**The situation in the morning**

**It's too Christmas**

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Dear reader, good morning,

Today we are concerned with the Christmas sentimentality of German politics. The energetic final sprint of the US President. And the precarious situation of the CDU.

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**It's too Christmas**

In order to shut down Germany from Monday, numerous state cabinets are meeting today. You should decide on the **new corona measures** agreed on Wednesday . There are also special sessions of several state parliaments and government declarations by various prime ministers. [The "Lockdown Light" is being converted into regulations today.](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/corona-angela-merkel-und-die-ministerpraesidenten-beschliessen-shutdown-light-a-2ecb7ed1-87ea-4fc1-85d5-8e563431d968)

I think the strategy of shutting down parts of our social life for a clearly defined period of time (the month of November) is appropriate in view of the high number of infections. The Robert Koch Institute reported [more than 18,600 new infections](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/coronavirus-robert-koch-institut-meldet-mehr-als-18-600-neue-faelle-a-cc82cc64-5e4e-4858-8908-1eb18ed08007) on Friday morning compared to Thursday. **What bothers me is the reason** : Angela Merkel, Markus Söder, Armin Laschet and Co. talk incessantly about **"Christmas"** these days . Do all of this now so that you can at least celebrate a nice Christmas! With all the love for the festival: I consider this form of motivation to be under-complex.

How about: "We want to prevent the death of many fellow human beings! We want to prevent the loss of jobs - by briefly stepping on the brakes now, so as not to languish socially and economically for months with high numbers of infections and permanent concern about overloading the health system." That would be a more logical motivation than the rampant Christmas sentimentality. And I say that as an avowed Catholic.

* [This is how the shutdown negotiations went: After 90 minutes, there was agreement](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/coronavirus-so-wurde-der-shutdown-plan-verhandelt-a-d921caf6-41de-4a50-be53-54435b0f36df)

**Donald the grasshopper**

Donald Trump at yesterday's campaign event in Florida

Photo: Ivy Ceballo / imago images / ZUMA Wire

In the last few days **before the presidential election next Tuesday,** Donald Trump is lashing through the country like Flip, the grasshopper. Or better: through the **swing states** . These are the few US states that matter in presidential elections. In all the other states, Republicans and Democrats could run for president with a scarecrow - it wouldn't change the result. Yesterday in Florida, Trump wants to perform in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota today. In [any case, he is not](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-setzt-im-us-wahlkampf-auf-den-sieg-in-letzter-minute-a-9f90e211-d241-4980-9f4f-e720fb451325) lacking in vigor [in the final sprint for political survival](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-setzt-im-us-wahlkampf-auf-den-sieg-in-letzter-minute-a-9f90e211-d241-4980-9f4f-e720fb451325) .

Yesterday he was also able to announce positive news on his own behalf. The fact that the US economy grew faster than ever in the third quarter of this year shows how well he is doing this country. So he celebrated himself. Of course , he left out the hint that his **abstruse Corona management** had previously contributed to the dramatic collapse of the economy.

As a precaution, I continue to assume that Trump will be re-elected. Anything else would then be a pleasant surprise.

* [Hate, culture clash, discord: what remains of Trump - even if he has to go](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-was-von-ihm-bleibt-selbst-wenn-er-gehen-muss-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173743533)

**"Markus Söder takes a relaxed look at it"**

The three candidates for the CDU party chairmanship: Röttgen, Laschet and Merz

Photo: ADAM BERRY / POOL / EPA-EFE / Shutterstock

The fact that the candidates for the **CDU party chairmanship are** not really green [has been](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/friedrich-merz-nach-absage-von-cdu-parteitag-der-wuetende-kandidat-a-eab90881-6efc-49f4-bc3c-fe17dbd02264) evident at the latest [since the poisonous testimony by Friedrich Merz](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/friedrich-merz-nach-absage-von-cdu-parteitag-der-wuetende-kandidat-a-eab90881-6efc-49f4-bc3c-fe17dbd02264) after the CDU party conference planned for December 4th was canceled. "I have clear indications that Armin Laschet has given the motto: He needs more time to improve his performance. I also clearly lead in all surveys. If it were different, there would certainly have been another choice this year ", explained Merz in a" Welt "interview and [later tweeted his quote to the world himself](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://twitter.com/_FriedrichMerz/status/1320776592143142914) - so that everyone would notice.

My colleagues Florian Gathmann, Christoph Hickmann and Veit Medick have now reconstructed **how the meeting between the three applicants and the party leadership went on the previous Sunday** . The text is, so to speak, the prehistory of Merz's eruption and reveals the mutual distrust of those who want to lead the party and the country in the future. And the helplessness of those who are still supposed to lead the CDU but can no longer do it. If what is currently happening did not have a certain entertainment value, one could almost feel sorry for the CDU. "I don't do anything with the press," said Merz at the end of the five-hour meeting, which ended without a peaceful agreement. And followed up with a threat. If Laschet chats from the meeting or hits stakes, "then I will follow suit".

"As long as we do not have a chairman, we as the CDU can **not propose a candidate for chancellor,** " Norbert Röttgen is said to have said at the meeting on Sunday. "Markus Söder takes a relaxed look at it." Röttgen is right there.

The last time the CDU stumbled around plucked and without a leader (between 2000 and 2002), the chairman of **the sister party CSU was allowed to run for chancellor** . Edmund Stoiber lost, the CDU recovered and established a long era of female chancellors under Angela Merkel's leadership.

* [CDU summit: five hours of self-destruction - the protocol](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/cdu-machtkampf-fuenf-stunden-selbstzerstoerung-das-protokoll-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173743552)

**Winner of the day ...**

FDP politician Konstantin Kuhle, 2018

Photo: Monika Skolimowska / dpa

... is the FDP politician **Konstantin Kuhle** . After the gruesome knife attack by an Islamist terrorist in Nice, killing three people and seriously injuring the other, interior expert Kuhle spontaneously registered a memorial meeting in front of the French embassy on Pariser Platz. Many people followed the call for a minute's silence to mourn the victims of Islamist terror in Nice, Paris or Dresden. According to a public announcement, this includes Juso boss Kevin Kühnert, who recently complained in a [guest article for SPIEGEL](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/kevin-kuehnert-ueber-islamismus-die-politische-linke-sollte-ihr-schweigen-beenden-a-5133948b-bac7-490a-a56a-a42d87a62532) that the political left in Germany unfortunately cannot find words for Islamist terror. And have to "deal with this blind spot". In any case, this activity does not fail at Kühnert.

**The latest news from the night**

* **Walmart clears weapons and ammunition from the shelves ahead of the US election:** "For the safety of employees and customers": A few days before the polls in the USA, Walmart removes all weapons from its sales rooms. [But you can still buy them](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/unternehmen/walmart-raeumt-vor-us-wahl-waffen-und-munition-aus-den-regalen-a-b3c1e436-76b8-4062-bf7b-1303ed262c78)
* **Scarlett Johansson got married:** An intimate ceremony taking the Corona rules into account: the actress and US comedian Colin Jost said yes - [and took the opportunity to appeal for donations](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/panorama/leute/scarlett-johansson-und-colin-jost-haben-geheiratet-jost-married-a-7a85f4a8-c615-40e7-9a48-a8a78144248c)
* **Dude, there's still room for improvement:** Ariane Alter doesn't even try to inherit Jan Böhmermann on the old slot for "Neo Magazin Royale". ["Late Night Age" has a new approach, but less ambitious](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/kultur/tv/late-night-alter-neues-format-bei-zdfneo-da-ist-noch-luft-nach-oben-a-10c3f1b9-a527-4a00-b61d-84125d4e169a)