world-leading companies, outstanding researchers and one of the best healthcare and social welfare systems in the world.
- We are a country which is open to the world; a country which takes responsibility for ensuring security and peace, freedom and prosperity in Europe and worldwide.

The coronavirus pandemic has posed a big challenge to our country and its administration, however. We need to make a convincing new start once the pandemic is over. We want to make the 2020s into a modernising decade for our country.

- To do this, we want to emerge from the pandemic strongly and create a new sense of dynamism.
- We are committed to economic growth.
- We want to protect our climate and to ensure social security.

### **1. Germany's new responsibility in the world – for peace, freedom and human rights**

We are committed to working for a Germany which is open to the world and is able to shape global challenges together with our transatlantic and European partners. Our goal: security and peace, freedom and prosperity for the people of Germany.

- We will help shape global climate, trade, digital and security policy together with the USA and our partners in the democratic world.
- We will therefore increase defence spending to 2 percent of GDP.
- We will invest 0.7 percent of our gross national income in public development assistance.
- We stand up for human rights, religious freedom and people of the Christian faith who are persecuted.

## **2. A new global political capability – enthusiastically committed to a strong Europe**

We will work for a modern and competitive Europe. After all, Germany only does well if Europe also does well. We want faster decisions to be taken when European solutions are required.

- We stand for a responsible financial and budgetary policy. This is an area in which each member state must ultimately remain responsible for its own affairs. We will not agree to a transfer union.
- Europe is set to be the first climate-neutral continent. We will appoint an EU climate envoy to strengthen the foreign policy of the EU in this sphere.
- We want a European foreign and security policy which is effective and a joint EU seat on the United Nations Security Council.

## **3. The new prosperity – becoming a climate-neutral industrialised nation with sustainable growth**

We will get our economy moving again and ensure that there are secure and sustainable jobs. In doing so, we will combine sustainable growth with climate protection and social security.

- We stand for fair taxes and duties. We will therefore keep non-wage labour costs at a stable level of no more than 40 per cent.
- We aim to have a competitive rate of corporate taxation. In this respect, we want to cap the corporate tax rate at 25 percent in the long term in order to both secure jobs and create new jobs.
- We will relieve companies of the costs of bureaucracy which run into billions of euros.
- We will speed up planning and approval procedures and thereby bring about a major boost to processes of modernisation.
- We want greater flexibility in working hours and a maximum weekly working time rather than a daily one.

- Mini jobs mean flexibility for employers and employees in many medium-sized companies. We will increase the mini job limit from 450 euros to 550 euros per month.
- We want Germany to be climate neutral by 2045.
- We stand for affordable energy, and will return all receipts from emissions trading to people and businesses. For this purpose, we will abolish the EEG [*Renewable Energy Act*] surcharge.
- We will encourage the expansion of photovoltaics with a solar energy package.
- We are strengthening the circular economy and will provide incentives for the generation of less waste, the development of low-waste products and the improvement of the possibilities for reusing recycled raw materials.
- We are committed to modern mobility, and we will work to ensure that rapid charging stations can be reached within ten minutes in long-distance traffic throughout Germany.
- We will provide reliable support to agriculture in the framework of its ecological transformation. We will implement innovations quickly and encourage investment in animal welfare.

#### **4. New fairness and social security – for social cohesion**

We will work to ensure that we remain a cohesive society: for young people and the elderly, and the fortunate and the less fortunate members of society. This is an area in which we draw inspiration from our Christian beliefs: individual freedom and social responsibility are not mutually exclusive, but mutually dependent. By applying the principles of the social market economy, we will ensure financial security for the elderly and a new start for private, state-subsidised pensions. Each person in our country should receive decent medical and nursing care.

- We will develop the Social Advisory Council further so that it becomes the Social Advisory Council for the Elderly, and prevent double taxation.
- For those on modest incomes in particular, we want to develop a concept of “occupational pension schemes for all” so as to further strengthen this mainstay of the pension system.

