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- Questions or comments can be posed via the button of the same name above the livestream window. Your questions/ comments will then be forwarded to the panelists.
- Please state your full name and the institution/organization you represent when you
 type in your questions or comments.







EBD Briefing

Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU

#EBDbrief

#EU2021PT



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EBD Briefing Portuguese EU Council Presidency

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Corona crisis | https://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/news-tag/coronavirus/

EU budget | https://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/news-tag/eu-haushalt/



Programme EBD Briefing Portuguese EU Council Presidency

Briefing

H.E. Francisco Ribeiro de Menezes, Ambassador of Portugal to Germany

Andreas Peschke, Head of the European Directorate-General at the Federal Foreign Office

Dr Kirsten **Scholl**, Head of the Department for European Affairs at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Opening of the discussion

Dr Jörg **Wojahn**, Representative of the European Commission in Germany Christian **Petry** MP, Vice-President, EM Germany

Moderation

Bernd **Hüttemann**, Secretary-General, EM Germany



Priorities of the Portuguese EU Council Presidency programme

Guided by the motto: "Time to deliver: a fair, green and digital recovery", the Portuguese EU Council Presidency has set the following main priorities:

- Promoting a European recovery, leveraged by the climate and digital transitions
- Implementing the Social Pillar of the European Union as a key element for ensuring a fair and inclusive climate and digital transition
- Executing the MFF, the NextGenerationEU and the respective RRF
- Strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy, keeping it open to the world.





Priorities and action lines of the Portuguese **EU Council Presidency** #EBDGrafik



Assessment on the basis of EM Germany's priorities

action lines

Green Europe Promoting the EU as a leader in climate action







Digital Europe Accelerating the digital transformation for citizens and businesses

"Time to deliver: for a fair, green and digital recovery"



Promoting a European recovery boosted by the green and digital transitions



Delivering the European Union's Social Pillar as a key element for ensuring a fair and inclusive green and digital transition



Resilient Europe Promoting recovery, cohesion and European values



Strengthening the strategic autonomy of a Europe that is open to the world



Social Europe Enhancing and strengthening the European social model



- Implement swiftly the EU budget 2021-27, including the recovery instrument and the rule of law conditionality
- Carry forward with commitment the rule of law dialogue in the Council of Ministers and reform the fundamental values procedure of Art. 7 TEU
- Promote media pluralism and strengthen the resilience of democracy against disinformation and hate speech in the digital age
- Initiate the Conference on the Future of Europe in January
- Achieve progress in the accession talks with the Western Balkans
- Stop the erosion of Schengen



Global Europe Promoting a Europe that is open to the world

Missing?

- Commitment to increasing transparency in the Council
- . Debate on new own resources for the EU

(i) Further information

Link to the programme: www.2021portugal.eu











13 January 2021 EBD Briefing Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU Slide 7

Priorities and action lines of the Portuguese EU Council Presidency #EBDGrafik



Assessment on the basis of EM Germany's priorities

action lines

Green Europe

Promoting the EU as a leader in climate action



priorities

"Time to deliver: for a fair, green and digital recovery"



Promoting a European recovery boosted by the green and digital transitions



Delivering the European Union's Social Pillar as a key element for ensuring a fair and inclusive green and digital transition



Global Europe

that is open

to the world

Promoting a Europe

Resilient Europe Promoting recovery, cohesion and European values



Strengthening the strategic autonomy of a Europe that is open to the world



Digital Europe

Accelerating the digital

transformation for citizens and businesses

Social Europe
Enhancing and
strengthening
the European social model

Missing?

- . Commitment to increasing transparency in the Council
- . Debate on new own resources for the EU

i Further information

Link to the programme: www.2021portugal.eu









Germany As of 01/07/2020

Portugal As of 01/01/2021

Slovenia As of 01/07/2021

Important to EM Germany

- Implement swiftly the EU budget 2021-27, including the recovery instrument and the rule of law conditionality
- Carry forward with commitment the rule of law dialogue in the Council of Ministers and reform the fundamental values procedure of Art. 7 TEU
- Promote media pluralism and strengthen the resilience of democracy against disinformation and hate speech in the digital age
- · Initiate the Conference on the Future of Europe in January
- Achieve progress in the accession talks with the Western Balkans
- · Stop the erosion of Schengen



2021

The Portuguese EU Council Presidency at a Glance European Movement Germany







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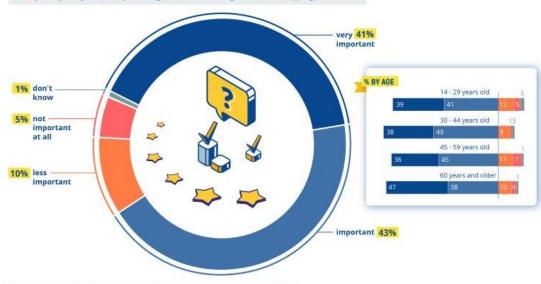
The role of German European policy in the 2021 Bundestag election campaign



#EBDGrafik

Representative poll by Forsa on behalf of EM Germany (December 2020)

How important do you assess an extensive discussion of European issues and European policy in the upcoming 2021 Bundestag election campaign?



