



**European
Movement
Germany**

Political Demands 2019/20

Think European, act and govern democratically!

Resolution of the General Assembly on 24 June 2019 – summary

Respect European values and fundamental rights | The European Union and its institutions, as well as members and non-governmental actors, must advocate more strongly and precisely for the protection and promotion of European values and fundamental rights in the member states and pre-accession countries. In accession negotiations, therefore, Chapters 23 and 24 (rule of law and democracy) should be negotiated as a matter of priority; if necessary, accession talks are to be frozen. In the next multiannual financial framework, there should be room for financial sanctions linked to compliance with the rule of law.

Strengthen European democracy and the parliamentary system | The European Parliament, as the only directly elected EU institution, must be the centre for parliamentary democratic legislation and be endowed with a right of initiative. Within Germany, federal and Länder governments should work to strengthen “small scale democracy”, which increases under-

standing of and involvement in politics at all levels. In cooperation with as many member states as possible, the federal government should initiate reform initiatives for democracy in the EU and promote broad public debate. EU decisions must be comprehensible to EU citizens. The EU institutions should introduce a coherent EU electoral system with transnational lists.

Strengthen pluralism throughout Europe | Differentiated communication and open dialogue are effective means against the loss of confidence in politics, also at the European level. The federal government and the EU institutions must resolutely promote pluralistic democracy at all levels, unmask and combat anti-European disinformation. To strengthen media pluralism and media quality, an independent support fund for investigative journalism must

be set up. Independent public-service media should offer a common Europe-wide platform to develop high quality news, education and documentation services.

Strengthen European awareness – involve young people, educate Europe | Children, young people and adults must be guaranteed equal educational opportunities in all member states. Youth participation should be binding in the EU legislative process. The six-monthly EU Youth Conference could be an important instrument for this. The Council of Europe must be strengthened and supported as an institution; its budget for the youth section should be increased by 10%.

Continue pioneering: equality on all levels | The EU must become a driving force again in legal equality between

More about the European Movement Germany's political demands:
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women and men and fill top EU positions in a gender-balanced way. The EU must work to ensure that existing EU legislation on equality between women and men is translated into reality by the member states. In addition, a 2020-2030 equality strategy for people with disabilities should be developed. The Federal government should lay aside their reservations about the 5th Anti-discrimination Directive and improve protection against discrimination for all citizens.

Social and economic convergence strengthen competitiveness and innovative capacity | Growth must be sustainable, structural reforms and investments in education, research and social infrastructure are necessary. Youth unemployment must be combated, and work must offer a living wage and allow long-term life and career planning. The introduction of EU-wide minimum assurance standards as part of the reform of the Economic and Monetary Union must be implemented in order to strengthen social cohesion and upward convergence.

Gear the budget towards citizens and pan-European priorities | The EU budget must be transparent and clearly geared to pan-European priorities. In future, it must include a democracy bonus. The multiannual financial framework must reflect the political demands of the next decade. The European Union's budget should be raised to over 1% of gross national income in order to tackle new pan-European challenges and to promote equal opportunities within the EU. The net contributor debate should play no part in this.

Migration und integration – combat the causes of flight, help refugees | To combat the causes of flight, the joint development cooperation must be enhanced by further coordination of migration as well as foreign and security

policy. Neighbourhood policy must be conducted on an equal footing. Trade and agricultural policies must be fair. For the politically persecuted, safe entry to Europe must be made possible; full solidarity and consistent humane reception standards as well as the expansion of legal immigration channels are essential.

For the abolition of borders within Europe | The permanent erosion of Schengen must be prevented and the member states must stop border controls in the Schengen area. At the same time, better protection of the Schengen external borders must be ensured, with EUROPOL's competences being developed further and FRONTEX being expanded into a common border police force. Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Ireland must be admitted to the Schengen area as soon as possible. The accession process with the South-Eastern European countries needs to be accelerated further.

Strengthen European foreign and security policy | The reorientation of US foreign policy means that the EU has to cope with growing challenges. Multilateralism, negotiated solutions and the application of international law should remain basic principles of European foreign and security policy. In the context of the EU Council Presidency, the federal government should explore and tackle all possibilities for further developing the Common Foreign and Security Policy and advocate majority voting in the Foreign Affairs Council, especially in times of crises.

For a single market of the future | The EU Commission and the member states must create good conditions for growth and investment. The aim must be to improve the situation in countries that are falling behind economically and, in particular, to further reduce youth unemployment. Globally, the EU

must work to strengthen the multilateral trade system and make free trade agreements democratic and modern.

Prepare EU policies for the implementation of sustainability goals and the climate treaty | The European Commission must present an implementation strategy with timetables, objectives and concrete measures to comply with Agenda 2030 in all EU policy areas and comply with sustainability as an overarching and priority guiding principle. The EU institutions should forge ahead and live up to their leading role by introducing a carbon pricing scheme and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Good EU legislation requires transparency and rigour | European legislation in the Community method must be strengthened in the sense of a modern pluralistic democracy and should be transparent. The EU institutions should publicly document the extent to which national and European interests are heard at all stages and whether and how public interests have been taken into account. It should be regulated by law when a trilogue procedure is necessary.

For modern German European politics | German European politics must act reliably and be deeply anchored both, in parliament and in society. German European coordination must be fundamentally modernised and should not be influenced by departmental principle or party-political egoism. Modern German diplomacy should contribute its expertise on European partner countries to the domestic political debate. The separation of internal and external political communication must be overcome. Together with experts, democratic and representative associations and organisations must be involved in shaping German European policy.