- To improve the social security available to the self-employed, we want to introduce compulsory pension provision for all self-employed persons who are not already covered by other means.
- We need a new start in the area of private, state-subsidised pension provision. To this end, we will establish criteria for a standard pension product.
- We want to develop a concept to establish a new form of pension provision which is funded by equity in Germany. To this end, a generational pension can be a good building block for pension provision from birth. We will examine how the generation pension can be designed with a state monthly contribution which is invested in a pension fund – with protection against state access.
- We want to ramp up vocational training and further education for job seekers.
- Young people in needy communities should be able to earn more.
- We will ensure the reliable provision of public services in towns, cities and rural areas. Everyone must have a digital access to a GP, specialist or dentist, emergency healthcare, pharmacies, midwives, physiotherapists or medical supply stores that is also close to home.
- Germany was once considered the “pharmacy of the world”. We want to build on this success story. We will continue to strengthen the health and care sector as a leading mainstay of the German economy.
- We will extend the collective long-term care fund until 2050.
- We will create needs-based supply structures in nursing care. We want to provide additional relief for people who care for relatives at home.
- We want to provide another 500 million euros to ramp up automated solutions and digitalisation in the care sector.

##### **5. New generational justice in finances and taxes – a responsible approach for our children and grandchildren**

We will make sure that the burden is relieved on people who work hard and achieve a lot. Hard work must be worthwhile. We will relieve the burden on our businesses and help them to remain competitive. At the same time, we want to get out of debt as quickly as possible.

- We stand for sound finances, and are committed to the constitutional debt limit.
- We want to achieve a balanced budget without adding new debts as quickly as possible, and to reduce the national debt of Germany to less than 60 percent of GDP.
- We will gradually abolish the solidarity surcharge for all. At the same time, we want to reduce the income tax burden on lower and middle incomes.
- We are against placing additional burdens on taxpayers, such as the reintroduction of the wealth tax or an increase in inheritance tax.
- We are strengthening the building of assets. To this end, we will improve employee equity participation, expand capital-forming benefits and increase the saver's lump-sum allowance and the employee's savings allowance.
- We will ensure that tax returns, all applications and correspondence can be completed online.
- We want to strengthen families financially on a targeted basis and to maintain the married couple's tax allowance. To take children into account in a positive way, over the long term, we will work towards achieving recognition of the full tax-free amount for children, and therefore, a tax allowance for children.
- We have also doubled the tax relief for single parents to 4,008 euros. We want to increase this further to 5,000 euros over the long term.

## **6. A new promise of advancement – for Germany as a country of opportunity and family**

We will make life easier for families by providing them with financial relief. At the same time, we promise to further improve the work / family life balance, and to encourage equal opportunities for women and men. Everyone should be able to build something for themselves through their efforts, hard work and diligence, and strive for their personal happiness. This promise of advancement must apply to everyone, regardless of their background or social circumstances. Through education, we want to make advancement possible for all, and in doing so, we are committed to our time-proven federal educational system.

- We want to use working time accounts as family time accounts for achieving a work / family life balance. We want to extend the parental allowance to 16 months for partners.
- We will work to make executive level positions more family-friendly as well.
- We will encourage home ownership: for first-time buyers of an owner-occupied home, a tax-free allowance of EUR 250,000 per parent plus EUR 100,000 per child will be provided for the land transfer tax.
- We want to simplify family benefits as far as possible. These should be available to families digitally and from one single source.
- We want decent language education for every child. Every primary school child must be able to speak German before starting school.
- After the coronavirus pandemic, no child or young person should be left behind. We will therefore make one billion euros available to the federal states to support after-school tuition. We will also help children and young people to cope with the psychological consequences of the pandemic with another one billion euros.
- The equal value of vocational and academic education is a matter which is close to our hearts. We will therefore again place greater emphasis on training young people as skilled workers and craftsmen in order to effectively remedy the shortage of skilled workers in these areas.
- We want to make the *BAföG* student grants system more flexible and develop it into an instrument of individual support for education and further training over the course of a person's life.
- To strengthen the digital teaching and learning opportunities, we want to link existing and new digital education platforms into a nationwide platform system which is compatible across Europe.
- When children are victims of violence, they need our collective help. We want to establish facilities for the initial care of children throughout Germany which combine medical and psychological emergency care with the recording of legally-usable findings and forensic interviews with the victims.
- We want to develop a comprehensive strategy against loneliness – in all areas and at all levels.

## **7. A new courage for innovation – from responsibility for the future**

The issues of the future will be accorded unprecedented importance in the new federal government by creating the framework conditions for an unprecedented culture of innovation, research and entrepreneurship.

