

Preamble

Germany is no longer what it was just a few decades ago: a modern industrial state that was valued abroad for its medium-sized world market leaders and its highly trained specialists, its good public infrastructure and health care, its efficient administrations, its low crime rate and its high degree of social cohesion.

Many people in Germany today live with fear of decline and worries about their existence. They are worried about the decline in our industry, the shortage of teachers, doctors and nursing staff, the lack of security in old age, the loss of control over migration and the growing threat of war. The high prices and rising rents are calling their modest prosperity into question. Many people today feel unsafe in their own country.

The parties of the failed traffic light coalition bear particular responsibility for the situation that has arisen.

But the CDU's 16 years as chancellor have already set the course for decline. Our country is at a turning point: the next election period will decide whether Germany will remain in the league of leading industrial nations in the future or whether it will be irrevocably relegated because it will lose important industries and thus the basis of its prosperity.

At the same time, everything must be done to prevent Germany from being drawn into a war. Today's world is characterised by tensions, conflicts and an increasing number of wars, in which nuclear powers are also involved.

Germany is now one of the largest arms exporters to war zones and is thus partly responsible for suffering and death. Even here in Germany, more and more resources are being invested in armaments and we are supposed to get used to the idea that war will come to us at some point. We want to stop this madness! Our country cannot become "war-ready" because we would not survive a major European war in the nuclear age. The BSW is the only peace party in the German Bundestag that consistently rejects the current arms buildup and arms deliveries to war zones. Instead of a new arms race, we need serious efforts to resolve conflicts diplomatically and new treaties on arms control and common security.

The BSW presents an election program for a new political beginning in 2025: For a Germany in which citizens feel comfortable and safe again, in which schools provide education for life and every sick person can find a good doctor, in which the hardworking are rewarded and not the heirs, a country in which effort once again enables advancement and politics makes people's lives easier and not harder.

might.

We want to stop the impending deindustrialization by reducing energy prices through a sensible energy policy, promoting innovation in a technology-neutral manner, modernizing our dilapidated infrastructure through a reform of the debt brake and relieving small and medium-sized businesses of bureaucratic requirements.

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The crises of recent years have put pressure on the working middle class, while the wealth of the top ten thousand has continued to grow. Wealth inequality in Germany is as great as it was when Germany was still ruled by an emperor. A society in which the most powerful are only motivated to make more money from money loses its social cohesion.

We want to increase the minimum wage to 15 euros, strengthen collective bargaining, introduce citizen insurance instead of today's two-tier healthcare system and a pension system based on the Austrian model, where the average pensioner receives a good 800 euros more per month. We also want to exempt pensions up to 2,000 euros from tax.

We need a well-thought-out climate and environmental policy that takes climate change seriously, but does not get lost in haphazard activism and burn billions of euros of taxpayers' money in the process. Relying solely on energy-intensive technologies such as electric cars and heat pumps without a concept of where

especially in winter, the electricity for this will come from at all, does not lead to a climate-neutral economy, but

into a blackout. Not to mention the question of how people without a lot of money are supposed to pay for all of this. We demand the repeal of the combustion engine ban and the heating law.

Our goal is safe streets and squares, through more police officers and a stop to irregular migration. We want to address the injustice of the Corona period, compensate for the consequences of vaccinations and refund fines that were imposed due to the Corona rules. We want to strengthen direct democracy, defend diversity of opinion and protect personal freedom.

On February 23rd, a decision on direction will be made.

In a world full of conflict and instability, Germany must focus on its interests and its

We don't need billionaires to rule like in America, nor politicians who are making the crisis worse with the failed recipes of recent years. The German model for success must be a social market economy, with a strong middle class, strong unions and workers' rights, social cohesion, justice instead of greed, opportunities for advancement and prosperity for all who make an effort, and the common good before commerce when it comes to existential issues: health, care, housing or education.

German democracy relies on competition between parties, but the Basic Law does not require that only those who have previously worked their way up in a party can be considered for government personnel. The situation is serious, so it is time for a cabinet of experts who are actually concerned about the well-being of our country and not about their subsequent employment in the economy and who can restore the lost trust in the state and democracy.

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1st Peace

We live in a time of upheaval, associated with increasing tensions and conflicts that are increasingly leading to war and violence. The era of Western global hegemony is over; the war in Ukraine and the Western reaction to it have accelerated its end. The United States, as a declining superpower, is fighting for its influence in the world, mostly without regard for its allies. The European Union currently seems incapable of representing European interests. Russia

is defending itself against Western military installations in its periphery. China is fighting for global influence as an emerging economic power and is leading the increasingly self-confident BRICS alliance, which more and more countries are joining. Over a third of global industrial production now comes from China.

The battle for spheres of influence, raw materials and markets is being waged by all sides using economic, intelligence and, increasingly, military means. The conflict is still being fought primarily through proxy wars. But the danger of a direct military confrontation between nuclear powers is perhaps greater than ever before in the history of mankind.

A new arms race has begun, now that almost all treaties on arms control and confidence-building measures have expired or been terminated. The increase in armaments is consuming ever more resources and increasing the risk of war instead of reducing it. This also applies to the risk of a catastrophe triggered by a misunderstanding or a computer error. We want to stop this dangerous development.

relaxation and shared security

The logic of war and armed violence determines international relations. German foreign policy has also been speaking the language of war for several years. It seems to have seen its role in supporting military conflicts through arms deliveries, economic sanctions and the spreading of enemy images. Diplomacy has become a foreign word in the German Foreign Ministry.

- We are the only consistent peace party in the German Bundestag with the aim of putting German foreign policy back in the service of a policy of détente, balancing of interests and international cooperation in the tradition of Willy Brandt. The BSW sees itself as part of the German and international peace movement.

- We want Germany to live up to its historical responsibility from two world wars. Peace must emanate from German soil.

We therefore advocate a foreign policy that takes the security interests of all seriously, rejects military force and seeks to resolve conflicts not through weapons but through negotiations based on mutual respect, in accordance with the UN Charter.

- We fundamentally reject the resolution of conflicts by military means.

We are resisting the fact that more and more resources are being spent on weapons and military equipment instead of on the education of our children, research into environmentally friendly technologies or our health and care facilities. Nuclear armament and escalating conflicts between nuclear powers are putting the survival of humanity at risk and must be stopped.

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A military alliance whose leading power has invaded five countries in violation of international law over the past three decades and killed at least 1 million people in these wars fuels feelings of threat and defensive reactions and is partly responsible for growing tensions and conflicts.

- - Instead of an instrument of power for geopolitical goals, we need a defensive alliance that respects the principles of the UN Charter, strives for disarmament instead of committing to rearmament, and in which the members meet on an equal footing.
- - Europe needs a stable security architecture, which in the long term should also include Russia.
- - We are the only party in the Bundestag to advocate disarmament and comprehensive arms controls and call for a ban on arms exports to war zones.
- - We are also striving for a long-term restructuring of economic structures in the armaments industry. The security of the population must not be subordinated to profit interests.
We therefore demand that profits from arms companies should not be distributed to shareholders.

We support the general ban on all nuclear weapons proposed by the UN and strive for a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

We are committed to ensuring that Germany plays a mediating role in a multipolar world. We are committed to strengthening the United Nations and giving the countries of the Global South a greater say.

Capable of Peace rather than War

In the nuclear age, one cannot become warlike. We are very concerned about the attempts being made to

to get used to the idea that war will come to us again at some point and that we can prepare for it. This currently refers above all to a possible war with Russia.

However, Russia is far inferior to NATO and even the European NATO states in all conventional weapons, as a recent study by Greenpeace has shown in detail. A military conflict with Russia would therefore inevitably escalate to nuclear weapons.

But more tanks and fighter jets will not help against nuclear weapons, nor will bunkers or training companies on how to support troops moving to the Eastern Front in the event of war.

- A nuclear conflict would make large parts of Europe and especially Germany uninhabitable.

This must be prevented at all costs. That is why we are committed to ensuring that Germany joins the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The nuclear weapons stationed in Germany must be withdrawn. In the long term, we also want to ensure that our international partners also join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Our country deserves a policy that focuses on the well-being of its citizens and is based on the understanding that US interests differ from ours in some cases significantly. In the event of a conflict, the United States has one main interest: to keep a possible nuclear war away from its territory. It would behave towards us in a similar way to how it has behaved towards Ukraine in recent years: military support would be within the framework in which

an expansion of the war into US territory remains unlikely.

The stationing of long-range offensive weapons in Germany does not serve to protect us, but rather makes our country a target for Russian missiles and thus puts us in great danger. A major European war may be impossible from the safe distance of the USA.

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be calculable, for the people in Germany and Europe it would be devastating.

- - We firmly reject the stationing of US medium-range missiles on German soil, which Chancellor Scholz approved without any debate on the sidelines of a NATO summit and which enormously increases the nuclear risk for us. We demand strict compliance with the agreements made in the Two Plus Four Treaty regarding missile stationing.
- - The German Bundestag decided to withdraw US nuclear weapons from Germany back in 2010. We are committed to implementing this mandate, including the US troops stationed in Germany.

The current problems of the Bundeswehr are due not least to the fact that it was increasingly transformed from a defence army into an intervention army. The results were disasters, such as in Afghanistan and Mali. We want to make the Bundeswehr a defensive army again and exclusively.

- According to the Basic Law, the Bundeswehr has the task of defending our country. It must be adequately equipped for this task. We reject the deployment of German soldiers in international wars.

We reject this as well as their stationing on the Russian border or in the South China Sea.

Another problem facing the Bundeswehr is the dilapidated and non-transparent procurement system. One in five Euro is spent on additional costs due to mismanagement and poor planning. The story of the Bundeswehr being "saved to death" is a myth. Since 2014, German military spending has more than doubled and will amount to almost

90 billion euros. In the global ranking of the research institute (SIPRI), Germany ranks seventh in terms of defense spending. No other budget item has increased as continuously in the past as

the defense budget. Billions of dollars in tax money are being burned. Defense companies are practically being given carte blanche to demand ever higher prices.

- We reject higher military spending, the fulfillment of NATO's two percent target or even higher spending, as well as further special assets or debt funds for the rearmament of the Bundeswehr or military aid.

- The federal government must contractually oblige the armaments industry to accept liability for cost increases and delays in armaments projects.

- Full transparency on all military expenditure, an end to expensive and pointless consulting contracts

The principle of voluntariness is of enormous importance in the vocational orientation phase of young people and must not be overridden for the sake of war and armament policy.

- We reject the reintroduction of conscription.

Defense Minister Pistorius wants to make Germany "capable of war." We want to make our country capable of peace.

The Ukraine war by end negotiations

A proxy war is raging in Ukraine between Russia and the United States, which could escalate into a world war at any time. We strongly condemn the Russian attack on Ukraine. At the same time, we are convinced that this terrible war was avoidable and could have been ended long ago through negotiations.

People are dying every day, Ukraine is being destroyed more and more. Almost half of Germans fear an expansion of the

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war on our country. The decision of the defeated American President Biden to launch attacks on Approving Russia's use of Western missiles has initiated a new, dangerous escalation dynamic that poses great risks for the whole of Europe. It is currently impossible to say whether Trump will keep his promise to end the war in Ukraine quickly. In any case, Germany and Europe should not rely on this, but take their own peace initiatives.

- We demand honest efforts for a ceasefire without preconditions. The future German

The government should support the diplomatic efforts of China and the countries of the global South and do everything possible to initiate negotiations on a realistic peace plan.

Instead, Merz, Lindner and Habeck want to supply Ukraine with Taurus missiles so that it can use them to attack targets deep in Russia. Such a step would practically be a declaration of war by Germany on the nuclear power Russia. Olaf Scholz has so far refused to do this, but has always backed down when there was pressure from Washington. He cannot be relied on, especially since others in the SPD are open to the dangerous Taurus planning games.

- Like the majority of the citizens of the Bundestag, we reject the delivery of Taurus cruise missiles. Only a strong BSW in the next Bundestag can and will prevent the war hawks and Taurus supporters in the SPD from gaining the upper hand after the election.

We must prevent German soldiers from launching missiles aimed at Russia again.

Even if an expansion of the war can be averted, arms deliveries will not stop the deaths. Hardly any other country is putting as much strain on its citizens as Germany in order to stop this senseless war.

This year, billions are available again. It is also in our own interest that the war in Ukraine ends as quickly as possible.

- We do not want any more German tax money to be provided to prolong this senseless war.

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire have so far been sabotaged or not seriously pursued. Ukraine has not gained a better negotiating position by continuing the war, on the contrary. An attempt should be made to resume negotiations where they were broken off by Ukraine in Istanbul in spring 2022 under Western pressure, and then to make them a success.

Peace in the Middle East

The Middle East is also a powder keg because all the major powers in the region have interests, influence and allies and are carrying out their conflicts on the backs of the local population.

