The Committees of the German Bundestag
Month in and month out, the German Bundestag adopts new laws or amends existing legislation. The Bundestag sets up permanent committees in every electoral term to assist it in accomplishing this task. In these committees, the Members concentrate on a specialised area of policy. They discuss the items referred to them by the plenary and draw up recommendations for decisions that serve as the basis for the plenary’s decision.

The permanent committees of the German Bundestag – at the heart of Parliament’s work
The Bundestag is largely free to decide how many committees it establishes, a choice which depends on the priorities it wants to set in its parliamentary work. There are 24 committees in the 19th electoral term. They essentially mirror the Federal Government’s distribution of ministerial portfolios, corresponding to the fields for which the ministries are responsible. This facilitates parliamentary scrutiny of the Federal Government’s work, another of the Bundestag’s central functions. That said, in establishing committees, the Bundestag also sets political priorities of its own. For example, the committees responsible for sport, tourism, or human rights and humanitarian aid do not have direct ministerial counterparts. A new committee first set up in the 19th electoral term is the Committee on Building, Housing, Urban Development and Local Government. Previously, responsibility for these topics lay with the Committee for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. The Committee on Labour and Social Affairs and the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community have 46 members each, making them among the largest committees. Only the Committee on Economic Affairs and Energy has more members: 49. The Committee for the Scrutiny of Elections, Immunity and the Rules of Procedure is the smallest committee, with 14 members. Four committees are stipulated by the Basic Law, the German constitution, and must be set up in every electoral term: the Defence Committee, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the Petitions Committee. The Basic Law also provides for the Joint Commit-
The Bundestag’s committees meet in the conference rooms in the Paul Löbe Building.
The composition of each of the committees reflects the balance of the parliamentary groups in the Bundestag as a whole. In the legislative process, one committee is designated as the lead committee, meaning that it leads the parliamentary deliberations on the bill in question and drafts the recommendation for a decision to be submitted to the plenary. Other committees can participate in the deliberations as committees asked for an opinion if the bill touches on the areas for which they are responsible. The committees also have the right to take up issues on their own initiative, allowing them to set priorities of their own in the parliamentary debate. When necessary, they draw on external expertise – usually by holding public hearings. To
The committees prepare Parliament’s decisions during their meetings.
supported by a committee secretariat within the Administration of the Bundestag which provides organisational and specialist support for committee meetings. The spokespersons of the parliamentary groups on the committees also play an important role in the committees’ work: they assert the interests of their parliamentary groups in the committee deliberations and are involved in planning the committee meetings. For each item of business, the parliamentary groups appoint rapporteurs, Members who specialise in and are responsible for various subjects.

This leaflet provides a brief overview of the Bundestag’s permanent committees and other bodies in the current 19th electoral term. Further information is available from the specified web-pages and the leaflets of the individual committees.

prepare its work, each committee can set up subcommittees to discuss specific issues or specialised areas of policy. The committee chairpersons are also appointed in line with the balance of the parliamentary groups in the Bundestag as a whole. The post of chairperson of the Budget Committee is traditionally reserved for the largest opposition parliamentary group – reflecting Parliament’s function of scrutinising the work of the Federal Government. The chairpersons preside over committee meetings. They are
The plenary refers the bill after its first reading.

The lead committee submits a recommendation for a decision for the second reading in the plenary.

Opinion

The plenary refers the bill, in whole or in part, back to the committee if, for example, extensive changes have been adopted.

Lead committee

Considers the bill in detail and draws up a recommendation for the plenary which can win majority support.

The lead committee can refer an item to a subcommittee.

Subcommittee

Can be set up for specific specialised areas.

The subcommittee prepares a recommendation or decision.
The plenary refers the bill to another committee or other committees for an opinion if the content of the bill covers more than one subject area.
The permanent committees in the 19th electoral term
Committee on Labour and Social Affairs
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a11
Chairman:
Dr Matthias Bartke, SPD
Deputy Chairman:
Matthias W. Birkwald, The Left Party
46 members
(16 CDU/CSU, 10 SPD, 6 AfD, 5 FDP, 5 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Foreign Affairs
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a03
Chairman:
Dr Norbert Röttgen, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairwoman:
Dr Daniela De Ridder, SPD
45 members
(16 CDU/CSU, 10 SPD, 6 AfD, 5 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a03/ua_arn
Chairman:
Matthias Höhn, The Left Party
Deputy Chairman:
Thomas Hitschler, SPD
9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a03/ua_kb
Chair: tbd.
Deputy Chairman:
Thomas Erndl, CDU/CSU
9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Subcommittee on the United Nations, International Organisations and Globalisation
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a03/ua_vn
Chairman: Ulrich Lechte, FDP
Deputy Chairman:
Dr Frithjof Schmidt, Alliance 90/The Greens
9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Subcommittee on Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Management and Integrated Action
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a03/ua_zks