Who is responsible for coordinating German European policy?





te & source: Forsa poll from 18 and 21/12/2020 | D

Long-term EU budget (MFF+NGEU) 2021-27

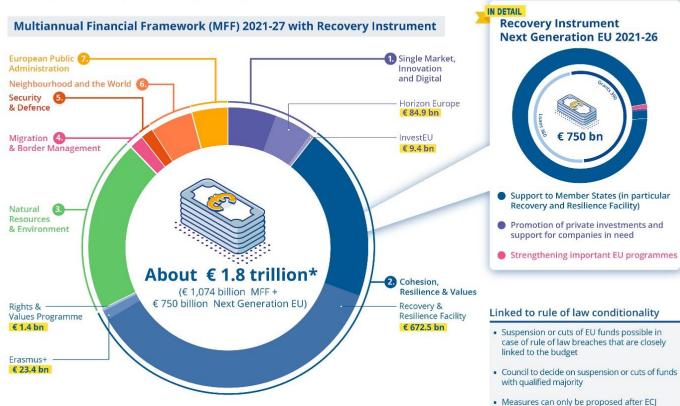




has ruled on _ _ _ legal action against

the new instrument

Compromise (in 2018 prices)



Europäische Bewegung Deutschland

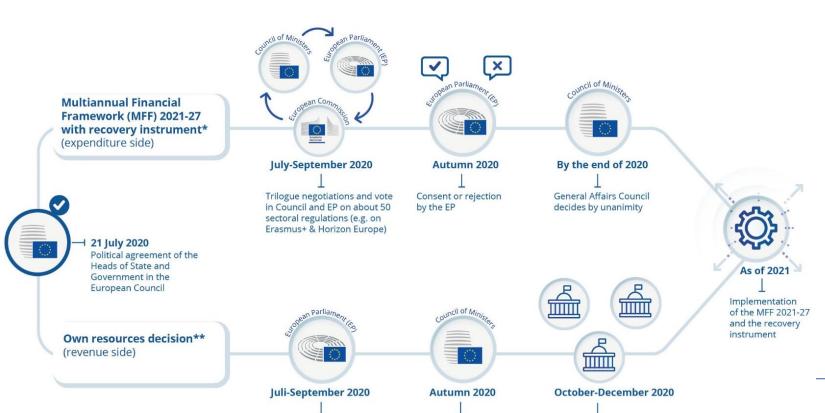
*In addition, approx. € 20 bn outside of the MFF 2021-27 Example: € 5 bn for a Brexit reserve

Long-term EU budget (MFF) 2021-27



European Movement Germany

Next steps towards an agreement



Consultation of the FP

General Affairs Council

decides by unanimity

Ratification by national and

partly regional parliaments



Taking stock of the German EU Council Presidency

#EBDGrafik



Preliminary assessment from the perspective of EM Germany



Register to the Council 13 January 2021 EBD Briefing Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU Slide 13

EU Migration and Asylum Pact

Expanding the Transparency

• Making the future of Europe a key issue of the federal election campaign

- Setting up coherent, strategic and accountable German European politics
- Launching a Conference on the Future of Europe that allows an open and frank discussion on discrepancies, such as on rule of law promotion and the future democratic development of the EU
- · Advancing the debate on the EU's new own resources



01/07/2020



01/01/2021

01/07/2021

Migration and Asylum Package



Proposal by the European Commission 23/09/2020*

1. EU external borders: procedure on arrival









Introducing fast-track asylum procedures for asylum seekers from countries of origin with a recognition rate of less than 20%

Creation of an



EU asylum agency

✓ Important to EM Germany

- · Authorise EU Asylum Agency to guarantee common standards for asylum procedures, reception conditions, recognition and protection
- . Ensuring a fair fast-track procedure & avoiding detention wherever possible
- . European monitoring coordinated by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), including for border management
- · EU coordinated rescue operations at sea





Reception of refugees from first host countries



"Return sponsorships"



Technical & operational assistance for the country of first reception

Depending on the scenario, assistance is compulsory or voluntary



Normal situation Voluntary participation

Member States may choose between all



Risk of pressure in one Member State

Member States may choose between all three options. but assistance is provided based on a distribution key



Situation of crisis

(e.g. Syrian citizens)

Member States may choose only between option 1 and 2



3. In countries of origin

and transit: enhanced

cooperation



resettlement



Establishing and deepening migration dialogues and partnerships

✓ Important to EM Germany

- · Solidarity in receiving asylum seekers rather
- · Creating positive incentives for receiving asylum seekers
- · Promoting integration into society

