

Germany

You represent the German government at the negotiations on the Treaty of Lisbon. On the agenda for today are the discussions on the implementation of the Qualified Majority Voting and the extension of a combined foreign and security policy.

Qualified Majority Voting

A system of voting based on the qualified majority, which is the number of votes required in the Council. The Lisbon Treaty introduced a new system known as “double majority”. This abolishes the weighting of votes. Qualified majority is now achieved if it covers at least 55% of the member states representing at least 65% of the population. Blocking minority: At least four member states representing at least 35% of the population.

Your position

The German government is clearly in favour of this change, as it will give you more power. For you, the *QMV* is one of the most important parts of this Treaty and you won't be easily convinced should any other government speak out against it.

CFSP – Common Defense and Security Policy

The Lisbon Treaty outlines many opportunities that allow for closer cooperation in Foreign and Security Policy. These measures reach from mechanisms for easier decision-making processes, over rapid access to appropriations in the budget to the possibility of a European Army.

Your position

You are in favour of this policy. The government believes in an increased integration on the topics of Foreign and Security Policy. In the aftermath of the Iraq-War Germany is more hesitant to take part in military action. A European Solution would give you the option to hand over responsibility. Yet, you don't want to completely undermine national sovereignty on this topic. You are willing to listen to the other nations and to find a compromise, that can work for all countries.

Background

Public Opinion – The Eurobarometer

QA16.7 Trust in the European Union.

“I tend to trust it.”

Germany: 56% vs. EU27: 57%

QA15.2 Trust in the European Commission.

“I tend to trust it.”

Germany: 49% vs. EU27: 52%

QA22a Information level in the own Country.

"The people in my country are well informed about European political affairs."

Germany: 26% vs. EU27: 22%

QA19 To which extent do you agree with the statement: "Every European decision is the subject of negotiations in which the opinions of the national government of all member states are taken into account."?

"I agree."

Germany: 66% vs. EU27: 63%

QA27.3: Opinion on a common defence policy among the EU Member States.

"I am for it."

Germany: 87% vs. EU27: 77%

The German Parliament

Germany does not have to call a referendum, but the Treaty has to be passed in the German Bundestag.

The Government: Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel

CDU/CSU (Conservative Party): 35,2%

SPD (Social Democrats): 34,2%

The Opposition:

FDP (Liberal Democrats): 9,8%

PDS (Socialists): 8,7%

Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Green Party): 8,1%