



**European
Movement**
Germany

EM Germany – Political Demands 2021/22

Resolution of EM Germany's Federal Assembly on 15 October 2021 – Summary

EM Germany's political demands 2021/22 provide the conceptual framework for the political activities conducted by our EM Germany network. This document, which addresses three issue areas that each relate to **key challenges** in European policy, forms the basis for the priorities that EM Germany focuses on.

Deepening European democracy

A vibrant European democracy is the foundation for a peaceful future. Particularly when democracy is increasingly embedded in the digital realm, democratic processes need to be designed in a way ensuring effective representation, pluralism and transparency, whereby these processes must be aligned with and promote European values and fundamental rights.

Respecting European values and fundamental rights

The EU must make stronger efforts to protect European values and the rule of law in Member States and candidate countries through dialogue, the strengthening of European institutions and the utilisation of effective sanctions where necessary. Violations of the rule of law must be met with countermeasures such as withholding funding and implementing sanctions on the basis of Article 7 of the TEU and the rules governing infringement procedures.

Strengthening parliamentarianism | Strong parliamentarianism and pluralism ensure a vibrant democracy that instils trust in its citizens. Parliamentarianism and pluralism should be promoted in particular by strengthening the European Parliament, introducing a coherent European electoral law and improving opportunities for democratic participation. The EU should use a results-driven Conference on the Future of Europe to pursue the necessary reforms in this realm.

Promoting a digital dialogue culture and media pluralism

The EU and its Member States should take a self-determined approach to the influence of digitalisation on European democracy. They should strike a good balance between promoting diversity of opinion and counteracting disinformation as well as the effects of digital echo chambers and hate speech in digital debates. Investigative journalism and the diversity of the media landscape need to be strengthened.

Empowering young people | Young people need to be supported and acknowledged as politically active partners. To this end, youth organisations need to be strengthened all over Europe and opportunities for political participation must be expanded for young people, whereby it is important to get young Europeans involved with the European Youth Policy.

Promoting gender equality | The EU should quickly implement the European Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025. The EU and its Member States also need to fully ratify the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention.

Making EU legislation more transparent | Public and parliamentary political competition is as much a part of pluralistic democracy as lobbying. However, lobbying activities can only contribute to more legitimacy in the EU legislative process if they are made transparent. Increased transparency of the EU legislative process should include early publica-

tion of the positions taken by Member States in the Council, the disclosure of external influence on acts of law and a reduction of the use of informal dialogues.

Modernising Germany's European policy | European policy is domestic policy. Germany's European policy must be proactive and modernised from the bottom up so that it can be made more coherent and strategic under the coordination of a Federal Minister for Special Tasks and be firmly embedded in society and the German Bundestag. A one-way perspective on German diplomacy must be abandoned and replaced by European public diplomacy.

Making the EU budget ready for the future | The EU's Multiannual Financial Framework must reflect European values. The EU budget with the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument must be used to invest in key areas for the future in line with overall European priorities. For the refinancing of its economic recovery the EU needs to create new own resources. Parliaments and social interest groups should play a key role in the negotiations and implementation of the budget and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The stipulations relating to the climate and digital quota must be met and the "Do No Significant Harm" principle must be observed.

Shaping a global Europe

The success of the EU is closely linked to preserving the rules-based multilateral order. As a project for peace, unity and freedom, Europe has a responsibility to promote stability and sustainable prosperity and to defend democratic values, the rule of law and human rights, such as the right to asylum, around the world.

Deepening European foreign and security policy | The EU must strengthen its capacity to act in the area of foreign and security policy to defend its interests and values. The Member States must enable the introduction of a system where decisions in the Foreign Affairs Council are taken by a qualified majority. They must support and promote a rules-based international order and Fair Trade partnerships.

Dismantling borders in Europe | Freedom of movement in the Schengen Area and the variety of transnational cooperation are symbols of European unity. The EU must put a stop to measures undermining Schengen. The EU must advance the accession process for the Western Balkans and discuss this process with all social forces within the framework of a genuine European public diplomacy.

Aligning migration and asylum policy with European values

The Common European Asylum System must be fundamentally reformed. The EU must create legal pathways to establish consistent, humanitarian standards for refugee recognition and accommodation and introduce incentives encouraging Member States and local authorities to accept refugees. The EU needs to combat root causes of migration by employing a coherent approach and developing multilateral solutions.

Making Europe fit for the future

The EU faces the challenge of guiding Europe through the digital and green transformation. European policy must reconcile the objectives of ensuring a competitive and resilient economy with the ambitions of an environmentally sustainable and socially just future.

Shaping a modern and inclusive education policy | Sustainable transformation begins with a forward-looking, integral and inclusive education policy. Professional education, vocational education and political education – and in particular education programmes focusing on Europe – must be strengthened. Access to European educational exchange programmes must be improved.

Shaping ecological change | The EU must conduct a dialogue with the social partners and social forces in order to achieve its primary goals of climate neutrality and sustainability via the "Fit for 55" package. The EU should support the formulation of a long-term SDG strategy and a globally binding ambitious framework for protecting biodiversity.

Ensuring a digital and resilient future | The EU must strengthen its digital sovereignty by establishing the Digital Single Market, creating a secure legal framework and making extensive targeted investments in research, development and infrastructure. The EU must eliminate barriers to the free movement of goods and services, complete the Banking and Capital Markets Union and strengthen its resilience in terms of its strategic supply capabilities.

Shaping social justice | The EU should continue to pursue its treaty objective of ensuring a competitive social market economy by implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. The EU must combat unemployment and promote the creation of good jobs that offer good working conditions in the digital and ecological transformation – and also ensure that these jobs comply with the EU's minimum labour standards and the principles of social partnership.

Further information on EM Germany's political demands:

EM Germany's priorities: <https://www.netzwerk-ebd.de/aktivitaeten/ebd-politik/proritaeten/>
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