13 January 2021 EBD Briefing Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU Slide 14



Also planned:

than in expelling them

✓ Important to EM Germany

· Addressing the root causes of migration through coherent EU policies and multilateral solutions

- · Swiftly opening new legal migration channels · Extending EU Member States' contributions
- under the UNHCR's resettlement programme

Strengthening the rule of law #EBDGrafik in the EU



The European institutions' tool box

Preventive instrument*

European Rule of Law Mechanism

Annual cycle of dialogue with general report and 27 country chapters



*Other preventive monitoring instruments: EU Justice Scoreboard, European Semester, Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania.



How: rule of law assessment on the basis of the following criteria:



Judicial independence



Effective anti-corruption framework



Media pluralism & media freedom



Checks & balances

✓ Important to EM Germany

- · Institutionalise an open and constructive rule of law dialogue in the Council
- · Involve social forces as well as parliaments in the preparation and evaluation of the report

Sanctions instruments

Article 7 TEU Mechanism



How: unanimous decision by the European Council (without MS concerned), after consent by the EP on the existence of a breach.**

Then decision on sanction by QM voting in the Council of Ministers



اند Sanction: suspension of certain rights of the Member State, including voting rights

Rule of Law Framework



How: formulating recommendations in a three-stage dialogue between the Commission and the MS concerned.



Sanction: if MS does not adhere to the recommendation the recommendations, the Commission launches the Art 7 TEU procedure

✓ Important to EM Germany

- · Adopt as soon as possible a rule of law conditionality to the EU budget that addresses general rule of law deficiencies and limits Council competences to a QM veto
- · Strengthen the mandate of the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)
- · Apply the Art. 7 TEU procedure consistently and launch a reform of this mechanism in the medium term
- ** The Council decides in advance by a 4/5 majority (excluding the MS concerned) and after consent by the EP on the risk of a breach





How: hearing by the EU Commission, then initiation of proceedings before the European Court of Justice



Sanction: payment of fines

Linking the EU budget to rule of law principles



How: currently disputed

- Commission & EP proposal: decided by the Commission, but Council can veto with qualified majority
- Council proposal: decided by the Council on a proposal from the Commission



Sanction: suspension or restriction of access to European funds for a Member State

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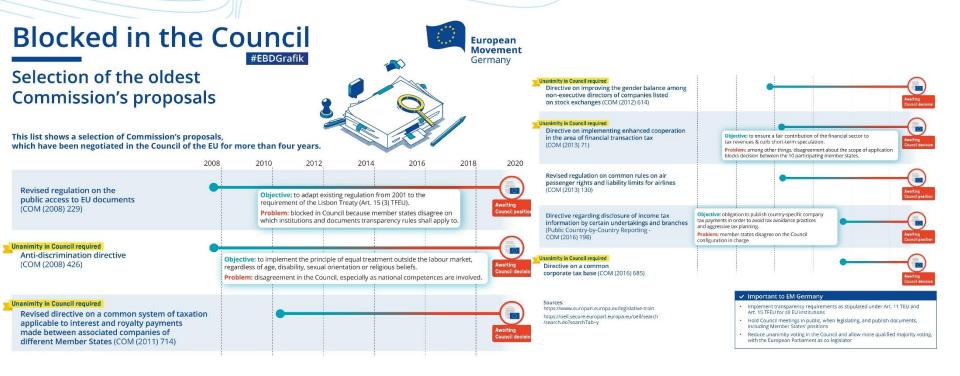


Schengen Area #EBDGrafik European Movement Germany Basic idea and practice EU member states in the Schengen Area Third countries in the Schengen Area EU member state outside the Schengen Area Candidates being part of the EU Micro-states with open borders with the Schengen Area Basic idea: goods and people can move freely across internal borders Signed: 1985 (Schengen I), 1990 (Schengen II) Effective since: 1995 Participating countries: 26 Border controls in the Schengen Area: max for 2 years Art. 29 of the Schengen Borders Code · Risk to the functioning of the border-control area · Serious threat to public order or internal security Temporary introduction of at least one internal border control since 2014 Foreseeable Migration Terrorist Covid-19 "Migration crisis" Covid-19 outbreak events threat G7 summit at O O Bataclan terrorist attack Castle Elmau in Paris 2014 2016 2018 2019 2015 2020 Denmark Germany France