We unequivocally condemn the major attack by Hamas and others on Israel on October 7, 2023.

But it does not justify the Netanyahu government's ruthless campaign of revenge and destruction against women and children in the Gaza Strip. The war crimes committed against the civilian population in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon have rightly outraged the world. Regardless of the genocide accusations against Israel as a result of Israel's war in the Gaza Strip, which have been heard before the International Court of Justice, the term "raison d'état" continues to apply in political Berlin when it comes to Israel. This refers to the uncritical solidarity with the ultra-right Netanyahu government. The anti-Semitism resolution passed by the Bundestag in November 2024 narrows the scope for domestic political debate by largely equating criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. The BSW supports

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distinguishes between the obvious protection of Jewish life in Germany and an objectively necessary criticism of Israeli government positions. The USA and Germany are among the few

States that continue to support Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and supply him with weapons for his horrific war.

- We demand an immediate halt to arms deliveries to Israel.

Meanwhile, a regime change has also taken place in Syria. Assad was overthrown, which for many Syrians was a reason for joy and relief. The new Islamist rulers could lead to further instability in Syria. There is a possibility that existing conflicts will continue and new forms of oppression will emerge, which will continue to pose major challenges for the country.

Peace can only be achieved in the Middle East if the interests of all sides are taken into account, when negotiations are held instead of shooting. Islamist terror cannot be defeated with terror. Israel's actions are stirring up hatred throughout the Arab world. It is only a matter of time before the next generation of Hamas leaders grows up on this fertile ground. The spiral of violence can only be broken if the interests of the Palestinians are finally taken into account.

- We call for an immediate ceasefire and serious negotiations on a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

A sovereign Europe in a multipolar world

The EU has completely lost sight of its founding mission of peace and prosperity and is now unable or unwilling to represent European interests.

We want to make the European Union what it was founded for.

The EU must be a peace broker and must not become a party to the war. The enormous financial and

military resources that the EU has allocated to support Ukraine, the many billions earmarked to make European arms factories even more profitable and their owners even richer, are uselessly wasting tax money that we urgently need for more important tasks.

We support close cooperation between European states, but not ever deeper integration towards a European federal state. We are convinced that democracy, prosperity and social achievements can be better protected at national level.

Cohesion and prosperity in Europe will not be promoted by the European Commission assuming ever more powers and having ever more resources at its disposal.

- We do not want a further centralisation of power in the EU Commission, but a shift of competences back to the Member States.

We need an EU that focuses on its core tasks. Many tasks that are currently being handled by bureaucrats in Brussels can be carried out more efficiently, transparently and democratically locally. Instead of a bureaucracy that causes unnecessary costs and harasses companies, the EU should concentrate on the tasks that nation states can hardly accomplish on their own. This includes drying up tax havens, preventing tax cuts and subsidy races, and establishing Europe's digital sovereignty against the powerful data octopuses from Silicon Valley. China has achieved its digital sovereignty over the United States in recent years, and Europe is still a digital colony today. The EU will not become significantly more important as a result of this.

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that more and more countries are being accepted.

- We want a stop to EU expansion that also applies to Ukraine, which would otherwise become a bottomless pit for German taxpayers.

The prosperity of Germany and Europe is based on stable and fair international trade relations. Protectionism and isolation, economic sanctions and trade wars are not in the German or European interest.

2. Stop deindustrialization – A comeback plan for our economy

Our economy has not grown for five years, and for two years it has been in a serious crisis. The exodus of important industries has already begun. Four out of ten companies plan to cut jobs this year. The number of company bankruptcies is rising rapidly. High energy costs and bureaucratic regulations are stifling the economy. The dilapidated infrastructure and lack of skilled worker training make the location unattractive.

The successful German model with its high share of industrial value creation, its globally recognized automobile production, its export-oriented mechanical engineering and its medium-sized world market leaders, which has secured hundreds of thousands of well-paid jobs for decades, is being negligently destroyed. The rise of China as a new competitor in the high-tech sector has indeed changed the international framework conditions. But

The most important decisions that could break our industrial backbone were made here in Germany. We want to correct these wrong decisions before it is too late.

Reduce energy prices, for a well-thought-out climate and environmental policy

Climate change is a serious challenge. It requires well-thought-out solutions and not blind activism or authoritarian arrogance. The BSW supports the Paris Climate Agreement. However, climate protection is a global task and should be driven forward according to the criterion of investing resources there.

where they have the greatest possible impact. Simply making daily life in the country more and more expensive is not a climate policy, but an impoverishment policy.

The current German energy policy is driving up prices and endangering the security of supply.

While there is often an oversupply of electricity from renewable energies in summer, the insufficient reserve capacity since the nuclear phase-out and the gradual shutdown of coal-fired power plants during periods of low demand has led to extreme price spikes, which are associated with incalculable risks for companies and are turning our European neighbors against us. The problem will become more acute in the coming years if the coal phase-out is implemented as planned, but new capacity in the form of additional gas-fired power plants is still not created. In addition, the long-term supply of sufficient gas, especially at moderate prices, is not guaranteed.

- An industry with strong exports needs competitive energy prices and security of supply. The sanctions imposed after the start of the war in Ukraine were an economic stimulus program for the US economy and a killer program for German and European companies.

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- - We need long-term contracts for energy imports again, based on the lowest price criterion.
- - The German government should negotiate with Russia to obtain cheap natural gas again via the remaining section of the Nord Stream pipeline. It should also start to repair the damaged sections.

We call for a departure from the wishful thinking of quickly achieving complete climate neutrality. This is because it leads to the requirement that only technologies based on 100% renewable energy are sustainable. Efficient mixed technologies are thus excluded in favor of extremely expensive and often unrealistic "100% climate-neutral" projects. The result is excesses such as the ban on combustion engines, although there is currently no realistic concept for a climate-neutral power supply for many millions of vehicles, electric cars are too expensive for average earners, the charging infrastructure is not sufficient and important questions remain unanswered to this day, for example how long the most expensive part of the electric car, the battery, will actually last.

We want to use all technologies to reduce CO₂. This applies to the development of low-consumption and efficient combustion engines as well as to the promotion of alternative fuels. In the area of e-mobility, affordable models must be offered. We also want to intensify research and development work on technologies such as solid-state batteries. Germany must take a leading position here. Purchase premiums in the low price segment for low-energy vehicles and electric cars can also boost sales.

Another negative example is the ill-conceived heating law, which hardly brings any CO₂ savings, but not only causes homeowners to incur high acquisition costs, but also extremely high conversion costs if the heat pump is able to heat the house halfway.

efficiently. In apartment buildings, these costs are passed on to the tenants, which leads to further rent increases.

We want to demand the installation of heat pumps without discriminating against the use of other technologies. Here, too, technological openness applies. We want to abolish Habeck's heating law immediately and replace it with sensible regulations.

- We demand the repeal of the combustion engine ban and the heating law.

The shutdown of large parts of the gas network in the near future is also one of the political targets that lead to a dead end because there are efficient and affordable alternative solutions for heating many

There are currently no apartments or houses. 41 percent of the municipal utilities warn that, under these conditions, an affordable supply of heat will not be guaranteed in the future. This rightly scares many people.

- We want to maintain the gas networks; they must not be dismantled. We will also need methane as a fallback option in the long term, for example in the event of a long period of darkness.

Emissions trading could be a useful instrument for steering technological change towards more climate-friendly technologies if it were applied worldwide. As a purely European instrument, it is more likely to encourage production relocations than the use of climate-friendly processes.

In fact, the EU's share of global production has been falling for years. We are not only falling behind China, but also the United States. We want to move away from this misguided path. Instead of relying on the CO2 price, we want to enable technological change by promoting innovation and providing targeted incentives.

- We want to abolish the CO2 price, which makes everything more expensive without offering any alternatives for most people.

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- European emissions trading must either be globalized or Germany should campaign for its abolition at EU level. A European solo effort will not help the climate, but will lead to the decline of our industry and migration, especially of energy-intensive sectors.

Through network fees and subsidies for green electricity, consumers and taxpayers pay billions every year for a wrongly designed energy transition. Since the privatization of the networks, the state has guaranteed network operators increasing returns on equity, which are now seven percent, which are passed on to electricity customers through ever higher network fees. The network fees alone now account for around a quarter of the price of electricity.

At the same time, electricity suppliers are repeatedly making unjustifiably high profits from excessive prices. This haphazard policy must not be continued. Instead of burdening the economy with extreme prices on dark, windless days and burning taxpayers' money when there is wind and sun, investments must be made in new gas-fired power stations as reserve capacity and in the networks. The investment sums required for this also speak in favor of nationalizing these areas, as the state can take out loans at far lower interest rates than private providers and can therefore realize the expansion at lower costs.

- The maintenance and expansion of energy networks are public tasks and must be financed from public funds and not through electricity prices. Instead of securing dream returns for private network operators, we want to nationalize the networks and reduce network fees to a minimum.

Intelligent networks and measuring points enable a more flexible energy supply. They should also be in public hands for data protection reasons. We want to support municipalities in achieving this goal.

We reject the possibility of energy capping. The state is responsible for Germany's security of supply. Therefore, storage and reserve capacities should not be operated for profit reasons, but in the interest of the general public.

In addition to traditional battery storage, high-temperature storage is also a promising option. They also offer the advantage of allowing a large part of the coal-fired power plant infrastructure to continue to be used without emissions. This saves costs, conserves resources and preserves jobs. There are a large number of promising approaches in the area of storage technologies. We want to promote research and development work here.

The construction of electrolyzers for the production of hydrogen should be carried out publicly, in parallel with private plants, especially where there is a surplus of renewable electricity and currently

must be regulated.

- We want to operate biogas plants in agreement with our farmers and thus achieve a supplementary source of income for agricultural businesses. The corresponding use of plants must not come into competition with food production.

- We reject the construction of new conventional nuclear power plants. The same currently applies to mini power plants (SMR), the operation of which generates up to 30 times more radioactive waste than conventional reactors. However, there are technologically promising approaches in the field of nuclear fusion. We want to intensify research and development here.

- In the area of renewable energies, we are calling for a "repowering" program. Old wind turbines are to be replaced with new ones. This way we can increase the electricity yield at existing locations without having to intervene in nature.

- We want to promote the installation of PV systems on public buildings, on parking lots,

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Stables and factory halls. We want to support the participation of municipalities and citizens in renewable generation capacities through energy cooperatives.

We believe that the import targets for green hydrogen formulated by the traffic light coalition in the H2 strategy are unrealistic and also harmful for the partner countries, which should use their own renewable energies. In the countries of the South, renewable energies should primarily serve to make local electricity generation CO2-neutral before focusing on exports.

Instead of subsidising the use of inefficient technologies with large sums of money, more should be done to promote the research and development of new climate-friendly technologies. The greatest contribution to climate protection that a high-tech and industrial country like Germany can make is in the development of innovations and future technologies for a resource-saving, climate-neutral and environmentally friendly economy.

- Instead of bans, we are focusing on support and incentives for the development of promising technologies. We want to further develop and promote the operation of CCS or CCU plants for the capture of unavoidable CO2 emissions and their storage or use. We want to promote the construction of CCS or CCU plants with the help of super-depreciation or public loans.

District heating will play a more important role in the future, and we support its expansion and the switch to renewable energy sources. We want to expand geothermal energy. The potential in Germany is 300 terawatt hours, which is around a quarter of our heat supply. As a first step, we want to increase the development targets from 10 to 100 terawatt hours by 2030. We also want to use waste heat from industrial processes, incineration plants and data centers.

more efficiently. The promotion of combined heat and power plants must be continued beyond 2025.

Openness towards promising technologies is a central part of our policy.

Products that end up in the trash after a short period of use are a major burden on the environment and a source of unnecessary CO2 emissions. This consumes scarce resources and energy and is a significant climate and environmental problem. Quite a few manufacturers ensure that their products have a shortened lifespan by using inferior materials or poor workmanship at weak points. This is called "planned wear and tear". If it can be proven that it is done intentionally, it must also be banned in Germany.

- We want to increase the pressure on manufacturers to make their products more durable by making labelling compulsory for the service life. The expected service life of technical products should

In the future, this information will be clearly and visibly stated on the packaging or in the product description.

- A deliberate and targeted reduction in the lifespan of products should be prohibited.

If manufacturers had to specify the number of washes, shaves or printed pages that customers can expect before a device stops working, customers can base their purchase decision on that.

Manufacturers of battery-powered devices that allow for inexpensive battery replacement can promise a significantly longer service life than those that install the battery permanently.

- We want to make repairs of defective devices more attractive – through lower VAT and a nationwide bonus for repair services.

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Fair Trade in a Multipolar World

A country like Germany, which is strong in exports and poor in raw materials, is dependent on stable economic relations with as many countries as possible in order to sell its own goods and to ensure the supply of raw materials and cheap energy.

