

## Parliamentary Party CDU/CSU



Fraktion im Deutschen Bundestag

## Christian Democratic Union of Germany / Christian Social Union in Bavaria

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*“Our partners in NATO expect from us, to meet our responsibilities. We in the CDU are committed to this, because the alliance has been ensuring peace and liberty for more than seventy years”.*

CDU foreign and security policy statement, [CDU Party Website](#)

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### Key Facts

**Chancellor Candidate in the 2021 Election:** Armin Laschet, Minister-President of the Land North Rhine-Westphalia since 2017; elected leader of the CDU in 2021.

**Ideology:** The CDU is Germany’s largest center-right party. Its Bavarian sister-party, the CSU, is considered to be well to the right of the CDU on the political spectrum on a wide range of issues.

### History

**Founded:** [The CDU](#) was founded in 1945 together with its Bavarian sister-party, [the CSU](#). The two parties form a single parliamentary party (“Fraktion”) since 1949. The CDU / CSU It has governed the Federal Republic of Germany for over 50 years since then.

#### Chancellors:

**Konrad Adenauer (1949-1963):** Best known for its policy of “Westbindung” (Connection with the West) during the early Cold War, designed to integrate West Germany into the US-led Western alliance.

**Ludwig Erhard (1963-1966):** Developed the practice of social market economy that was responsible for the post-war ‘German economic miracle’.

**Kurt Georg Kiesinger (1966-1969):** A transitional chancellor opening the way to the first transfer of power to the SDP, in 1969.

**Helmut Kohl (1982-1998):** Best known for his promotion of European integration and, above all, for Germany’s reunification after 1989.

**Angela Merkel (2005-2021):** Current chancellor of Germany, nicknamed ‘Mutti’ (Mommy); set to retire after the upcoming German Federal Elections, in September 2021. Faced a number of significant crises -financial, humanitarian, and geo-strategic – culminating in the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

## Parliamentary Party

- **Results in the 2017 Federal Elections:** Obtained 26.8 % of votes cast. Largest party group in the German Parliament, with 246 out of 709 seats. Senior governing party since 2005.
- The CDU/CSU PP includes a [Defence Working Group](#) chaired by [Henning Otte](#). Five key topics discussed:
  1. Necessity for Germany to take on more responsibility on the international scene;
  2. Implementing the 2016 Defence White Book;
  3. Deployments against Islamist Terrorism;
  4. Strengthening NATO's eastern flank;
  5. Increasing the Defence budget.

## Policies

The CDU published on its website a Policy Paper entitled “[New Responsibility for Germany in the World – Based on Commitment to Peace, Freedom and Human Rights](#)”. The Paper draws from the CDU's electoral Governing Program and was last updated on 21. June 2021. It sets out in brief four key foreign and security policies for Germany:

- Increasing the German government's expenditure on Defence to 2 per cent of its GDP;
- Setting up a German National Security Council in the Chancellor's office to achieve a better strategic overview of current global challenges;
- Spending 0.7 per cent of Germany's GDP on development projects in Africa; and
- Taking clear position in support of human rights, freedom of religion and mistreated Christians against totalitarian states aiming to undermine these values.

## Key Take-Away Quote

“The cornerstones of German and European Foreign policy is the friendship with the United States of America – independently from the question of who is leading its Government in the White House. This is because the many challenges of a globalized world cannot be resolved by either the European Union or the USA on their own... The CDU/ CSU parliamentary party stands for a reliable and responsible security policy within the framework of NATO, the backbone of Euro-Atlantic security... The [CDU/CSU] Union is also committed to take part in Foreign Missions seeking to bring about peace – there, where the Bundeswehr can add value with its capabilities.” [Statement of the External Working Group of the CDU/CSU parliamentary party](#)