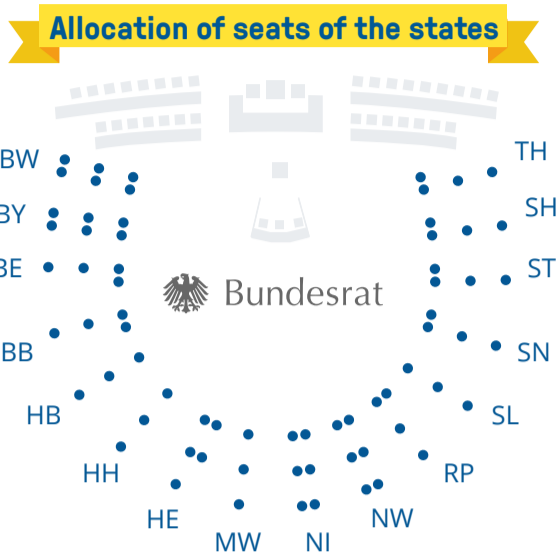


# Participation of the German states (Länder) in EU politics

#EBDGratik

## Overview, basic principles and possibilities of participation



### Constitutional basis



Art. 23 (2, 4-6) Basic Law (Article on European Union) and Art. 50 Basic Law

### Duty to notify



Federal government and European Commission shall notify the states on all matters concerning the EU, comprehensively and as early as possible

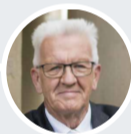
## Possibilities of participation

### BUNDESRAT

#### Subsidiarity complaints and actions

#### Participation in determining the German negotiating position in the Council of the EU

- Federal government must take into account Bundesrat opinion, especially if legislative powers of the states are primarily affected



Lead: Committee for EU Affairs, current Chair: **Winfried Kretschmann**, Minister President BW

- When rapid response required: Chamber for European Affairs represents Bundesrat plenary

#### Observation of deliberations in Council and Commission

- Secondment of Bundesrat representatives, especially to Council and Commission working groups



Observing participant and reporting of EU Council configurations to German state governments, current Observer of the states\* named by the EMK: **Sabine Overkämping** (also member of EM Germany's board)

#### Representation of the German position in the Council and externally

- Conducting negotiations in the Council of the EU in the fields of school education, culture and broadcasting
- Possibility to participate in relevant Council meetings

#### Direct statements to the European Commission and exchange with the European Parliament

#### Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU (COSAC)

### CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF THE STATES (EMK)

- Coordinating function for European processes



- Participation through resolutions and events



Current chair (until end of June 2021): **Peter Strobel**, Minister for European Affairs of Saarland

- In addition: Possibilities for participation also via the Conference of Minister Presidents and other conferences of federal state ministers

### EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (COR)



- EU advisory body
- Participation through hearings and opinions on EU activities
- States delegate 21 members (+ one member each from key associations of counties, cities and municipalities)



Current head of the German delegation: **Dr. Mark Speich**, NRW Secretary of State for European Affairs

### OTHER ACTORS AND ACTIVITIES

- States representations in Brussels, secondment of nat. experts to the Commission & European networks
- e.g. participation through events, statements and state parliament and cabinet resolutions of the states, preparation and carrying out of political visits to the institutions



### EM Germany at regional level

- EM Germany regional committees (Landeskomitees)
- Idea: European political network of social forces at the regional level



Spokesman of the regional committees in EM Germany's board: **Harald Baumann-Hasske**

\*Joint institution of all 16 states based in Brussels