Germany therefore has a fundamental economic interest in not participating in the economic sanctions pushed forward by Washington in the interests of the US economy. This applies in particular to the looming trade conflict with China, which will have far-reaching consequences for the German economy.

- We want fair trade in a multipolar world and not a new bloc confrontation.

We reject free trade and investment protection agreements that primarily aim to override social rights or other national rules in the interests of multinational corporations.

What we need are international agreements that guarantee security of supply and access to important sales markets, as well as social, human rights and ecological standards, so that domestic suppliers are not pushed out of the market by less regulated foreign cheap producers.

In order to make Germany more independent from foreign countries and supply chain problems in the long term, we want to promote regional economic cycles. This requires that key industries such as steel production or energy-intensive basic chemicals remain in the country. We want to reduce dependence on imports, for example for medicines.

- We want to promote regional economic cycles and reduce dependence on imports.

Keep key industries in the country,

Demanding Innovation

We are committed to an active industrial policy, as is the case in almost all successful industrial

The state has a responsibility to maintain and restructure industries for strategic reasons and to promote technology-neutral innovation for socially desired goals (climate and environmental protection, resource conservation, circular economy).

- The innovative strength in Germany has recently deteriorated significantly in international comparison. We want to stop and reverse this downward trend.

- We want to significantly increase spending on research and development.

Germany spends around 3.1% of its GDP on innovation. Other industrialized countries spend more than 5%. We want to increase spending on research and development to at least 4% of economic output by 2030.

The state plays a central role as a supporter of innovations by bearing risks that private actors avoid. From silicon-based semiconductors to the Internet and GPS, from groundbreaking medical innovations to nanotechnology: it was not private companies that

but rather state research laboratories or development programs financed with taxpayers' money, to which we owe the decisive breakthroughs. The state contribution was not limited to the financing of basic research.

- We want to invest in relevant future sectors and key industries through an industrial fund and help innovative start-ups with "patient" capital that does not expect quick returns to succeed. Due to the short-term logic of the financial world, this would often not be possible without state aid.

The increasing power of financial investors in listed companies, the orientation towards Quarterly figures rather than long-term growth opportunities and business models that are based on

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Companies that focus on maximum distribution instead of reinvesting profits reduce the productivity and innovative power of the economy. VW, for example, has paid out 22 billion euros to its shareholders over the last three years.

instead of investing this money in the development of more attractive models. Now the management realizes that the company is in crisis. The chemical company BASF recently paid out more dividends than it made in profits, so instead of investing, the company's assets are being plundered. The negative consequences of this business model are usually borne by the employees. If there is state aid, the taxpayers are also liable.

As a counter-model, foundation companies have a long and good tradition in Germany. They reinvest most of their profits, can also handle crises better thanks to high equity capital and are more innovative. The latter mainly because they have the staying power to drive innovations that require many years of intensive research before they can be expected to be successful on the market. If foundation companies receive state funding, there is no danger that the money will be passed on to shareholders.

- We therefore want to transform large companies in key sectors that receive state support into innovation-friendly foundation companies. At the same time, these should be opened up to greater employee participation.

But foundation structures are complicated and were originally intended for non-profit purposes rather than for commercial enterprises. The bureaucratic hurdles are usually too high for medium-sized companies. Therefore, the creation of a new legal form beyond capital and partnership companies is overdue, especially for medium-sized companies.

The traffic light government had agreed to the creation of the legal form "Gesellschaft mit beschränktem Vermögen" (GmbH-gebV) developed by medium-sized entrepreneurs in its coalition agreement, but had not implemented it.

want to catch up. In this legal form, which is also known under the term responsible ownership, profits may no longer be distributed to external owners, as is the case with foundation companies, but must be used to promote the company's purpose or for charitable commitment. Responsible ownership companies are companies that do not aim to distribute profits to investors, but rather to ensure the long-term existence of the company with good jobs, good products and satisfied customers. Responsible ownership companies cannot be taken over and plundered by financial investors or

fail due to unresolved succession problems.

- More responsible ownership of companies would make our economy more innovative and productive and strengthen social cohesion.

strong medium-sized businesses,

demand competition

Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of our economy, but they are under increasing pressure.

In comparisons between domestic and foreign companies and between small and large companies, the former often come off worse. In the interests of fair competition, the opportunities exploited by corporations to reduce their taxes to a minimum by shifting profits internationally must finally be eliminated.

- We are committed to ensuring that corporations are taxed at the same high level as medium-sized companies for their activities in Germany.

We demand that the Federal Government, as part of EU trade policy, insists that we defend ourselves against unfair trade practices, including those of the USA. Because the costs of meeting bureaucratic requirements are much higher for smaller companies relative to their turnover than for large companies, we want to

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Consistently relieve small and medium-sized enterprises of bureaucratic requirements. Competition policy fulfils its task, The efforts to prevent individual, very large suppliers from gaining a dominant market position at the expense of consumers and small and medium-sized competitors are hardly letting up. Legislators and competition watchdogs have adopted the pro-corporate ideology that the only thing that matters is preventing the abuse of market power, not market power itself. However, proving abuse is often difficult, as the pioneer of ordoliberalism, Walter Eucken, who vehemently criticized this approach, already knew. As Eucken predicted, this has made competition policy toothless.

- We want to equip the Federal Cartel Office with the necessary resources and competences to conduct effective merger control.

Rules for market share limits for individual companies in critical sectors such as energy, communications

We want to examine the situation in this context when it comes to food and beverages. The unbundling law that was planned back in 2009 should be taken out of the filing cabinets, adapted to today's challenges, finalized and adopted.

The number of self-employed people has been steadily declining for over a decade. Last year, interest in starting a business fell to an all-time low: this was also due to recent case law on bogus self-employment and the way it is handled by the German pension insurance.

Educational institutions and IT departments of companies hardly see any possibility of employing freelance teachers or external employees in a legally compliant manner.

- We are striving for a reform of the status determination procedure so that music schools, adult education centres and companies can once again operate legally without fear of additional payments or even criminal prosecution.

Pursuit of self-employed persons

can, if they do not work predominantly for the same client over a long period of time. If they so wish, teachers at music schools, in adult education, etc. must be employed with social insurance, and the higher costs must be covered.

- If they so wish, teachers at music schools, adult education, etc. must be employed with social insurance.

- We demand that all employed persons and their earned income, and thus also all self-employed persons, be included in social insurance.

modernize infrastructure,

domestic demand strong

A modern economy needs a modern infrastructure. A country in which thousands of bridges are dilapidated and roads, railways, digital networks and school buildings are in a poor state is gambling away its future. Adequate housing, sufficient and affordable daycare places for everyone, youth leisure facilities, citizen-friendly and competent administrations and a reliable

Local and long-distance transport with secure commuter connections should be a matter of course in a country like Germany.

The debt brake has not prevented unsound budgeting, but has become a brake on investment. That is why it must be reformed. To ensure responsible use of taxpayers' money, we need above all more competence in responsible offices, less lobby influence and more participation by the population through direct democracy.

- We want to exclude investments in bridges, roads, railways, schools, housing and networks from the debt brake and resolve the dramatic investment backlog that is leading to the deterioration of our infrastructure without further delay through a major investment program.

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Despite the high need for investment, the construction industry is also in crisis. There is no lack of capacity, but rather a lack of orders that the public sector can and must create.

We want an infrastructure guarantee for Germany: we want health, housing, energy and water supplies to be geared towards the common good and not towards profit. Public transport, basic medical care and regionally accessible hospitals, shopping opportunities for daily needs, leisure facilities especially for young people and older citizens, and fast internet must be guaranteed by the state.

Municipalities in particular are suffering from the backlog of renovations. Hardly anything can be done without funding, which has to be applied for and accounted for at great expense. The awarding or non-awarding of funding is a way of interfering with the municipalities. In future, they should be able to set their own spending priorities. They should do what is needed and not just what funding is available for. The municipalities must be provided with the necessary financial means for this.

- - We are committed to strengthening local self-government again. One important lever would be a fair resolution of old debts for the municipalities.
- - We want equal living conditions in the country and in the city!

In recent years, inflation and loss of purchasing power, poor wages and low pensions have reduced demand in our country. The increasing uncertainty after three years miserable economic policy leads to significant reluctance to buy.

- We want to strengthen domestic demand through higher wages, better statutory pensions and strengthening collective bargaining agreements.

We demand a citizen-friendly and modern, efficient administration at all levels, in which

the needs of the citizens and the economy are the focus. The administration works for the people - not for the state. We want to ensure that all concerns are dealt with in a benevolent, fast and professional manner in day-to-day administrative practice. We want to increase the attractiveness of the administration as an employer through flexible working time models, competent and lean management structures and the early promotion of top performers.

Taxes and Finance – For more investment and cohesion

The tax system in Germany penalises work and rewards large fortunes, although these are often not based on one's own achievements, but on inheritances or the exploitation of the work of others. While the hard-working have around half of their income taken away through taxes and duties, the

Tax rate on capital gains is only 25 percent. That wasn't always the case. The effective tax rate that billionaire Susanne Klatten pays on her BMW profits, for example, fell from 61.0 percent to just 21.4 percent between 1996 and 2022.

Reversing this trend and, in turn, easing the burden on hard-working low- and average-earners is urgently needed.

Internationally operating companies and wealthy private individuals also have many opportunities to evade taxes and avoid them by using loopholes in the law or illegal tricks. This too must stop.

Germany needs a financial policy that encourages investment, strengthens domestic demand and distributes the financing burden according to the principle of fairness. That is why we are advocating a tax system that noticeably relieves the burden on the vast majority of citizens and, in turn, reduces the burden on those with incomes that are well above average and those with large assets. For the hard-working majority in the country, their efforts must be worthwhile. We want to reduce tax burdens on incomes of up to 7,500 euros gross.

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- - We demand a significant increase in the basic tax allowance, which should be based on the poverty risk threshold.
- - In the absence of other income, the statutory pension should be exempt from tax up to 2000 euros per month.
- - The top tax rate should spare middle incomes and only be raised for very high use income.
- - Capital gains are subject to the normal income tax rate, like earned income.

It cannot remain the case that low-income earners and the middle class in particular finance the welfare state.

- We need a basic allowance on social security contributions with constant entitlements, financed by an increase in the contribution assessment ceilings.

This has provided noticeable relief for employees and pensioners.

Companies should invest their surplus capital primarily in their business models and innovation, rather than driving up their own share price through share buybacks. By taxing share buybacks, we want to ensure that this practice is stopped.

Debt interest and royalty payments to holding companies abroad are among the most important instruments for internationally active companies to shift profits to tax-favorable countries.

These should therefore no longer be deductible from trade income when calculating trade tax. They should only be deductible from capital gains tax if the recipient pays an acceptable minimum tax rate in their country of residence.

Another loophole that urgently needs to be closed for wealthy people is the tax exemption of Increase in value of real estate from a

Holding period of ten years. We want this privilege to be limited to owner-occupied housing.

Institutional investors can use so-called "share deals" to avoid paying property transfer tax when selling property. We also want to close this long-known loophole.

- At the same time, we want to exempt families from property transfer tax when they purchase their first owner-occupied home.

- The property tax reform, which was supposed to be revenue-neutral, is currently leading to significant additional costs for millions of citizens. We are calling for a moratorium on the tax burden for normal homeowners and tenants.

The current rule is: the higher the inherited wealth, the lower the effective tax rate. This is neither fair nor reasonable, because it means that an inherited single-family home is subject to higher taxes than an inherited corporate empire worth hundreds of millions of euros. We want to change that and tax all inherited wealth above the tax-free allowances equally.

- We want to impose a wealth tax on assets of 25 million euros or more at a tax rate of 1

percent, which increases to 2 percent for assets of 100 million euros and to 3 percent for assets of 1 billion euros.

At the same time, with the new legal form of responsible ownership, we want to give company owners the opportunity to avoid liquidity outflows by converting their company into a "company with tied assets" and also to secure the continued existence of the company even without suitable successors within the family.

- It is also high time to introduce a financial transaction tax for all securities and derivatives transactions in order to prevent highly speculative trading (and the decoupling of financial markets from the real economy) to contain and tax.

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Reducing bureaucracy: key to growth and innovation

The German economy is suffering from record bureaucracy. Companies and citizens often experience inefficient administration that is far removed from the citizens. According to current estimates, bureaucracy reduces our economic output by 146 billion euros per year. We see the reduction of bureaucracy as an important key to growth and innovation. We will work vehemently to reduce unnecessary rules, requirements and processes and to simplify procedures.

- We want to lay the foundation for an administration that supports citizens and companies instead of burdening them, and that works efficiently. Reducing bureaucracy is an investment in an innovative, dynamic and fair Germany.

A large part of the bureaucratic burden in recent years has its origins in EU law. We reject the over-fulfillment of EU standards when implementing them into national law.

- EU requirements that place excessive burdens on companies but whose usefulness is questionable should no longer be incorporated into national law.