- We will strengthen research and innovation. By 2025, we want to spend 3.5 percent of our gross domestic product on research and development.
- We want more innovation through research: we doubled tax incentives for research during the pandemic. Their tax basis is to be doubled again to EUR 8 million per business.
- We will ensure better conditions for spin-offs from science, and will remove hurdles with an Innovation Freedom Act.
- We want to encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship and allow business to be set up online within 24 hours.
- We want to build a competitive quantum computer in Germany by 2025.
- We also want to enable small and medium-sized business to make better use of the findings from the field of AI research. For this purpose, AI pilots will visit companies on site and support them in developing their AI potential.
- We want to establish a national agency for biomedical research and development by 2025, which will help to bring together and network the value added chains from the initial research through to the market launch for therapies, vaccines and drugs.
- We will build up the Leap Innovation Agency (SPRIND), which was established in 2019, on a non-departmental basis and make it into a genuine laboratory.
- Our goal is to ensure that investments in start-ups are not taxed until profits are made from the investments or the shares are sold. We also want to significantly improve the ease of transferring shares to employees.
- We will create a new Federal Ministry for Digital Innovation and Transformation to coordinate the modernisation of the state on a centralised basis.
- For data to become a driver of innovation, the data infrastructures must become more powerful, the use of data more extensive, and data sharing more intensive.

Data security and data protection are the cornerstones for ensuring trust in digital solutions.

## **8. New efficiency for a modern state – for the benefit of our citizens**

We will ensure a reliable, efficient state and make its administration simpler and more user-friendly.

- We are committed to speedy administration. We believe in the principle of the digital right of way: everything that can be done digitally should be done digitally. Everything that can be standardised should be standardised.
- Anyone requesting a service from an administrative body should be able to complete all the formalities at a single point.
- We want our citizens to be able to identify themselves easily with the electronic ID card.
- The principle of subsidiarity should be applied consistently. We want to achieve this by reforming federalism and forging a new pact for the future between the federal government, the federal states and the local authorities.
- In the 19th parliamentary term, the Bundestag will have passed approximately 500 laws. In the next parliamentary term, we want to reduce the number of laws by 20 percent.
- With the mobile communications infrastructure company that we have launched, we will create a nationwide 5G network throughout Germany by 2025 and provide a total of 15 billion euros for gigabit networks by 2025.

## **9. New strength for greater security – due to our responsibility for our freedom**

We want the people in our country to be able to rely on a life of security and freedom: whether at home, on the road or in the public square, on buses or trains, by day or night, analogue or digital. The people of Germany rightly expect a strong state to protect them. We will continue to work together to achieve this. In doing so, we follow the three priorities of more staff, better equipment and up-to-date expertise and authority.

- We want to better protect police officers and emergency services personnel. To this end, we will increase the minimum sentence for assault to 6 months.
- We will provide for more security by more CCTV protection in public places that are considered dangerous.
- We will continue to fight against child sexual abuse with all of our efforts. We want to provide better early-stage protection, including through an education and awareness campaign. We want to expand the use of electronic ankle tags for sex offenders.
- We want to continue our work on the creation of a regulation at the European level for the storage and retrieval of telephone numbers and IP addresses which is in conformity with fundamental rights and which allows for the use of data retention as the most effective weapon in the fight against child abuse.
- We stand for a zero tolerance strategy against organised crime. We want to fight money laundering even more effectively and, in conformity with the constitution, ensure that a complete reversal of the burden of proof will apply in the future in the case of assets of unclear origin.
- We will take consistent action against extremism, violence and terrorism. This includes bans on anti-constitutional organisations and associations, bans on symbols of hatred and terror, bans on entry and residence, expulsions, deportations and forfeitures of fundamental rights. We want to make the solicitation of sympathy for criminal or terrorist groups a punishable offence once again.
- We are improving IT security and will support the German economy in providing even better protection against cyber attacks.
- We resolutely oppose the rise of anti-Semitism in our country and will call out and fight anti-Semitism. We will also take decisive action against Islamophobia, anti-Romani sentiment and other forms of racism.
- We want to reintroduce a democracy declaration for those receiving funding in our public service. The recipients of funding must make a clear and explicit commitment to our freedom-based democratic system.
- We want to bring an end to the increasingly coarse use of language and political debate – with every means which is available in a constitutional state and a self-confident democratic society. Where necessary, we want the law enforcement

authorities to be able to initiate investigations into particularly serious cases without having to report them.

