



**European
Movement**
Germany

Think, act and govern in a European way!

Political Agenda 2016/17

Resolution of General Assembly , 27 June 2016 (executive summary)

Safeguard European values!

EM Germany demands a stronger engagement by the European Union and its institutions, as well as domestic and civic actors, for the protection of European values at member state level: only practised values are strong values! If violated, the German federal government must enhance its public diplomacy strategy and mobilise its extensive decentralised network of contacts in order to ensure compliance with these values. Furthermore, the EU institutions should apply the “rule of law” mechanism in the sense of a real constitutional union. The government must support civic initiatives for a liberal and pluralistic democracy.

Reform the EU – with pro-European civic forces!

A Real reform of the EU can only be successful if all liberal-democratic forces have the ability to contribute. A future European convention for treaty change must include a wider public, along with representatives of governments, members of parliament, and the EU Commission. Democratic representation must also be valid for reform of EU electoral law: we call

upon the German government for a public commitment in favour of a European election campaign with officially nominated EU-wide “Spitzenkandidaten”. EM Germany demands that the Roadmap for the implementation of Article 11 TEU must be consistently pursued and that structures for youth participation must be fostered.

Educate Europe, strengthen a European consciousness!

EM Germany demands a strengthening of education and knowledge about Europe on all levels and for citizens of all ages. A better understanding of Europe is needed to improve the political participation of citizens and to establish confidence in European institutions and between citizens.

Open borders in a united Europe!

Decision-makers must actively campaign for the complete re-installation of the free movement within the Schengen area as soon as possible.

In order to minimise the risk open borders pose for internal security, the elimination of border controls must be combined with further cooperation between security agencies and a better protection of external EU-borders, while respecting human rights.

Act together: a common EU refugee, asylum and migration policy!

EM Germany demands a fundamental reform of EU asylum and refugee policy. We need a fair distribution of migrants and common standards in all member states. The current proposals of the European Commission are a good starting point – we call for a quick negotiation. EM Germany demands that the European Union, together with the member states, addresses the root causes of migration by focusing on global development work, a successful neighbourhood policy and fair trade and agriculture policies. Countries in transition towards democracy shall be supported.

Further Information:

<http://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/aktivitaeten/politik-2016-17/>

<http://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/aktivitaeten/arbeitsschwerpunkte/>

European public diplomacy: establish cross-border dialogue!

EM Germany insists that the federal government of Germany must involve civil society – also in economic and cultural spheres – when developing foreign politics. German diplomacy should move beyond only practising “traditional” state foreign politics, and instead support structured European dialogue by making use of “European public diplomacy”. In doing so, and via deepened “cultural and civil diplomacy”, links between civil society actors from all member states will be strengthened and pluralistic community as well as cultural exchange be promoted.

Promote global and transparent competitiveness!

Stronger economic growth within the framework of social responsibility through more responsible government budgets, intelligent investments in education, research and infrastructure and structural reforms are needed in the whole Union in order to create new employment opportunities – especially for young people. Safeguarding European achievements (civil liberties,

intergovernmental solidarity and social standards) should be the guideline of all political decisions, including trade policies. EM Germany demands transparency in negotiations of international trade and investment agreements to its greatest possible extent and claims stronger democratic participation.

Prepare EU politics for sustainability goals and the climate treaty!

The EU institutions shall evaluate all policies for sustainability and climate protection in order fulfilling the agreements of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, including the global goals for sustainability and the Paris climate treaty.

Better Regulation needs transparency and rigour!

The European Parliament shall live up to its mandate and use its negotiation margins guaranteed by the legislative procedure. The institutions involved in trilogues shall only apply the shortened legislative procedure in cases of extreme urgency. Comprehensive transparency before, during and after a trilogue must be guaranteed. In the

simplification of European law, careful consideration needs to be given to the extent it represents the will of European citizens and progress.

Defend Europe together!

In the light of increasing foreign and domestic security threats, steps towards a common European defence policy must be taken in order to achieve a cohesive European foreign and security policy. Facing asymmetric threats such as on-line propaganda and cyberattacks, as well as international terrorism, all EU member states shall conduct a reciprocal data exchange, deepen cooperation between their respective security agencies and better utilise already existing institutions such as Europol.

Continue pioneering: equality on all levels!

The EU has to continue to clearly champion equality as one of the basic values of the EU, and to emphasise this goal in all policies. The EU must work on the actual implementation of gender equality measures and policies in all member states. Furthermore, a new EU-wide equality strategy shall tackle the better reconciliation of the often conflicting demands of family and career. EM Germany demands the Federal Republic of Germany to ratify the Istanbul Convention and thereby act as a role model for other EU member states.

Improving European communication – preventing nationalist reflexes!

EM Germany urges the German Federal government to oppose anti-European voices with convincing arguments for the European integration project by strengthening its public relations activities on European affairs. The structured dialogue shall be expanded and its recognition increased. The achievements of European integration must be rooted in the civil society through broad and inclusive communications.

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