The regulations on corporate sustainability reporting (ESG), for example, lead to unnecessary bureaucracy. The absurd discussions about the "sustainability" of nuclear power and military equipment show that the state should not stipulate a comprehensive assessment of economic activity according to ethical standards. This leads to the costly production of useless reports and, in some cases, to the seal of approval for questionable products and to scandals such as the billions paid for non-existent climate protection projects in China, with which companies have improved their sustainability balance sheet.

The Supply Chain Act in its current form is also for medium-sized companies

a bureaucratic monster with questionable benefits. Unlike large corporations, they do not have the Resources and market power to check and require all suppliers in distant countries to comply with standards.

- As an immediate measure, we will immediately suspend the obligation to provide so-called sustainability reporting and We are committed to reforming the supply chain law in order to improve the cost-benefit ratio.

- We want to design thresholds in such a way that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are more exempt from reporting and documentation obligations. The aim is to expand entrepreneurial freedom and thus encourage innovation.

The digitalization of public administration can make a major contribution to more efficient and faster processes and a reduction in bureaucratic burdens. Germany is lagging far behind other industrialized countries in this respect. We want to simplify people's lives with a central online portal for citizens and companies as a "one-stop shop" for all official services, in which data only has to be entered once ("once-only principle"). The implementation of this measure means that all authorities need to critically examine processes and, where necessary,

It is effective to digitize.

But digitization can also increase the burden of bureaucracy, especially for smaller companies and the self-employed, if it is enforced. This is the case, for example, with the obligation to issue electronic invoices and electronic budgets. Or with page-long data protection declarations that no one reads but that can be warned against. We reject such coercive measures.

Every year, new laws and regulations create additional rules, guidelines, requirements and expenses.

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However, existing systems are not systematically questioned and dismantled. This burden is growing from year to year and is not only paralyzing the administration, but our entire country.

- We will introduce a national decluttering day, which will take place twice a year. On this day, managers and employees in government agencies will focus on which rules and guidelines are no longer needed and how procedures and processes can be simplified and accelerated.

We want to strengthen the National Regulatory Control Council in its role as a source of inspiration and for evaluation and monitoring.

The number of civil servants in federal ministries has risen by almost 45 percent since 2013, while administrations that serve the citizens are understaffed. New commissioners are constantly being introduced for issues that are already the responsibility of the ministries. Each commissioner brings with him a staff and new requirements. Bureaucracy leads to more bureaucrats. More bureaucrats create new bureaucracy.

- In order to break the vicious circle, we want to cut unnecessary positions in ministries and instead create new ones where citizens and businesses need more service and support. We want to abolish the representatives in the ministries and, where necessary, integrate them into the organizational structure of the ministries.

Authorities and their employees must see themselves as service providers who make life easier for citizens and companies and act as "enablers".

- We will introduce a continuous satisfaction assessment for all authorities by citizens at the federal level. In order to create transparency, the results should be published on the respective authority's website.

Respect for our farmers, good environmental and animal protection

We want an agricultural policy that is more nationally and regionally oriented. Agriculture serves first and foremost the Food security in our own country. Cheap imports from abroad must be prevented from displacing food and feed produced in Germany. Farmers rightly expect stable and adequate prices that they can live off of and plan with.

- One means could be legally regulated minimum producer prices.

- We want to reverse the abolition of the tax reduction for agricultural diesel.

There is a need to limit the market power of corporations in processing and trade.

We reject trade agreements that increase competitive pressure on our domestic agriculture, such as the Mercosur agreement.

- We rely on regional economic cycles with short delivery routes.

This not only makes us more independent of the world market, but also strengthens rural areas by establishing and maintaining small and medium-sized dairies, slaughterhouses and grocery stores. This puts farmers on an equal footing with their negotiating partners and

Climate-damaging transport is eliminated.

- We demand affordable land to preserve agricultural and forestry areas.

Unnecessary bureaucracy that makes life difficult for farmers must be reduced. Farmers must be included in environmental regulations and compromises must be found through appropriate transition periods and unbureaucratic demands.

The aim must be to use agricultural techniques and cultivation systems that are kind to the environment, the soil and the climate, that maintain food security and do not endanger the profitability of the farms.

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- We firmly reject the denigration of agriculture as a climate killer. It is a systemically important sector for our food security.

The preservation of agricultural land is a priority for us. Forests, grassland and moors must be preserved through careful use. Compensatory measures for construction projects must be implemented in a production-integrated manner with local agricultural businesses. Photovoltaic systems must not displace agricultural use.

We want reliable origin labelling and affordable plant protection products whose safety has been established through an independent and transparent approval process without influence from manufacturers.

We want to end animal suffering in stables and slaughterhouses. This includes cost-covering prices and good wages and working conditions in slaughterhouses. We want to limit live animal transport to a maximum of four hours. This requires sufficient official veterinarians. We want to create incentives for good veterinary care in rural areas.

We want to limit animal testing to an absolute minimum. Trade in animals - especially on the Internet - must be strictly controlled. We reject agro-genetic engineering and patents on life. Seeds must be freely reproducible.

Seeds must be allowed to be reproduced freely. The preservation of old and regional varieties should be a particular priority.

To adapt to climate-related weather extremes, we want to establish a multi-risk insurance scheme for agricultural businesses nationwide, partially financed by the federal government. In addition, we support the creation of a tax-free company risk equalization reserve. We want to preserve small and medium-sized fishing businesses, some of which have a long family tradition.

Climate change is already causing enormous damage through more frequent

Floods, dry soil and damaged forests.

- We want to strengthen disaster protection, mitigate the consequences of flooding, provide funds for the construction and expansion of dykes and dams and reforest forests with tree species that better cope with climate change.

Whether you are an animal keeper, arable farmer, gardener, fruit grower, winemaker, fisherman, beekeeper or forester: the BSW supports those employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

3. For a fair performance society

Germany has moved far away from a fair meritocracy. Even in the years of crisis, the top ten thousand have become richer. Average earners, families and pensioners, on the other hand, are increasingly burdened by taxes, levies and price increases. The next blow comes in January with social security contributions. Many people can barely make ends meet despite having a full-time job. More than one in four employees currently earns less than

15 euros an hour. Performance is hardly worth it for millions of citizens anymore.

Inequality in Germany has been growing for years. Millions of people work hard every day to provide a good life for themselves and their families. They are the ones who keep our society running and pay a large part of the taxes. But misguided labor market and social policies are making their lives more insecure and difficult. Even those who

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Anyone who has worked for years slips into the so-called Burger money after a year of unemployment and is treated as a supplicant.

People in the east of Germany are still disadvantaged. In some places, the wage level in East Germany is still 21% lower than in the west. Neither in the elite of the administration nor in the courts, universities or the media are East Germans represented in proportion to their share of the German population as a whole. In order to balance out these disparities and enable appropriate East German participation, there needs to be an opportunity to promote East Germans at least in the public service and administration, in science and culture. We also want to promote talent from East Germany with better access to scholarships and with a personnel development concept that supports them in reaching management positions.

Better wages and pensions,

a performance-based

unemployment insurance

The promise of advancement in the social market economy no longer applies. Many children do not even manage to reach the level of prosperity of their parents. We want to implement a turnaround in labor market and social policy in order to make advancement through effort and achievement the norm again.

An important instrument in the fight against wage dumping is the minimum wage. The mini-increases in 2024 and 2025 by 41 cents each is a mockery given the massive price increases in recent years.

- We want to raise the statutory minimum wage to 15 euros without delay.

The minimum wage must be permanently poverty-proof. Future adjustments should be based on the EU minimum wage directive (60 percent of the median income). Mini and midi jobs, fixed-term contracts and the misuse of work

and temporary work still make reliable life planning impossible for millions of people.

- We want to create a legal basis to convert mini-jobs into employment relationships subject to social insurance contributions and to put an end to the misuse of work contracts and temporary work. We want to significantly reduce fixed-term contracts with objective reasons. We reject fixed-term contracts without objective reasons and chain fixed-term contracts.

These measures should also help close the income gap between men and women.

Collective agreements are an important instrument for achieving good wages and working conditions.

But for 25 years, collective bargaining coverage has been in free fall; only 49 percent of employment contracts are covered by collective agreements.

- We want a significantly higher tariff quota for Germany.

To achieve this goal, we want to implement a bundle of measures: Public contracts and

Subsidies should only be awarded to companies that pay collective wages.

We also want to make it easier to declare collective agreements generally binding.

In order to ensure good working conditions at company level, we need strong works councils and state-of-the-art co-determination rights.

- We want to make it easier to set up works councils, among other things by providing better protection against dismissal for those who initiate works council elections.

Especially in times of economic upheaval, we want to ensure that employees are also involved in strategic corporate decisions.

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We want to close loopholes in the German codetermination standards, such as those that arise from a change in legal form to a European stock corporation.

In order to stop the breakdown of social cohesion, we want to return to an efficient welfare state that supports people in difficult life situations instead of taking away their dignity. We demand a more consistent implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN-BRK), which has also been applicable in Germany since 2009, at the federal and state levels. A welfare state that manages poverty instead of empowering people is failing in its task.

- We want to replace the Citizen's Allowance with a high-performance and performance-based unemployment insurance and replace a fair basic security.

Long-term contributors deserve appropriate protection in the event of unemployment. This applies in particular to older employees, for whom it is often difficult to re-enter the job market. To prevent slipping into basic social security, long-term insured persons should receive 60 percent of their last net salary until they are offered reasonable employment or have found one on their own. The deadline for fulfilling the insurance periods should be extended, and periods of childcare and care of relatives must be recognized. We would like to open up access to unemployment insurance for the self-employed and base the contribution and benefit conditions on those of dependent employees.

We want to prevent the misuse of social benefits, such as receiving the Citizen's Allowance while simultaneously working illegally, in particular through more controls by the Financial Control of Illegal Work at Customs.

In order to get more people into work, we also focus on targeted support for job seekers. Obligations to cooperate in training offers are necessary in order to

To create prospects. Anyone who rejects measures without good reason must expect consequences. Instead of focusing primarily on recruiting foreign specialists and thus encouraging the migration of qualified personnel from their home countries, we want to primarily qualify and train young people in Germany and thus offer them real opportunities on the job market.

The job centers must be better staffed and financed to ensure effective advice and support. Bureaucratic hurdles must be reduced so that help actually arrives.

At the same time, more incentives are needed to create barrier-free workplaces. An inclusive working world utilizes everyone's potential and strengthens social cohesion.

- Our goal is an efficient welfare state that leaves no one behind, rewards hard work and provides support in difficult times such as unemployment or illness.

In Germany, the statutory pension is currently a poverty trap for millions of citizens. One in five people has a pension of less than 1200 euros after 45 years of work. In the future, this figure will be far higher. More and more pensioners are receiving basic security in old age, although the majority of those entitled do not even apply because the bureaucratic hurdles are too high or out of fear of stigmatization.

- We demand a minimum pension of 1500 euros after 40 years of insurance. We advocate - similar to our neighboring countries - a tiered model: after 30 years of insurance, the minimum pension is 1300 euros and after 15 years, 1200 euros.

According to a report by the Bundestag's scientific service, long-term insured persons in Austria receive an average of 823 euros more in pension per month. This pension difference is a disgrace for our country!

- Our aim is a fundamental reform of the pension insurance system based on the Austrian model.

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As in Austria, all employed people, including all members of the Bundestag and federal ministers, should be required to pay into the statutory pension scheme. This broadens the revenue base and creates political inhibitions about reducing the level of pensions when the decision-makers themselves are affected.

- The average benefit level should be at least 75 percent of the net income earned during working life.

Compared to its economic strength, Germany now spends significantly less money on pensions than it did ten years ago – even though the number of pensioners has grown by around 1 million.

- To compensate for the inflation of recent years, pensions for everyone should increase by 120 euros per month in a first step.

After a long working life, a dignified old age free from poverty must be guaranteed. The standard of living that has been worked for must be maintained. We want to strengthen the pay-as-you-go pension system and put an end to the promotion of private pension models that low earners cannot afford anyway. We want to remove dampening factors in the pension formula such as the Riester factor. They were only introduced to reduce pensions and lure people into private pension plans.

- - Anyone who has worked for 45 years and paid into the pension fund must be able to retire at the age of 63 without any deductions.
- - We clearly reject demands to further increase the retirement age.
- - No speculation with the pension on the stock market.
- - The BSW rejects the reintroduction of waiting days for which no wages are paid in the event of illness of employees.

The best education for everyone, from the coast to the Alps!

The education system is in a miserable state. The backlog of renovations in school buildings and universities is running into billions. A major problem is the shortage of teachers, special education teachers and educators. Many educators are working at their limits, close to burnout. More and more classes are being cancelled and institutions are remaining closed.