Austria Norway Sweden





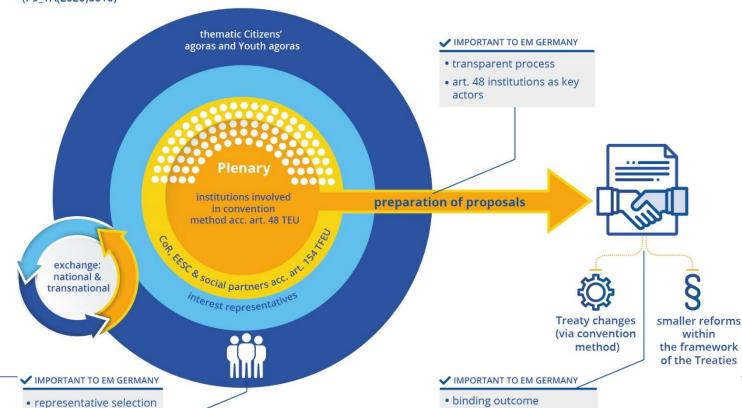


Conference on the Future of Europe



EP's position (P9_TA(2020)0010)

of citizens



• Treaty changes not to be

considered taboo



Conference on the Future of Europe

#EBDGrafik

European Movement Germany

Overview: Positions of the EU institutions

In line with EM Germany's position

largely

partly

few or none



Important to EM Germany

Involvement of representatively selected citizens



European Commission (See COM(2020) 27 final)

- · Deliberative panels
- · A representative citizens' panel
- · A multilingual digital platform
- · National, regional and local events



European Parliament (See P9 TA(2020)0010)

- Thematic citizens' agoras with max, 200-300 representatively selected participants
- · 2 youth agoras



Council of the EU (See 9102/20)

- · Debates and citizens' panels at nat., reg. and EU level
- Multilingual internet/ digital platform(s)



16/07/2019

Ursula von der Leyen pledges in her candidacy speech for EU Commission President to hold the Conference

12/12/2019

European Council asks to work towards defining a Council position

15/01/2020

European Parliament adopts its position

22/01/2020

European Commission adopts its position

Key actors: nat. parliaments & governments, EP and **EU Commission** (Conventions partners acc. to Article 48 TEU)

Transparent

process

No precise indication, but forum should be open to a wide range of institutions, including Art 48 TEU partners

All events, documents and essential

information should

be available online

Plenary of Art. 48 TEU partners with CoR, EESC and social partners

All events, documents and essential

Steering committee and an executive coordination board

information should

be available online

Secretariat

- Plenary of Art. 48 TEU partners with CoR and EESC
- Steering group
- Secretariat



09/05/2020

Conference was due to start on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, but was postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic

24/06/2020

The Council of the EU adopts its position under the Croatian Presidency

01/07/2020

Start of the German EU Council Presidency. According to its work programme, it will work to ensure that the FU institutions rapidly reach agreement

Next step

loint declaration and start of the Conference

Concrete follow-up and treaty changes not to be considered taboo

- Recommendations should lead to tangible results and a feedback mechanism could summarise debates on a quarterly basis
- Commitment to a genuine follow-up of the results without delay, with legislative proposals, initiating treaty changes
- by reporting to the European Council in 2022

Commitment to feed back results

· No detailed position on this

EU institutions should then examine how to follow up effectively to this report

13 January 2021 EBD Briefing Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU Slide 19



Recovery instrument: Next Generation EU

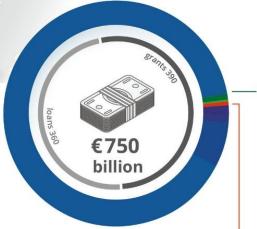




Political Agreement of the European Council

1. Support to Member States

Recovery and Resilience Facility	672.5
REACT-EU	47.5
Rural development	7.5
Just Transition Fund	10





3. Strengthening important EU programmes

rescEU	1.9
Horizon Europe	5

✓ IMPORTANT TO EM GERMANY

- × Parliamentary co-determination
- X Funds are linked to rule of law and democracy bonus
- ★ Strengthen future-oriented programmes of the MFF, e.g. Erasmus+, Horizon Europe

2. Promotion of private investments and support for companies in need

5.6

All figures in € billion

This graphic only shows funds from the recovery instrument. Additional funding from the multiannual financial framework (MFF), allocated to the programmes above, is not illustrated.





Upcoming Events of EM Germany

https://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/termine/

January

• 20 January 2021, 09:30 a.m. EBD De-Briefing ECOFIN and Eurogroup (in German)

• 20 January 2021, 11:00 a.m. German Parliamentary Groups in Dialogue:

Daniel Caspary MEP (in German)

All events take place as video conferences.



Membership in EM Germany's network

https://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/mitglieder-seiten/mitgliedschaft/

Wide-ranging network with more than 250 member organizations:

























A membership offers you...

Information - Current European policy information from and for the **professional public**

Participation - Shaping of the policy of the association,

free access to events, Participation in

"EBD exclusive" events

Networking - Dialogue within **Germany's largest**

European political network

Support - **Consulting, project development,**

event organization



