## The location in the morning

## It's too late.

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Dear reader, good morning,

today we deal with the Christmas spirit of German politics. The energy-charged final sprint of the US President. And the precarious situation of the CDU.

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### It's too late.

In order to shut down Germany from Monday onwards, numerous national cabinets come together today. They should adopt the **new Corona measures** agreed on Wednesday. In addition, there are special meetings of several Landtage and government declarations of various Prime Ministers. [The "Lockdown Light" will be translated into regulations today.](https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/corona-angela-merkel-und-die-ministerpraesidenten-beschliessen-shutdown-light-a-2ecb7ed1-87ea-4fc1-85d5-8e563431d968)

I believe that the strategy to shut down parts of our social life for a clearly defined period (the month of November) is appropriate given the high level of infection. On Friday morning, the Robert Koch Institute reported [more than 18,600 new infections](https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/coronavirus-robert-koch-institut-meldet-mehr-als-18-600-neue-faelle-a-cc82cc64-5e4e-4858-8908-1eb18ed08007) to Thursday. **What bothers me is the reason:** Angela Merkel, Markus Söder, Armin Laschet and Co. are constantly talking about these days: **"Christmas."** You do all this now to at least be able to celebrate Christmas! With all love for the feast: I consider this form of motivation to be sub-complex.

How about: "We want to prevent the death of many people! We want to prevent the loss of jobs - by stepping on the brakes for a short time now, in order to prevent high levels of infection and permanent worry about overloading the health system socially and economically for months to come." That would be a more logical motivation than the just rampant Christmas excitement. And I say that as a confessing Catholic.

* [That's how the shutdown negotiations went: After 90 minutes already there was unity](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 Florida campaign event

Photo: Ivy Ceballo / imago images/ZUMA Wire

In the last days **before the presidential election next Tuesday,** Donald Trump is whipping through the country like Flip, the grasshopper. Or better: through the **Swing States.** These are the few U.S. states that matter in presidential elections. In all the other states, Republicans and Democrats could also compete with a scarecrow as presidential candidate - it would not change the result. Yesterday in Florida Trump wants to perform today in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In [any case,](https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-setzt-im-us-wahlkampf-auf-den-sieg-in-letzter-minute-a-9f90e211-d241-4980-9f4f-e720fb451325) he [does not](https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-setzt-im-us-wahlkampf-auf-den-sieg-in-letzter-minute-a-9f90e211-d241-4980-9f4f-e720fb451325) lack Elan [in the final sprint for political survival.](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. The fact that the US economy has grown as strongly in the third quarter of this year as never before shows how well it is doing this country. So he celebrated himself. Of course, he let go of the evidence that his **abstruse Corona management** had previously contributed to the dramatic collapse of the economy.

I continue to assume, as a precaution, that Trump will be re-elected. Everything else would be a pleasant surprise.

* [Hatred, cultural struggle, discord: What remains of Trump - even if he has to leave](https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-was-von-ihm-bleibt-selbst-wenn-er-gehen-muss-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173743533)

### "Markus Söder looks at this relaxed"



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

Photo: ADAMBERRY/POOL/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

The fact that the candidates for the **CDU party presidency** are not really green is obvious [at](https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/friedrich-merz-nach-absage-von-cdu-parteitag-der-wuetende-kandidat-a-eab90881-6efc-49f4-bc3c-fe17dbd02264) the latest [since Friedrich Merz's poisonous statement,](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 congress planned for December 4 was cancelled. "I have clear indications that Armin Laschet has issued the motto: He needs more time to improve his performance. I also have a clear lead in all the surveys. If it were different, there would certainly have been another choice this year," Merz explained in a "world" interview and [later tweeted his quote himself into the world](https://twitter.com/_FriedrichMerz/status/1320776592143142914) - so that everyone could get it.

My colleagues Florian Gathmann, Christoph Hickmann and Veit Medick have now reconstructed **how the meeting of the three candidates with the party leader took place last Sunday.** The text is, in a sense, 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 to lead the CDU, but can no longer. If what is happening at the moment did not have a certain entertainment value, the CDU could almost be sorry. "I'm not doing anything with the press," Merz said at the end of the five-hour meeting, which ended without peaceful agreement. And followed a threat. When lashet chats out of the session or knocks in stakes, "then I'll move in".

"As long as we don't have a chairman, we as CDU **can't propose a candidate for chancellor,"** said Norbert Röttgen at the meeting on Sunday. "Markus Söder looks at this very relaxed." I guess Röttgen's right.

The last time the CDU was romping around without leadership (between 2000 and 2002), the chairman **of the sister party CSU** was left **with the chancellor's candidacy.** Edmund Stoiber lost, the CDU overtook each other again and founded a long female chancellor era under Angela Merkel's leadership.

* [CDU Summit: Five hours of self-destruct - the protocol](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 Skolimovska/ dpa

...is the FDP politician **Konstantin Kuhle.** After the cruel stabbing attack of an Islamist terrorist in Nice, to whom three people fell victim and who further seriously injured, internal expert Kuhle spontaneously announced a memorial meeting in front of the French Embassy in Paris Square. Many people followed the call for a minute's silence to mourn the victims of Islamist terror in Nice, Paris or Dresden. Among them, after public announcement, also Juso boss Kevin Kühnert, who had recently complained in a [guest contribution for the SPIEGEL,](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 any words for Islamist terror. And "have to deal with this blind spot." At any rate, Kühnert does not fail in this occupation.

### The latest news from the night

* **Before the US election, Walmart clears weapons and ammunition from the shelves:** "For the safety of employees and customers": A few days before the Urnengang in the USA, Walmart removes all weapons from its sales rooms. [But you can still buy it](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 married:** An intimate ceremony taking into account the Corona rules: The actress and the US comedian Colin Jost said yes - [and took the opportunity to make a donation call](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 air up there.** On the old station of "Neo Magazin Royale" Ariane Alter does not even try to inherit Jan Böhmermann. ["Late Night Age" has a new approach, but less ambition](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)