Nationwide, there is a shortage of over 300,000 daycare places for children under three. A quarter of fourth-graders cannot read, write or do arithmetic properly. The number of school leavers without a qualification is increasing. There is a lack of affordable housing for students and trainees. In short: the educational crisis is getting worse and worse and politicians are watching idly. Yet education is the key to social and societal

Participation and the Development of Personality

Good education is crucial for career advancement and life prospects. Our underfunded education system does not meet the demands of a modern industrial country. Children and young people, regardless of their origins, do not have at least approximately equal educational opportunities, nor are individual talents and abilities systematically encouraged. In hardly any other western country do children's educational opportunities depend so strongly on the social status of their parents as in Germany.

Despite many good schools between Rostock and Rosenheim, often only the poor situation can be managed.

Elementary skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic are not taught adequately. The long school closures during the Corona period have destroyed the educational opportunities of entire school years. Germany has been performing poorly in international comparison tests for years.

The shortage of skilled workers has been a major issue in Germany for years. Unfortunately, the debate usually only leads to calls for more immigration, while the home-made

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The main causes are rarely discussed: acute teacher shortages, missed lessons and incorrect curricula.

More and more young people are leaving school without basic skills. They have little chance of finding a job later on. Two thirds of current citizens' allowance recipients have no vocational qualifications, and many have no school qualifications either.

We need a comprehensive renewal of education policy.

- We want Germany to have a chance to be seen again as a country of poets and thinkers, and not as an educational threshold country!

The ban on cooperation in the field of education between the federal government and the states must be lifted with the aim of achieving educational equity in the states. This will contribute to ending the small-state approach to education.

- - We demand equal educational opportunities nationwide through a nationwide education framework law that creates comparable framework conditions, legal entitlements and high quality standards in all federal states.
- - We call for an expansion of all-day schools and after-school and homework support to make children more independent of their parents' support options.

Different types of schools as a prerequisite for different later educational paths make sense in principle, but social selection based on the parents' home does not. The early decision in most federal states, as early as the 4th grade, is one of the reasons why parents' wishes and expectations often have more influence on the educational path of children than their talents and abilities.

The school system must therefore be open at all levels. We are committed to longer periods of shared learning. Educational equity also means that educational opportunities should not depend on the parents' financial situation.

In order for basic school education to function, preparation for basic technical and social skills must begin in kindergarten.

- We demand a compulsory German test for children aged 3 and over and, if German deficits are identified, compulsory (free of charge) attendance at a daycare center with additional offers for integration and language training.

- We demand stability or reduction of daycare fees and, in the medium term, exemption from fees.

Primary schools must once again focus on the core skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. "Writing by ear" was counterproductive and must disappear completely. Studies also show that analogue learning materials are superior to digital ones when it comes to acquiring reading and spelling skills.

- We want to ban cell phones and tablets from classrooms at least until the end of primary school and use them as little as possible in lessons after that.

- We demand a social media law based on the Australian model so that children are not trapped in a virtual parallel universe, but communicate with real friends in the here and now and

laugh.

Instead of social media algorithms that make them sick, children need more exercise, fun and friends outside of school.

- The federal government should pay for the first year of all children's participation in a sports club (a grant of up to 150 euros per year). This will bring children into the clubs and support the clubs and their valuable work.

We want generally binding educational standards: grading as a standard for performance measurement, Reform of the framework curricula, organized according to knowledge, skills and

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Competencies, moving away from pure competence orientation, reorientation towards binding teaching content.

In secondary schools, in addition to acquiring solid basic knowledge, individual strengths should be placed at the centre of training. Every young person must be guaranteed the right to a training place. Strengthening vocational preparation in lower secondary level is just as necessary as upgrading intermediate school qualifications and apprenticeships - the "old" master craftsman professions in particular are among our strengths and should continue to be so in the future. With a nationwide internship concept, companies and businesses should work closely with schools.

- - We need a vocational training pact so that vocational schools are modernised and better equipped.
- - We want to strengthen vocational preparation in secondary schools.
- - The German army, corporate lobbying and commerce have no place in schools.
more political education, peace education formats and democracy education in schools in all federal states.
- - We do not want a militarization of educational institutions and demand more peace education instead of advertising the Bundeswehr in schools.

In order to resolve the shortage of skilled workers in educational professions, states and municipalities must be supported in training more teachers and educators. The working conditions in all educational institutions must be urgently improved. To achieve this, teachers must be relieved of tasks outside their field of expertise by support teams (social work, school psychologists, IT management).

Teacher training should include more practical elements. Dual training forms are conceivable, leading to a Bachelor's/ Master's degree followed by a traineeship.

In the short term, the shortage of teachers can be combated by offering attractive working conditions for lateral entrants.

In recent years, teachers have been increasingly burdened with additional tasks, such as IT management, school organization, and psychological counseling.

- Teachers must be relieved of tasks outside their field of expertise and be able to concentrate on teaching again.

The formation of support teams for the day-to-day work in schools – social work, IT management, psychological support – can bring about a decisive improvement. The children and young people themselves must be able to perceive daycare centers and schools as safe, sheltered spaces again – without discrimination, bullying or racism – with dignity and recognition.

Education does not end in adulthood. Adult education centres must be strengthened financially. The chronic underfunding of universities must be ended. It is imperative that the federal government participates in the basic funding of universities and with investment funds in

university construction.

A reform of the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act (BAföG) to ensure adequate funding for studies and a university social pact for good social infrastructure are urgently needed. Universities must once again become places of free thought and open discourse. Professors and university staff must have the opportunity to express themselves critically within the framework of freedom of expression, without fear of disciplinary action or loss of their job. Academic freedom must be restored.

- We want to anchor civil clauses in all universities and scientific institutions.

- We stand for an end to chain temporary contracts and instead demand permanent positions for permanent tasks at universities.

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Health and Care: No more profit-chasing and two-tier healthcare

The well-being, human dignity and autonomy of patients must be the overriding goal of the health care system. However, health care in Germany is in a deep crisis. There is a lack of responsibility, cooperation and care; instead, individual interests, undersupply, bureaucracy and a focus on profits prevail. The result is a neglect of human care, expensive medical equipment, unnecessary operations and multiple examinations. Conversely, medically important but financially un lucrative preventive measures, examinations and inexpensive medicines and aids are prescribed less and less frequently. The competition from separate financing budgets means that hospitals, rehabilitation clinics, outpatient practices and care facilities do not cooperate for the benefit of patients.

In addition, politicians have allowed pharmaceutical companies to rip off the public with completely inflated prices for new drugs, while at the same time lowering the approval hurdles for new drugs and vaccines.

As a result of such wrong decisions and wrong incentives, we have the second most expensive health care system in the world, but we are at the bottom of the list in terms of the quality of care. Medical care has deteriorated significantly in recent years, especially for those with statutory insurance, but additional contributions will rise dramatically in January 2025. Patients with statutory insurance now have great difficulty getting a specialist appointment in a timely manner, and even a new family doctor is often difficult to find.

There is a lack of doctors and dentists in the area, especially in regions with a low proportion of privately insured people. The journey to the nearest hospital is also getting longer, 40 hospitals and Emergency rooms have been closed in the last three years alone. Necessary nursing staff

There is a shortage of staff everywhere and people complain about miserable working conditions. Pharmacies are closing and many medicines are no longer available.

Prevention, alternative forms of treatment, psychotherapy and simple human care are being pushed aside in favour of an increasingly expensive "repair medicine", the preference for intervention-related diagnoses and the treatment of acute illnesses at the expense of chronic multiple illnesses. These false incentives must be overcome.

- Healthcare is based on human contact. Doctor-patient confidentiality is therefore a basic requirement for creating trust in healthcare. Any efforts to digitalise the healthcare system must be based on this principle.

We want a health and care policy that ensures good care for everyone who is sick and in need of care.

The BSW wants to put an end to the two-tier healthcare system that disadvantages patients with statutory health insurance and burdens them with ever greater costs that should actually be borne by the general public.

- We demand tax financing of non-insurance benefits (e.g. contributions from citizens' allowance recipients).

- We demand the abolition of additional contributions and the introduction of a citizen's insurance scheme into which all citizens pay according to their income and receive, in principle, the same benefits at the level of the highest medical standards.

- As an immediate measure, we demand the transfer of pension provisions from private health insurance companies when changing providers (so-called portability).

We want to strengthen the local level in the planning and organisation of health and care provision. The increased privatisation in recent years has not

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Improvement of care has been achieved and must be reduced. The BSW wants to focus on the needs of the population.

- - We demand the abolition of the costly separation of the various care sectors such as outpatient, nursing and inpatient care.
- - We call for the consolidation of the innovative, integrative care concepts that have been developed locally to date and that provide for networked care across all actors.
- - We demand that the Federal Joint Committee be tasked with formulating the minimum requirements that these concepts must comply with.

The federal states are not meeting their investment obligations under the dual hospital financing system. As a result, resorting to closing hospitals is a cynical policy and increases the undersupply of citizens. We demand that hospitals be retained and better integrated into local health care. Instead of their current competition, which is to the detriment of patients, we should demand closer integration of outpatient and inpatient health care.

- - We reject hospital closures and the current hospital reform because the outpatient sector cannot take over care and the reform is not integrated into an effective development perspective.
- - General practitioners in particular, as contact persons for patients, must be paid more.

In general, the loss of private insurance must not lead to a loss of income for practicing physicians and dentists.

Every year, citizens pay more than five billion euros out of their own pockets for dental treatment.

- We want to bring necessary dentures and visual aids back into the catalogue of services provided by statutory health insurance. People's smiles should not depend on their wallets!

Maternity clinics and delivery rooms run by midwives must not be located in an inaccessible distance, but must be available close to where people live.

The discrimination against pediatric and adolescent medicine must be abolished and training in pediatric nursing must be resumed. Palliative medicine, hospice care and to promote inpatient care so that this phase of human life can be spent in dignity.

- Nursing homes must not be a poverty trap! The personal contributions of nursing home residents must be significantly reduced. That is why we are calling for full nursing insurance, which is financed primarily from tax revenues. Dignified care in old age must not be a question of money.

We want to create more places for medical students and training places for psychotherapists, train more nursing staff and offer better pay. Young people with a hard *numerus clausus* from Teaching medicine and then recruiting doctors from poorer countries is a cynical policy.

Stop rent increases – demand non-profit housing

Politics has failed in the housing market. It has not protected citizens from rapidly rising housing costs, but has further fuelled price increases through incorrect guidelines and a lack of regulation.

More and more people can hardly pay their rent. Anyone who has to move today is faced with an almost impossible task, and not only in big cities. Where citizens and families are making the leap to the longed-for

If you venture to buy your own home, the state also intervenes and benefits from rising property prices.

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The traffic light government had made a boastful promise to have 400,000 new homes built each year, including 100,000 affordable homes. This goal was missed by a mile. The number of building permits has recently continued to fall. The number of social housing units has reached a low of around one million. In 1990, there were almost three times as many. Every year, significantly more housing units are no longer in social housing than are built. In view of high interest rates and construction costs as well as increasing financial burdens on broad sections of the population and the municipalities, it is high time for a turnaround in new housing construction.

- Non-profit housing construction must be strengthened. Larger parts of the housing market must again be subject to the rules of non-profit, non-profit and municipal housing construction companies should receive low-interest loans and launch a large housing construction program. Where social housing is built, the social commitment must apply permanently.

Tenants have to spend more and more on housing, especially in urban areas and university cities. Instead of increasing housing benefits, which ultimately only benefit property owners, the state should cap rents and invest in the construction of new rental apartments - with a clear focus on the low-cost segment. These earmarked public funds are intended to strengthen the equity of municipal housing companies and enable them to build rental apartments that remain in public ownership in the long term and are thus available for low-cost housing. One example is municipal, non-profit housing in Vienna, thanks to which around 60 percent of Viennese people live in apartments that were built or renovated with housing subsidies.

We will campaign for the adoption of a law to better combat rent gouging and take legal action against excessive rents for furnished rooms.
the acceleration

ization of construction projects, for example by simplifying serial construction and introducing a simplified approval procedure for social housing. At the federal, state and local levels, we support initiatives to more strictly regulate the conversion of apartments into commercial holiday homes and to combat vacant housing.

- We demand a nationwide rent cap instead of an ineffective rent brake.

- In all regions where it is no longer possible to afford adequate housing on a normal income, we want to freeze rents until the end of the decade. Costs for renovations have to be borne by the landlords.

We want to curb speculation with building land and demand an active, long-term land policy and a sustainable urban development policy with mixed neighborhoods.

In order to reduce construction costs, excessive building regulations must be put to the test. Unearned profits of private landowners resulting from planning-related increases in value, must be at least partially skimmed off.

Transport policy for all instead

paternalism and prohibitions

The car is still the most important means of transport in Germany. While one in three people uses a car every day, only one in ten uses public transport or a bicycle. The car is an important part of everyday life for most people and enables mobility, especially in rural areas.

