



**European  
Movement  
Germany**

# Political Demands 2018/19

Resolution of the EBD General Assembly on 2 July 2018

**Respect European values and fundamental rights** | The European Union and its institutions, as well as its member states and non-governmental actors, must advocate more strongly for the protection and promotion of European values and fundamental rights in the member states and pre-accession countries. To safeguard and promote European values and fundamental rights the European Union, including its institutions, and the federal government should apply legal mechanisms from the treaties and impose financial sanctions.

**Strengthen European democracy and the parliamentary system** | Together with as many member states as possible, the federal government should push reform initiatives for European democracy and promote a broad discussion in society. EU decisions must be comprehensible for the citizens of the Union. The protection and further development of the liberal democratic system must be paramount. The EU institutions should introduce a coherent EU voting system that promotes the

democratic development and validity of the European parties and that establishes the voting age at 16.

**Strengthen press freedom and democratic competition across Europe** | Nuanced communication and open dialogue are effective tools against the loss of confidence in politics, especially at a European level. The federal government and the EU institutions must resolutely promote pluralist democracy at all levels, and expose and fight anti-European disinformation. Communication from the federal government and the EU institutions on European politics must be target group-oriented, so that citizens feel addressed and want to play an active part.

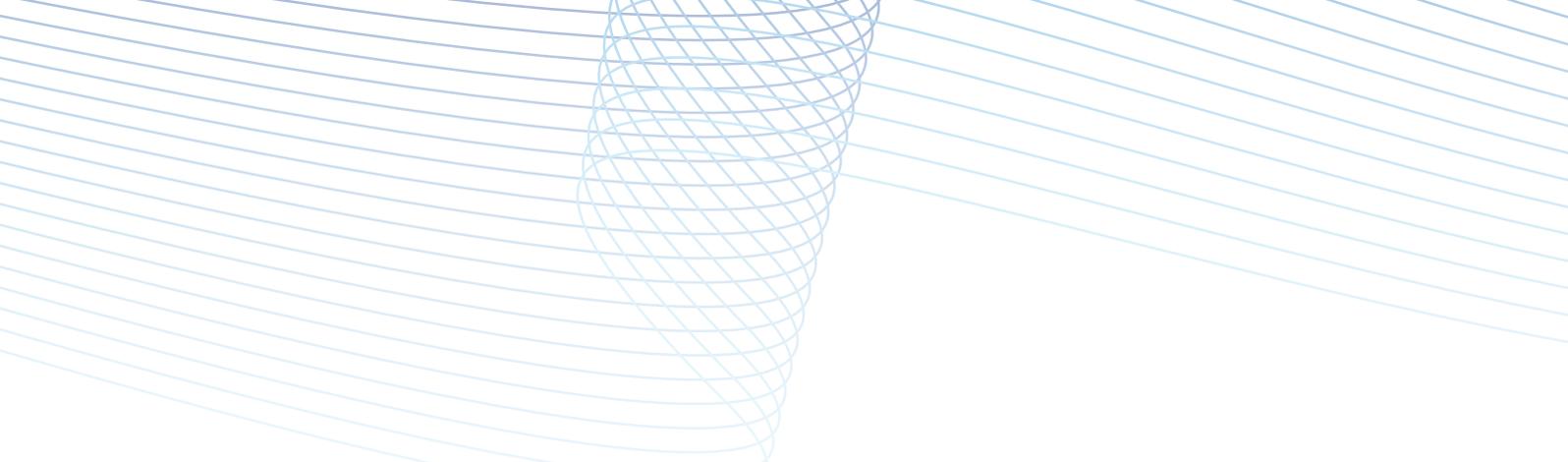
**Strengthen European awareness, educate Europe** | Education is the foundation of an informed European society, and therefore children, young

people and adults in all member states should be guaranteed equal opportunities for education. The new EU Youth Strategy must improve the situation of young people in Europe. Structured dialogue must be developed further and youth exchange promoted.

**Continue pioneering: equality on all levels** | The EU must be a key driver in gender equality again. This equality must be reflected in all areas of EU politics and should also apply to the appointment of its top political personnel. The EU must strive to ensure that existing EU gender equality legislation is also implemented by the member states.

**Social and economic convergence strengthens competitiveness and innovative capacity** | National self-interests must be left behind in order to undertake joint steps towards the further development of a fiscal,

More about the European Movement Germany's political demands:  
<http://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/aktivitaeten/politik-2018-19/>  
<http://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/aktivitaeten/arbeitschwerpunkte/>



banking, economic and monetary union on the basis of the social market economy. To promote growth and to generate jobs, particularly for young people, wise investments are required in education, research and social infrastructure, as well as the necessary structural reforms across the whole European Union.

### **Align budget closely to citizens and the priorities across Europe |**

The EU budget must be transparent and, for the public, visibly aligned to the priorities across Europe and must include a democracy bonus in future. Projects implemented by democratically founded organisations must be more strongly supported in their work. The EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 must be more effectively aligned to the political demands of the next decade and its financial capacity needs to be strengthened. National rebates should be abolished.

### **Ensure asylum standards, combat the causes of flight, assist refugees |**

Asylum and refugee policy in Europe must be fundamentally reformed to ensure a fair distribution of refugees that adheres to consistent standards and follows the principle of solidarity. A humane asylum and refugee policy remains the shared responsibility of all member states. Effective development cooperation, a successful Neighbourhood Policy and a fair trade and agricultural policy should be used to combat the causes of flight. Individual member states must affirm their role and responsibilities with regard to asylum and immigration.

### **For the abolition of borders within Europe |**

The free movement of people without border controls must be resolutely restored. As guardian of the Treaties, the EU Commission must stand against a permanent undermining of Schengen. Together with the federal government, the Commission must ensure that EU citizens from other countries are not described as 'foreigners' in Germany. It is only through free movement that pluralism and democracy can be strengthened across borders.

### **Strengthen European foreign and security policy |**

The Permanent Structured Cooperation must be expanded, thus strengthening the resilience of the EU in the long term. The federal government must advance the integration of military capabilities in line with the global EU strategy for security policy and in accordance with the EU-NATO declaration together with other EU partners. The European Union and the federal government must support and initiate short to medium term bilateral and multinational alliances between the EU states.

### **For a single market of the future |**

The EU Commission and the member states must facilitate new trade agreements and take rigorous action against protectionist measures and dishonest tax competition. European trade policy must set the framework for fair and sustainable globalisation. International trade and investment agreements must continue to be negotiated with utmost transparency, in order to contribute to shaping a fair form of globalisation.

### **Prepare EU politics for the implementation of sustainability goals and the climate treaty |**

The EU institutions and member states should explore all policies to determine whether these fulfil the Paris Agreement and the agreements adopted in the sustainability goals of the United Nations. The European Commission must present an implementation strategy with timescale, goals and concrete measures to comply with Agenda 2030 in all EU policy spheres. The Commission must set a good example and be a global leader in environmental protection and sustainable innovations.

### **Good EU legislation requires transparency and rigour |**

Decision-making and legislative processes in the EU must be made more transparent; in the case of trilogues, for example, through accompanying documentation and a compulsory assessment of any agreed changes. European legislation must be simple, carefully considered and clearly comprehensible for citizens.

### **For a modern German European politics |**

German European policy must act reliably and have broad parliamentary and social acceptance. German European coordination must be fundamentally modernised and conform to the currently applicable EU treaties. Above all, it must be characterised by coherence and inclusion and involve democratic and representative associations and organisations from all sectors of society in the future. A "European Public Diplomacy" beyond state actors can promote a structured dialogue across Europe.