

Parliamentary Party FDP



Free Democratic Party

“We Free Democrats want to increase the deployment readiness of the Bundeswehr and engage for this reason on a determined path of modernisation. The weapons systems of the armed forces are partly out of date and only partly ready to be deployed. Important procurement plans are delayed or completely fail to materialise and the upkeep of existing weapons systems is being neglected. This must change.”

FDP Position Statement on modernising the German army.

Key Facts

Leader in the 2021 Federal Election: Christian Lindner, Chairperson of the FDP since December 2013. He is also a Captain in the German Air Force Reserve.

Ideology: The FDP is a pro-business liberal party favoring free markets and responsible tax-and-spend policies.

History

Founded: 1948, from the union of left-liberal and national liberal parties. Over the years, it governed as junior partner with both the SPD and the CDU/CSU.

Key politicians:

- **Walter Scheel:** Minister of Foreign Affairs under Willy Brandt (1969-1974) and leader of the FDP from 1968 to 1974. He was Acting Chancellor for nine days, in May 1974, when the former resigned. He was President of Germany from 1974 to 1979.
- **Hans-Dietrich Genscher:** Vice Chancellor of Germany and Foreign Affairs Minister from 1974 to 1992, and longest occupant of both posts. He is considered to be one of the leading architects of German reunification after 1989.

Parliamentary Party

- **Results in 2017 Federal Elections:** Obtained 10.7 percent of votes cast. Fourth-largest party in the German Parliament, with 80 out of 709 seats.

Policies

- A truly common External and Security policy for Europe;
- Development of A European Army under common military leadership and parliamentary control;
- Clear positioning towards Russia
- For a strong and coherent German External, Security and Development policy
- Modernisation of the Germany Army, increase of its deployment readiness;

- Clear commitment to NATO;
- Renewal of Transatlantic Partnerships;
- A Europe capable of speaking with one voice;
- Creating a Transatlantic Economic Area

Key Take-Away Quote

“We Free Democrats are Transatlantic by conviction and feel responsible for the German-American friendship. The election of Joe Biden as US President provides us with a great opportunity to renew the Transatlantic relations over the coming decade. We want Germany and the EU to take advantage of this opportunity... In addition, we want to strengthen both Europe’s capacity to act and NATO’s coherence and contribute by this means to position the special ties between Europe and the USA on foundations that take into account the current geopolitical fault lines. The same applies to comprehensive relations with our NATO partner Canada, as we wish to adopt as soon as possible the CETA Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada, which the Great Coalition still has not yet ratified.” *FDP Position statement on renewing Transatlantic partnerships*