- We want to put an end to the anti-car attitude that the Greens in particular stand for in transport policy. Making driving more and more expensive is inconsiderate towards those who depend on their cars.

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The rip-off on motorways is an expensive nuisance. The fact that the monopolist of the service stations has been able to line its pockets at the expense of motorists for many years must be stopped politically. Horrendous fuel prices and overpriced food and toilets cannot be justified. Motorists must no longer be ripped off at motorway service stations, while at the same time paying for the infrastructure at service stations through vehicle tax.

We want everyone to be able to choose their own means of transport. This requires cheap fuel and affordable and well-developed local public transport: safe, clean and inexpensive. The fact that countless train stations across the country have been closed over the decades and that buses no longer run in many villages has caused massive damage to social cohesion in the country.

- We are committed to lower prices for buses and trains and to maintaining the Germany Ticket at an affordable price.

Instead of blindly relying on e-mobility, we want to promote various approaches, including new drive technologies, alternative fuels and the development of more economical combustion engines.

- We want to overturn the ban on combustion engines.

In the field of e-mobility, affordable models must be offered. We also want to intensify research and development work on technologies such as solid-state batteries. The production and further development of battery cells must also take place in Germany again. Our country must strive for a similar leading position in technologies for mobility in the 21st century.

as we had it in the 20th century.

- With a "people's leasing" for environmentally friendly vehicles from European production, including low-consumption vehicles

burner (under 5l), we want to enable people in regions with limited public transport options to have adequate mobility.

More and more citizens can no longer afford to buy a car. The starting rate for monthly leasing should be based on the price of the Deutschlandticket. Following the French model, income limits should ensure that the subsidy reaches low and average earners and not those who do not need it at all. This would avoid the design flaws of previous bonuses that made high-priced electric cars more expensive for those with big wallets. This leasing program would promote the sale of small, low-consumption cars, secure jobs and at the same time provide strong incentives to invest in fuel-efficient models. Such a rescue program for the German and European car industry would make economic and climate policy sense and would also be fair because it supports those who would otherwise not be able to afford a new car.

We will pursue a transport policy that focuses on the renovation and expansion of infrastructure. More money is needed for road construction and for the renewal of bridges in Germany. Those who save on transport infrastructure will pay twice as much tomorrow: Potholes must therefore be filled now, not just budget holes. Dilapidated bridges, dilapidated roads, the poor condition of many cycle paths and delays on buses and trains cost companies and employees not only their nerves, but also time and money every day. Therefore, a large-scale

Investment program financed by a reform of the debt brake.

- Where infrastructure is falling into disrepair, we want to repair it; where new roads are needed, we want to build them.

- We want to shift more traffic from road to rail.

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Many motorways are overcrowded with trucks. Because the railways have been ruined by cost-cutting for decades, freight transport is often not a viable alternative today. That must change again. High track access charges, which will rise sharply again in 2025, are also putting a strain on logistics companies and creating incentives for transport by road rather than rail. Instead of spending a lot of money on promoting climate policy hobby projects that often have very little effect on the CO2 balance, reducing track access charges and expanding freight transport capacity would be a real benefit both for the climate and for motorways with less congestion.

Deutsche Bahn's problems, including those relating to passenger transport, are of their own making.

Privatization fantasies and wrong priorities in both management and politics have made it possible for the once proud Deutsche Bahn to now be associated primarily with delays, train cancellations and endless breakdowns.

- We want a railway that once again concentrates on its core tasks in our country - local and long-distance transport as well as freight transport by rail. It must once again become the public model company that it once was.

We demand an integrated and timed rail and public transport concept based on the Swiss model. The railway – rail network and trains – must be made into a reliable and successful “German Federal Railway” again.

We want a transport policy that is there for all road users – from drivers to pedestrians.

This requires safe cycle paths in the city center, as well as attractive local and long-distance public transport and intact roads and highways. We rely on investment, a sense of reality and togetherness, rather than ideological bans and unrealistic ideas.

Mobility must not become a luxury, but must be affordable for everyone!

Food prices down, consumers stronger

A functioning market economy needs strong consumer protection so that consumers and companies can meet on equal terms.

There is a great need for improvement here. Up to now, large companies such as energy companies, food chains, banks, insurance companies or online retailers have been allowed to build up overwhelming market power. This allows them to dictate prices and contract terms - often to the detriment of customers. Consumers in Germany are ripped off far too often. When they then want to enforce their rights, it is unnecessarily complicated, time-consuming and expensive. We want to strengthen consumer protection.

- We advocate clear and understandable labelling on all food products. Consumers must be able to see at a glance what is contained in a product and where it comes from.

This transparency is a basic requirement for a responsible purchasing decision.

- We want to provide sufficient funding for consumer advice centres and expand their advisory services and important market monitoring (so-called “market watchdogs”).

We also advocate strict control of food quality. State food monitoring must be adequately funded and staffed in order to effectively combat consumer deception and health risks caused by harmful products.

We want to strictly regulate SCHUFA and other private credit agencies so that consumers' rights are protected.

- Obtaining credit reports for consumer contracts that have nothing to do with credit should be prohibited. Stored data must be deleted after one year at the latest.

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More and more citizens are finding it difficult to pay their electricity and gas bills. To ensure that no one has to sit in the dark or freeze in winter, we want to introduce a legal ban on electricity and gas cut-offs.

In addition, there is a need for widespread access to social debt counselling services that mediate between creditors and debtors and help to develop realistic debt relief concepts.

Healthy eating should not be a privilege of the higher earners. But that is exactly the current situation for many people: fruit, vegetables, meat and other fresh foods are too expensive to be able to afford them regularly. But they are important for a healthy diet. Farmers are getting an ever smaller share of the final price that the customer pays in the supermarket. What is driving up prices is the enormous market power of food companies, large slaughterhouses and dairies as well as the supermarket chains that dominate the food retail sector in Germany.

- - We need a price regulator based on the Swiss model to make high profit margins of individual market participants transparent and, where necessary, to take action against them.
- - Strong antitrust law is also necessary so that market-dominating corporations can be unbundled.

Food must not be made more expensive by government levies such as a meat tax. Instead, we are calling for a reduction in VAT to 0 percent for basic foodstuffs such as meat, cereals, dairy products, and fruit and vegetables. However, such a change would only make sense if it were actually passed on to consumers.

and does not end up in the accounts of the Aldi heirs or the Schwarz family.

In the catering industry, VAT should fall again from 19 to seven percent.

Every child in Germany deserves good nutrition.

- We therefore want free, healthy lunches in daycare centers and schools.

We place great importance on quality: the meals should be balanced, fresh and produced as locally as possible. This relieves the burden on families and ensures that every child has access to healthy food - regardless of the parents' income. This effectively counteracts nutritional deficiencies in children.

We want to combine the catering in day-care centers and schools with a permanent nutrition education program that reaches all age groups and is adapted to them. Among other things, learning content about cultivation, storage and preparation will be imparted.

Family-Friendly Germany

The BSW wants to make Germany a child and family friendly country.

Starting a family should no longer be a risk of poverty. We want to create financial conditions and contribute to a culture in which people are happy to decide to have children. Children and young people enjoy special protection so that they can develop well.

Nationwide, there are over 300,000 daycare places missing for children under three. The daycare groups are too large and there are too few educators. The result is that daycare groups are being closed and working conditions are getting worse.

Every fifth child in Germany is at risk of poverty, and many more are threatened by social exclusion. We are committed to a social and family policy that

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It specifically lifts children, young people and their families out of poverty and opens up opportunities for them to participate, develop their talents and have a good education – regardless of their background.

- We stand for good education and equal opportunities from kindergarten through school and training to university.

Family policy must focus on the needs of low- and average-income earners.

Child poverty is always parental poverty and can only be solved by higher wages and better social

Protection in the event of illness and unemployment.

- Every child must be of equal value to the state: the tax allowance of the chief physician for his children should be as high as the child benefit that a nurse receives for her children.

With an investment program called "Children and Education" we want to invest in a child-, youth- and family-friendly infrastructure. We demand low-threshold access to services such as children's and youth leisure facilities, libraries, sports facilities and music schools close to where people live. The funds from the investment program are to be used to improve the education and care infrastructure in cities and municipalities, some of whose dilapidated facilities are suffering from a long-term backlog of renovation and investment.

This is especially true for the places and areas where poor families live.

Companies should be held more accountable when it comes to providing daycare places. In return, these companies should receive tax advantages.

- Good daycare and all-day school places must be available everywhere in sufficient numbers, also to support women in their employment and to promote equal living conditions. We also want to improve the status of social and educational professions.

Social actors in focus – living diversity, strengthening cohesion

Our party stands for the preservation of the neutrality of the state in religious and ideological questions. We emphasize the fundamental right to freedom of religion according to Article 4 of the Basic Law.

Everyone has the right to freely practice his or her religion or to choose no religion.

This fundamental right is non-negotiable and a cornerstone of our democratic society.

We recognize the significant contributions of churches, religious communities and ideological associations. This includes in particular their achievements in the social, cultural and societal areas. Whether Christian churches, Jewish, Islamic or other religious communities - they do valuable work for the common good, social peace and the cultural diversity of our country.

In addition, secular and ideological associations are also important actors in society that enrich our democratic coexistence.

Their perspectives and commitment also contribute to promoting tolerance and social progress.

We strive for constructive cooperation with religious, ideological, cultural, sporting, social, scientific, political, media or other civil society actors who serve the common good, contribute to integration and strengthen social cohesion. We reject any form of discrimination. Our goal is to promote an inclusive society in which all actors can contribute to our common future.

For us, volunteering is a central pillar of our society, which is why we will promote and support it more specifically in the future. We are committed to a society based on mutual respect, openness and peaceful coexistence. Therefore, fundamentalist-ideological interpretations of religion or

We reject worldviews that endanger collective rights and democracy in the sense of a just and equal society.

Women's Rights Instead of Gender Ideology

The equality of women and men is enshrined in Article 3 of our Basic Law. Women make up about half of the population. They have a legal right to equal participation and equal development opportunities - at work and in the family. But in reality, women are still disadvantaged in many ways. They are underrepresented in many areas and especially at higher functional levels. On average, women earn less than men - for the same work. The so-called gender pay gap is reflected in a comparatively low old-age pension. The fact that women's pensions are so low is due, among other things, to the fact that they do most of the care work alone. They take on household and childcare chores as well as caring for relatives and work part-time to do so or have to give up their employment altogether.

The central concern of the BSW is to move from legal equality to real equality. This requires, among other things, concrete solutions for reconciling work and family, eg through the nationwide provision of crèches and kindergarten places as well as high-quality childcare for children in these facilities.

Children in Germany have at least 75 days of school holidays or no lessons due to public holidays. For parents who work full-time and often have two incomes, ensuring childcare is an enormous challenge. 30 days is hardly enough to cover the holiday periods. Full-time employment is almost impossible, especially for single parents. The state is called upon to offer reliable, free and high-quality holiday care.

However, childcare is not only essential during the holidays - it must also be guaranteed reliably and for a sufficient length of time during school periods, ideally through all-day care, which includes free sports, art and music activities as well as school meals. The all-day school model or guaranteed after-school care must finally prevail throughout Germany. There are currently hundreds of thousands of places missing nationwide!

Caring for relatives is work and deserves adequate remuneration, financial appreciation and social recognition. The care allowance must therefore increase significantly. At the moment it is far too low: the care allowance for level 4 (where almost 24-hour care is required) has been 800 euros since January of this year. The care allowance should be based on the remuneration that professional carers receive - in accordance with the principle: equal work, equal pay!

There is a great need for action with regard to protecting women from violence. Violence against women has been on the rise for years. Every third day in Germany, a woman is murdered by her (ex-)

Partner killed. Nationwide, there is a shortage of over 12,000 places in women's shelters. We have set ourselves the goal of expanding the violence protection and assistance systems and significantly increasing the number of shelters and places in women's shelters. The funding of women's shelters must be secured by the federal government in the long term. The use of women's shelters and protective spaces must, in principle, be free of charge for women.

In addition to supporting and advising women affected by violence, violence prevention measures are another important field of action. There is a need for comparable approaches across the country to prevent violence against women and girls. Accordingly, information about and raising awareness of protection against violence must be an integral part of the educational curriculum - in schools and

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Universities. Furthermore, offers in the area of perpetrator work and anti-aggression training need to be expanded.

- - The free, self-determined decision about one's own body and about whether or not to have a child must be guaranteed. The BSW demands that abortion should be exempt from punishment in principle up to the 12th week of pregnancy.

- - Contraception is mostly a woman's issue, which means that women usually also bear the costs. The BSW therefore demands that prescription contraceptives be covered by statutory health insurance and made available to women and girls free of charge.

