

Parliamentary Party Die Linke



The Left Party positions itself clearly against any further military buildup of NATO, for which the German Federal Government shares responsibility. “Instead of spending 2 percent more for the military, it would make sense to do more for social security”, commented deputy Chairperson Tobias Fluger.

[Position Statement of the Left Party on NATO, 26 May 2017.](#)

Key Facts

Leaders in the 2021 Federal Elections: The Left Party’s Chairpersons are [Susanne Henning-Wellsow](#), previously Chairperson of the Left Party in Land Thuringen, and [Janine Wissler](#), formerly Chairperson of the Left Parliamentary party in Land Hessen.

Ideology: Die Linke is Germany’s socialist party – a new left party belonging to the democratic socialist left. It aims for a “[fundamental transformation of society that will overcome capitalism](#)”. It is a member of the European Left alliance.

History

Founded: The current Left Party was founded in 2007 from the merger of two left-wing parties.

Key politicians

- [Oskar Lafontaine](#): Chairperson of the Left Party from 2008 to 2016. Former SPD member and as such, Minister President of the Land Saarland from 1985 to 1998 and Federal Finance Minister from 1998 to 1999.

Parliamentary Party

- **Results in the 2017 Federal Elections:** Obtained 9.2 % of votes cast, with 69 out of 709 seats. Second-smallest stand-alone party in the German Parliament.
- The Party has a main theme entitled [Disarmament](#) rather than ‘Defence’.
- A Press Release dated 9. August 2021 headlined [Learning the lessons of the Afghanistan disaster](#) calls the ‘war in Afghanistan’ an ‘adventure’ and ‘criminal’, and demands the immediate termination of all foreign deployments of the German Army.

Policies

- Opposes NATO's 2 percent of GDP target of Defence Spending
- Oppposes any arms exports.
- Opposes the militarization of society and the deployment of German troops in military conflicts abroad.
- Advocates the principle of Peace as means of conducting international politics as well as for a politics of détente and for multilateral collaboration.

(Party program, 2021, p. 108)

Key Take-Away Quote

“After 25 years of military troops deployments abroad, the time has finally come to draw the conclusions and consequences: Not one of these troops deployments abroad has kept the promises made in the Mandates provided by Parliament upon deployment. Not one was able to truly pacify the land where it was deployed.... The Left Party demands therefore the withdrawal of the German Army from all foreign deployments.”

Position Statement of the Left Party on Foreign Deployments