- We want to strengthen our security agencies. We want to adapt the requirements for source tapping and online searches – for both the prevention of danger and criminal prosecution – throughout Germany, so that these instruments can be used on a legally secure and effective basis.
- We stand for closer networking and interlinking of all stakeholders in civil protection at the federal, state and local levels and with aid organisations.
- A rapid response by the police, public prosecutors and the courts to criminal offences is of key importance. We believe it is particularly important to speed up the juvenile justice process, especially for delinquent youths.

#### **10. A new quality of life in towns and the country – for the love of our homeland**

We will work to achieve a good quality of life everywhere in Germany. Whether it is a big-city neighbourhood, a small town or a village: we believe in respecting and nurturing all places. For us, quality of life isn't a question of postcode, but a universal mission which we take seriously because we are committed to creating equal living conditions throughout Germany.

- We want to create new housing with tax incentives for the construction of rental housing and by encouraging social housing. Our goal is to build more than 1.5 million new homes by 2025.
- We will enable the federal states to grant an exemption from the land transfer tax for first-time buyers of owner-occupied homes of 250,000 euros per adult plus 100,000 euros per child.
- We will expand the KfW home ownership programme for families. Those who have children will be able to benefit more. To this end, loans, repayment subsidies or reductions in interest rates should be staggered according to the number of children.
- We will speed up planning and approval procedures and, together with the federal states, remove hurdles to implementation. We want to significantly reduce the number of building codes.

- After the pandemic, we want to bring new life to the inner cities – with attractive shopping areas, space for art and culture and green recreational areas.
- We will ensure strong rural areas and create model regions with less bureaucracy and good conditions for new business start-ups. We will make a point of locating public authorities in structurally weak regions. And we want to set up home agencies to actively recruit young people and families to rural areas.
- We want to ensure the provision of modern medicine and improve medical care with 5,000 new places for medical students, an increased quota of rural doctors and the expansion of telemedicine.
- The peaceful revolution and German unity have now celebrated their 30th anniversary. In recent years, the citizens of eastern Germany have successfully risen to the challenge of the profound social and economic upheavals, with many regions having become strong clusters for business and science. We want to strengthen this further and to support rural regions at the same time.
- We support the compromise that has been agreed on coal. The lignite regions, the energy companies affected, the suppliers and, above all, the employees can rely on us.
- We stand for networked mobility and shall expand the transport network with railways, roads and safe cycle paths.
- Our goal is to ensure a basic public transport service that meets demand everywhere – including in rural areas. We therefore want to create a nationwide minimum standard which guarantees equal, barrier-free and simple access to public transport to everyone.
- To preserve the natural foundations of life, habitats and species, we want to maintain and further develop our protected areas and improve their interconnectedness.
- We want to further increase the attractiveness of the voluntary services – by making changes to allowances, ensuring a wide-ranging offer and a high quality of the offers – and to introduce a legal entitlement.
- Anyone who lives in Germany is part of our society. It is important to us that migrant people are able to participate in all areas of our society. Their integration is also a prerequisite for social cohesion. In particular, we want to encourage language

learning and support new business start-ups by entrepreneurs who have a migrant background.

- We will strengthen the work of the associations that work on behalf of displaced Germans and German emigrants who are now living in Germany and the associated cultural heritage work with future-proof funding. We will comply with the legally-guaranteed admission of displaced Germans who have recently returned to Germany and continue to provide support with their integration. We will fight poverty in old age and pension disadvantages among displaced Germans living in Germany and who have recently returned to Germany.
- We will continue our successful cultural policy in the municipalities, the federal states and above all else in the federal government, with the participation of the cultural associations.
- The further development of a varied media system consisting of press, broadcasting and online offerings remains a central component of our media policy.
- We are committed to strong, independent public broadcasting. We advocate a reform of the public broadcasting mandate which takes account of technological advances and changes in user behaviour.
- We will support the development of sports in all areas and, above all else, expand preventive healthcare. We will reduce the renovation backlog of municipal and club-owned sports facilities and swimming pools on a sustainable basis, with a special focus on energy-efficient renovation, accessibility and digitalisation.



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