According to the new self-determination law, men can declare themselves to be women simply by signing a document and thereby potentially gain access to areas such as women's sports, women's changing rooms and toilets, women's prisons and other women-specific (protective) spaces. This represents a threat and impairment for women and girls. Women's rights must not be sacrificed on the altar of political correctness. The new self-determination law, which allows women to change their gender once a year, undermines the protective rights of women. We expressly reject this law. For the few who really need it for a happy life, changing their gender identity should be possible without discrimination and with a medical certificate.

The category "women's sport" is based on biological sex - not on subjectively experienced gender identity. The separation in competitive sport according to biological sex is based on the fact that women cannot compete in many sports due to physical differences to men with the same talent and level of training. Allowing biological men who feel like women to compete in the women's category is unfair and contradicts the core idea of sporting competition.

According to the BSW, sex offenders should not have a legal right to change their gender entry. However, it should not be punished as a crime if the press or the victim calls a sex offender a "man" - even if he would like to be addressed as a woman.

4. Ensure security, protect freedom

Security is the prerequisite for freedom and for peaceful coexistence in Germany.

State action must serve to protect people and civil rights. We stand for security and freedom.

While government action is increasingly failing in its core tasks, government overreach is increasing. The political authoritarianism of the Corona period went so far that basic civil liberties were suspended by the state. But even today, freedom of expression is under pressure, and the "acceptable" range of opinion is being restricted. Many people no longer dare to say openly what they think. Surveillance, cancel culture and pressure to conform have reached proportions that are incompatible with a free society.

Safe streets and squares:

For a well-equipped police force

More and more people no longer feel safe in public spaces. We are committed to ensuring that the police are staffed and equipped in such a way that they can ensure security against crime. Not least for the effective fight against clan crime

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The police need more staff and better equipment.

- Visible police presence on streets and public places is important for the feeling of security and for preventing crime. This requires sufficient personnel.

It is an untenable situation that in some cities the police can no longer really support victims of crime due to an acute shortage of personnel and even serious crimes are no longer prosecuted. We want to change that.

We oppose the privatization of security tasks. Security belongs in the professional hands of the police. Police officers, firefighters, rescue and disaster relief workers, doctors and members of the health professions as well as countless volunteers stand up for people's lives and rights every day. When it comes down to it, they have to protect our lives. These everyday heroes need our support for this commitment and their passionate dedication.

- We want to better protect law enforcement officers, rescue workers and medical personnel from verbal and physical attacks through faster prosecutions and sentencing.

Our police must be enabled to put a stop to criminals, terrorists and extremists more effectively. We demand that the police be equipped with modern resources and

IT – especially with regard to current challenges such as cybercrime and terrorism. We rely on excellent training and further education in academies and training centers.

It is important that all powers give the security authorities exactly the tools they need to carry out their tasks and that they always have clear and unambiguous limits. Authorization bases with a particularly high level of intervention – such as the AI-based

Evaluation of inventory data or automated data comparison – are only required where our society must be protected from extremist, terrorist or other serious crimes must.

- The police also need to be relieved of secondary tasks. House searches for insults against politicians or searching the Internet for possible insults are certainly not tasks that our police and investigative authorities should be dealing with.

Politicians who employ entire public prosecutors' offices to pursue their critics for harmless social media postings are diverting resources that are needed for more important things. While lese majeste against foreign heads of government has not been a criminal offense since 2017, the Bundestag added the offense of insulting a "person in the political life of the people" to the criminal code in 2021. However, politicians in particular who hold positions of power and whose decisions often have direct consequences for people's lives and prosperity must face criticism from citizens in a free, democratic constitutional state.

- We demand that the offence of insulting a "person involved in the political life of the people" be removed from Section 188 of the Criminal Code.

The task of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution is to identify extremist activities at an early stage, to prevent terrorist violence or activities that endanger the state, and to protect against political and economic espionage.

The Office for the Protection of the Constitution must neither protect the government nor harm core fundamental rights such as freedom of opinion, freedom of the press and information, or the right of assembly and association.

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As an important corrective to the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution's obligation to follow instructions, parliamentary supervision and control must be exercised effectively and thoroughly. The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution in the Bundestag will make full use of its parliamentary rights.

- The new monitoring area "delegitimization of the state", which was created in response to the large protests against the Corona measures, is a design flaw. We want to abolish this task.

A functioning judiciary is also a prerequisite for a constitutional democracy. Our judicial authorities, especially in the states, are severely understaffed, although the number of

This leads to an overload of staff and excessively long processing times, which makes those affected rightly dissatisfied.

- We want significantly more staff in the judicial authorities and a reduction in the number of cases. We will achieve this through sensible reforms, particularly in the area of criminal law.

Secure borders:

Stop Uncontrolled Migration

Germany has welcomed a large city every year since 2015. More than a quarter of a million people Last year alone, there were 1,000 refugees. Even though the number of refugees arriving here is slightly is declining, it is still far too high. The consequences include that many children have to learn in overcrowded classes in which a large proportion of the pupils can hardly speak German, that finding accommodation has become a nightmare even for people on average incomes and that women in particular avoid certain streets and squares or outdoor swimming pools because they no longer feel safe there.

The very high social benefits for asylum seekers and refugees compared to other European countries have a great attraction.

But a strong welfare state only works if not everyone can immigrate to it. Countries like Denmark have understood this, Germany has not yet. Citizen's allowance spending on refugees has risen from around six billion euros in 2021 to almost 14 billion euros. If citizen's allowance increasingly becomes a refugee fund, it undermines acceptance and harms those who need it, such as single parents who are denied a daycare place.

- The promised job boost for Ukrainians and other refugee groups with protection status must finally be implemented.

At the same time, the uncontrolled influx of people about whose biographies, willingness to integrate and attitudes we know very little is a security risk. The naive acceptance practices of recent years have already made themselves felt in a far disproportionate increase in knife crime, sexual offenses and religiously motivated terrorism.

But even criminals without a right of residence are rarely deported. The inability of politicians to act on this issue angers many people. Even many well-integrated immigrants who are aware of the law and abide by the law and have become a valuable part of our society, are demanding a turnaround in migration policy because they are afraid that failed integration, Islamist violence and crimes committed by non-Germans will tip the social climate in a xenophobic direction. They are already experiencing increasing hostility and attacks.

We defend the fundamental right to asylum for those who really need protection. At the same time, we want to end uncontrolled immigration. Germany needs a breathing space for the coming years. From now on, the following principle should apply:

- Anyone entering from a safe third country has no right to stay. Anyone who has no right to stay has no right to

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an asylum procedure and no entitlement to social benefits.

The attacks in Mannheim, Solingen and Magdeburg have shocked our country. In all cases, There had been a failure of the authorities beforehand. The Solingen attacker would no longer have been allowed to be in the country if the deportation practice had been law and order. The Magdeburg attacker already had a criminal record in Germany for threatening violence when he was granted asylum in 2016 after a brief review of his application. Despite many indications that he posed a threat, he was able to prepare and carry out the attack unhindered. An Interior Minister who allowed and encouraged the Office for the Protection of the Constitution to focus primarily on harmless government critics and neglected real threats bears a great deal of responsibility for this failure.

- - We demand that laws and, if necessary, the Basic Law be changed so that refugees can

serious crimes lose their right to an asylum procedure in Germany and protection from deportation is limited to cases in which there is clear evidence that the person concerned faces the death penalty in their country of origin.

- - Immigrants who come into serious conflict with the law must be expelled and, if necessary, deported. Appropriate administrative and judicial procedures must be carried out as a matter of priority and promptly.

According to the Central Register of Foreigners, around 572,000 foreigners without a residence permit or residence permit lived in Germany by the end of 2023. They have neither a pending asylum application nor a protection status or are tolerated for other reasons, such as a job or good integration. It is important to ensure that these people leave Germany quickly. This also sends a signal to potential immigrants that they cannot expect to stay in Germany permanently if they are not entitled to protection.

From January to September 2024, 23,610 of the 38,328 planned deportations failed. This is a breach of the Chancellor's word, who had promised a change of course. The right to asylum is being abused on a large scale. Law and order must finally be enforced again when it comes to deportations. The authorities and courts responsible for asylum procedures must be given priority and the procedures streamlined so that they are normally completed in three months.

It often happens that the authorities concentrate on deporting those they can most easily get hold of. These are usually law-abiding, well-integrated immigrants with a permanent place of residence and in employment or training.

- Immigration authorities and courts should focus primarily on those who are not yet integrated or do not want to integrate at all.

The prerequisite for integration is learning the German language and integrating into working life. For this we need a system of adult education in which school qualifications can be obtained and further qualifications are possible if existing vocational training does not correspond to the German system and new vocational training is provided in order to help these immigrants to ensure access to the labour market.

Many European countries are now calling for a change in European asylum policy. The principle that anyone who reaches the EU can stay almost forever, regardless of their protection status, has an enormous pull effect and is causing more and more people to fall into the clutches of criminal smuggling gangs who make billions from migration. Those who are too poor to pay the smugglers or too weak to take the dangerous escape routes are left in the lurch by the EU.

In recent years it has been mainly the German government that has brought about a change

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This dysfunctional European asylum policy has prevented this. This blockade must end. With all due respect and compassion for the reasons that lead people to leave their homeland and seek protection or a better life in Europe: the right to asylum is not a right for persecuted people to find shelter in the country of their choice with the most generous social benefits.

- - European asylum law is dysfunctional. It feeds highly criminal, unscrupulous smugglers and ultimately kills more people than it saves. It urgently needs to be reformed. Asylum procedures should, if possible, take place outside the EU in safe third countries.
- - We want to terminate the Global Migration Pact, which obliges Germany to promote international migration movements, as soon as possible.

Reducing the causes of flight and migration at their source helps the majority of those affected more effectively than accepting a small number of them in Germany.

to Germany are generally not the most needy. We are therefore calling for a reorientation of the EU's foreign and trade policy aimed at improving living conditions in the countries of origin. This includes the lifting of economic sanctions against countries with politically undesirable governments, because it is always the population that suffers most from the sanctions. Germany must contribute to ensuring that the international community increases its commitment to ending wars, in development cooperation and in the area of climate protection in order to sustainably improve living conditions in the countries of the Global South. This would not only increase the quality of life there, but would also effectively combat the causes of migration.

- The largest refugee flows to Germany in the last ten years came from

Countries or countries that have been destabilized by the United States and its allies: Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Libya. Therefore, all military support for warring and civil war parties must be stopped.

The war in Ukraine, which was started by Russia, could also have been avoided in advance by a different US policy. Support for warring parties must not be used as a means of gaining economic or geopolitical advantages. Germany and the EU must not participate, either directly or indirectly, in military adventures to overthrow unpopular governments. We are also committed to greater financial support for humanitarian organizations such as the UNHCR so that refugees can be helped on the ground in crisis situations.

strengthen freedom of expression

More and more people in Germany no longer dare to express their opinions freely. This is a bad development for a democracy. For living together in a democracy, it is important that people express their opinions freely and that debates can take place openly. Without freedom of expression and diversity of opinion there is no democracy.

- We want to restore a social climate in which every citizen feels that he or she can freely express his or her opinion.

"In a democratic state, the will of the people must be formed freely, openly and without regulation"

- according to the Federal Constitutional Court. The process of opinion and will formation among the population must therefore remain "free from the state" in principle.

However, millions of dollars of taxpayers' money are currently being spent to influence the climate of opinion in

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Germany. This includes the promotion of certain projects, programs and organizations ("non-governmental organizations") as well as the promotion of so-called fact checkers, who often do not check facts at all, but instead spread their own opinions under the heading of "fact checking".

- - We demand an end to all forms of cooperation between the state and the media to influence the free formation of opinions.
- - We demand an end to the funding of projects, programs and organizations that aim to influence public discourse and represent certain political opinions.
We reject a so-called democracy requirement law.

Freedom of expression is very broad in Germany. However, it is not protected if someone intentionally spreads false facts. Furthermore, freedom of expression has its limits, for example, when it comes to statements that are punishable by law.

However, the boundaries of legitimate expression of opinion are being defined by the established parties through Use of unclear or vague terms such as "disinformation" or "hate and incitement"

watered down. The federal government supports a definition of the term "disinformation" that makes it possible to combat expressions of opinion that are protected by the constitution. What is understood as "hate and incitement" can be punishable, but often is not - especially not when it is permissible criticism of those in power.

Organized denunciation is a tool of dictatorships, not of democracies. However, there are now numerous state-supported reporting centers where statements that are clearly covered by freedom of expression can be reported. The denunciation of completely legal opinions is therefore openly demanded by the state. In order to avoid a direct attack on the

Freedom of opinion and thus democracy are also at stake if the state now wants to take action against expressions of opinion "below the criminal threshold", i.e. expressions protected by the constitution. All of this serves to deliberately narrow the scope of discourse and has no place in a free democracy.

- We demand that these limits of freedom of expression are not weakened by the use of unclear and undefined terms.

- We demand the abolition of reporting centres and their financing with tax money. We reject the structural recording and evaluation of expressions of opinion by the state.

As such, state organs must serve everyone and behave neutrally. There is an obligation to be neutral and objective. Derogatory language towards citizens endangers the free

Exchange of opinions, as this can lead to intimidation effects. One-sided moralization is used as a method to stifle objective debates. This establishes a friend-enemy mentality that makes open social discourse increasingly difficult and poisons the social climate.

- We demand compliance with the constitutional requirement of neutrality and objectivity. Defamation of those who think differently is just as damaging to the debate as moralization, which distracts from necessary substantive debates.

The Digital Services Act, an EU regulation that has been fully applicable since February last year, contains, among other things, rules for online platforms according to which not only criminal but also certain lawful content can be deleted. The terminology is sometimes so vague that that neither the citizen nor the online platforms can know exactly what can and cannot be posted on the Internet. This can

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lead to self-censorship by citizens and to a deletion practice by online operators that is no longer compatible with our standards of freedom of expression.

In recent years, criminal law has been increasingly expanded at the expense of freedom of expression. When criminal law moves ever closer to everyday language, this leads to intimidation effects among citizens. In addition, the public prosecutor's office in Germany is bound by instructions and is therefore subject to political influence. This was also made clear in the investigations into the Cum-Ex scandal, which repeatedly encountered resistance in the judiciary.

- - We demand that criminal law is not expanded inappropriately to the detriment of freedom of expression.
- - We demand an independent public prosecutor's office that is not bound by instructions. At the moment we see how the European Court of Justice does not guarantee independent action.

Review Corona policy and

righting wrongs

During the Corona period, fundamental civil liberties were arbitrarily suspended by an overreaching state. People were excluded from public life and in some cases deprived of their jobs because of their decision to be vaccinated, even though there was no medical justification for this due to the lack of protection for others provided by the vaccination.

Millions of people affected by psychological, economic, social and health damage caused by lockdowns, school closures, business closures, professional bans, 2G and compulsory vaccination in health professions and in the armed forces need a voice. Many people who have suffered from vaccine damage are still waiting in vain for medical help and recognition.

The RKI files that have become known show the extent of the government's political influence on the Robert Koch Institute and the suppression of dissenting positions in public discourse. The agency's internal self-control failed. That is why we need an honest investigation.

- We demand that the Corona period be examined by a committee of inquiry in the Bundestag.

Political decisions and measures must be put to the test. Political decision-makers and their experts must take responsibility in the investigative committee.

- The recording and compensation of vaccine damage must be debureaucratized and removed from the taboo. There is finally a need for comprehensive medical assistance for those affected by vaccines, as well as a large-scale study that uses anonymized health insurance data to examine whether certain diseases have occurred significantly more frequently in vaccinated people than in unvaccinated people.

It is necessary to strengthen internal self-control within the authorities by amending the Federal Civil Service Act (BBG) and the Civil Service Status Act (BeamtStG). The legally anchored obligation to remonstrate must not be detrimental to one's career when exercised. Officials must be able to point out grievances without facing disciplinary consequences.

We want to revise the Infection Protection Act (IfSG). The changes during the Corona period have created opportunities for draconian measures and these continue to exist today. In particular, the § 22a IfSG (Regulations on proof of vaccination, recovery and testing for COVID-19 and COVID-19 We want to repeal the certificates) and the catalogue of measures in Section 28a IfSG.

The RKI must be reformed and its independence secured. Likewise, the health authorities must once again become independent

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The RKI has shown that it cannot handle a crisis through its own expertise and self-confidence in the face of political influence. The health authorities of the states were also politically influenced. The population's trust in the highest disease control authority and in the health authorities was deeply shaken as a result.

- We demand a Corona amnesty law that ends proceedings based on arbitrary regulations and refunds fines imposed, while criminal proceedings for actual enrichment or serious offenses remain exempt.

The WHO Pandemic Treaty is an international agreement that aims to regulate the responsibilities of the World Health Organization (WHO) and national governments in preventing and dealing with pandemics. Among other things, it gives the WHO Director-General the right to declare various types of pandemics.

- We demand that the federal government does not agree to a WHO pandemic treaty with expanded powers for the WHO. The inglorious role of the WHO during the Corona period must be addressed.

Media and Culture:

Opinion instead of muzzle

The German media landscape is undergoing a radical change. Citizens' trust and acceptance in

Media content is continually decreasing. On the distribution platforms of the tech giants, non-transparent algorithms that can be manipulated by the providers control the news. Alternative facts and narrow corridors of opinion endanger democratic discourse. Critical journalism, questions governments and reflects a broad spectrum of opinions, is essential for our democracy. Public broadcasting should be responsible for this kind of balanced and critical reporting.

role model – but he has become part of the problem.

- We want a fundamental reform of the ORR and a renegotiation of the State Treaty on Media.

- We reject an increase in the broadcasting fee.

The contract presented so far by the so-called Future Commission does not contain any significant reforms of the public broadcasters. The existing organizational structures and financing models remain untouched in the reform paper, as do the disproportionately high salaries of the directors and managers. We do not want to abolish public broadcasting, but rather reform it so that it can regain trust. This can only succeed if the interests and participation of the contributors are adequately taken into account.

Educational programs and reporting on political and cultural events are currently not in proportion to the entertainment and sports programs on offer. A blatant imbalance has led to cost explosions and a significant dilution of the state mandate of public broadcasting. For example, only 44 cents of every euro of license fee currently goes into the program. License fees are being lost to external production companies, exorbitant salaries are being paid to

at the top, crushing pension burdens and unjustified multiple structures including excessive bureaucracy.

- The remuneration of the artistic directors and managers should be significantly reduced and in future linked to the salaries of the public service. Fee payments to commentators, experts and celebrities should be limited and made publicly available.

The current Reform State Treaty contains a “topicality clause” which ultimately provides

Depublication obligation is: On the Internet, the

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Access to broadcasts that were broadcast more than 14 days ago should be excluded. This is unacceptable. At least the broadcasters' own productions, which are financed by the contributors, must be available for an unlimited period of time.

The majority of the ORR's supervisory bodies, which monitor both finances and the legally regulated program mandate, are made up of representatives close to the state or political parties. All too often, a uniform journalistic opinion prevails in the editorial offices. This one-sidedness in reporting and the narrowing of the range of opinions in political commentary rightly angers many people.

- - We demand that control over the ORR and the composition of its committees be organised in a non-partisan manner and that the influence of the fee payers be strengthened.
- - We demand the establishment of an inquiry commission: The reporting and commentary of public broadcasters must be examined to determine whether it complies with the mandate to provide objective information and distance from government.

The BSW calls for art and culture as well as cultural participation and education to be defined as mandatory tasks of the state.

- We support the initiative “Protection of art and culture in the constitution”.

The safeguarding of state, private and independent art and cultural venues must be based on the creation of long-term protection instruments for artists and cultural workers against losses of earnings through no fault of their own.

Cultural education must also remain an indispensable part of general school education and must be strengthened. Project funding by state and local funding bodies must be non-discriminatory and without any obligation to adhere to political affiliations.

- The BSW is committed to better social security for freelance artists.

The real working and living conditions of those working in the arts, who are often classified as self-employed, are only inadequately reflected in the regulations of social and labor law. For example, a constant change between project-related freelance contracts or short-term employment and subsequent unemployment prevents social security in the social security systems provided for this purpose and often results in poverty in old age.

- The BSW rejects any attack on the artists' social insurance fund and calls for its reform to secure the livelihoods of artists and cultural workers.

Civil Rights in the Digital World

Digitalisation can make life easier. This can include digital access to government services, making work easier through the use of artificial intelligence or digital technologies. The crucial question is what framework conditions politicians set to enable economic development, to guarantee the data sovereignty of the state and citizens and at the same time not to forget those who do not have access to the digital world.

have or do not want to have. The increasing use of digital technologies must be prevented from leading to a transparent, totally monitored citizen.

The large digital corporations initially formed in the USA. China then concentrated on building its own digital infrastructure. In both cases, it is about the generation and evaluation of data, coupled with lucrative business models, but also about the access of the state and secret services to this data.

The current data scandal at VW shows the extent to which private companies are using digitalization to spy on citizens and store everything about them. Even if this data is not normally

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As is sometimes freely available on the internet at VW, business is done with them and personal profiles are created that are of interest to private market participants as well as secret services. In addition to the private sector's greed for data, there are also repeated calls from the state to record data on a massive scale and without cause and to allow complete access to the private communications of all citizens. Examples of this are the discussions on "chat control" in the EU and the data retention recently brought back into play by the remaining traffic light coalition.

- We want to stop this path to complete surveillance and prohibit the collection and storage of individual behavioral data.

Europe needs an independent digital infrastructure that protects citizens from surveillance and does not make companies dependent. We must take a new path to digitalization.

- We want to promote the development and use of open source software and freely available AI models for applications in science, education, culture and public administration.

Software manufacturers should be obliged to publish their products as open source when they leave the market or license codes for their use. In the spirit of the public domain of publicly funded goods, we want to create infrastructures for open access publications and for the long-term provision of consolidate research data.

The German administration has become highly dependent on the American data octopuses.

The federal government alone has concluded framework agreements with large international IT groups worth 13.8 billion euros for the next few years.

Federal authorities are allowed to purchase 4.8 billion euros from the database provider Oracle,

1.3 billion for Microsoft software. For services and products from German companies,

The federal government only pays out a tenth of this amount.

In the coalition agreement and in its digital strategy, the traffic light government had committed itself to strengthening the digital sovereignty of the administration through non-patented, open source software and open standards were initially a priority. But they did nothing: in the first two years of the traffic light system, the open source share of federal spending on software development and services was a mere half a percent.

- We demand: Instead of transferring billions more to US monopolists to deepen our dependence, the next federal government should support the administration in using open source solutions that save a lot of money in the long term and where our data does not become the property of American IT companies.

We also want to ensure the free use of cryptographic methods and the right to free information. Tracking using cookies or other methods should generally be avoided and should not be requested via a cookie banner if the user specifies this in the browser settings.

- Millions of citizens who do not own a smartphone due to their age or conscious choice must not be excluded from social life and discriminated against. This also applies to people who do not have a computer or internet connection.

They must all be able to use rail and local transport services without extra charge and to receive their packages. They must be able to get appointments at offices, with doctors and therapists. The same applies to people,

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who do not have access to the Internet. Authorities must not isolate themselves from citizens by erecting a digital protective wall and only communicating with citizens via digital forms and chatbots.

- We advocate for a legally protected right to non-digital participation in public life.

The ability to use cash is important for maintaining our financial and general privacy and for a self-determined life. Only cash allows us to buy goods and services without creating a data trail that is stored digitally for decades. Only with cash can we buy something without the involvement of third parties. If we (have to) pay for everything digitally, our bank account will become a detailed logbook of our entire life.

- We want to preserve cash and remove restrictions on its use.

As a first step towards preserving cash, we are pushing for a law that requires all German offices and authorities to accept cash without discrimination. The same should apply to all companies that provide services on public contracts. At the European level, the federal government should work to ensure that restrictions on the use of cash are relaxed and that cash users are no longer placed under general suspicion even for modest amounts.

Dare More Democracy

Strengthening democracy cannot only take place in public discussions. Above all, we need citizens to have a stronger influence on political decisions. The population should be given the opportunity to decide directly, especially on existential issues.

- We will strive to obtain the necessary majorities to initiate a constitutional amendment that will allow referendums on important issues, for example on pension reform as in Austria or the question of EU enlargement.
- It should also be possible at federal level to hold a binding referendum on proposed laws or repeal of laws (Heating Act) by means of a referendum.

Democracy can only function if lobbying and the influence of private companies on laws and government action are reduced. In contrast to this, partnerships between the public sector and private companies and organizations are becoming increasingly common both nationally and internationally. The United Nations and in particular the World Health Organization are highly dependent on the financial resources of multinational corporations. This leads to conflicts of interest and to a policy in which the private interests of individual corporations or sectors often outweigh those of the population.

There are also many examples at the national level where a cash-strapped state enters into cooperations with solvent associations or corporations due to financial difficulties. If the government holds health conferences together with the pharmaceutical industry or digitalization conferences together with the IT industry, it cannot be assumed that such conferences will produce independent results.

Particularly bad examples of the mixing of commerce and sovereign power are regulatory bodies in which government representatives and representatives of business associations have equal rights to make decisions, as is often the case with product standards in the medical and technical fields. Or when private organizations set standards that the state then allows to become law.

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We want Germany to push for private organisations to be kept out of regulatory bodies and for private individuals to be deprived of indirect access to state sovereignty. At the same time, lobbying must be made transparent through much stricter rules and thus curbed.

The transition of retiring politicians into sectors of the economy with which they were previously involved, may only be permitted with a waiting period of at least 5 years.