Chairman:
Ottmar von Holtz, Alliance 90/The Greens

Deputy Chairwoman:
Dr Daniela De Ridder, SPD

9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Building, Housing, Urban Development and Local Government
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a24

Chairwoman:
Mechthild Heil, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairman:
Volkmar Vogel, CDU/CSU

24 members
(9 CDU/CSU, 5 SPD, 3 AfD, 3 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Education, Research and Technology Assessment
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a18

Chairman:
Dr Ernst Dieter Rossmann, SPD

Deputy Chairwoman:
Sybille Benning, CDU/CSU

43 members
(15 CDU/CSU, 9 SPD, 5 AfD, 5 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens, 1 non-attached)

Committee on the Digital Agenda
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a23

Chairman:
Jimmy Schulz, FDP

Deputy Chairman:
Hansjörg Durz, CDU/CSU

21 members
(7 CDU/CSU, 5 SPD, 3 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Committee on Food and Agriculture
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a10

Chairman:
Alois Gerg, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairwoman:
Carina Konrad, FDP

38 members
(13 CDU/CSU, 8 SPD, 5 AfD, 4 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on European Union Affairs
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a21

Chairman:
Gunther Krichbaum, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairman:
Markus Töns, SPD

39 Members of the Bundestag + 16 German MEPs with rights of participation
(14 CDU/CSU, 8 SPD, 5 AfD, 4 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a13

Chairwoman:
Sabine Zimmermann, The Left Party

Deputy Chairwoman:
Ulle Schauws, Alliance 90/The Greens

40 members
(14 CDU/CSU, 9 SPD, 5 AfD, 4 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Commission for Children’s Concerns
www.bundestag.de/kiko

Chairperson
alternating

6 members
(1 CDU/CSU, 1 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Subcommittee on Civic Activities
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a13/eng

Chairman:
Alexander Hoffmann, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairwoman:
Katrin Werner, The Left Party

13 members
(5 CDU/CSU, 3 SPD, 2 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)
**Finance Committee**  
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a07

Chairwoman:  
Bettina Stark-Watzinger, FDP

Deputy Chairman:  
Albrecht Glaser, AfD

41 members  
(14 CDU/CSU, 9 SPD, 5 AfD, 5 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

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**Committee on Health**  
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a14

Chairman:  
Erwin Rüddel, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairman:  
Harald Weinberg, The Left Party

41 members  
(14 CDU/CSU, 9 SPD, 5 AfD, 5 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

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**Subcommittee on Global Health**  
www.bundestag.de/globale_gesundheit

Chairwoman:  
Heike Baehrens, SPD

Deputy Chairman:  
Professor Andrew Ullmann, FDP

9 members  
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Budget Committee
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a08
Chairman:
Peter Boehringer, AfD
Deputy Chairman:
Dennis Rohde, SPD
44 members
(15 CDU/CSU, 10 SPD, 6 AfD, 5 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Auditing Committee
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a08/a08_rpa
Chairman:
Axel E. Fischer, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairman:
Dr Tobias Lindner, Alliance 90/The Greens
19 members
(7 CDU/CSU, 4 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Subcommittee on European Union Issues
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a08/a08_eu0
Chairwoman:
Doris Barnett, SPD
stellvertretende Vorsitzende:
Dr Birgit Malsack-Winkemann, AfD
13 members
(5 CDU/CSU, 3 SPD, 2 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Internal Affairs and Community
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a04
Chairwoman:
Andrea Lindholz, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairman:
Jochen Haug, AfD
46 members
(16 CDU/CSU, 10 SPD, 6 AfD, 5 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens, 1 non-attached)
Board of Trustees of the Federal Agency for Civic Education
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a04_innenausschuss/
KuratoriumderBundeszentralefuerpolitischeBildung
Chairman:
Thorsten Frei, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairwoman:
Daniela Kolbe, SPD
22 members
(8 CDU/CSU, 5 SPD, 3 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a22
Chairwoman:
Katrin Budde, SPD
Deputy Chairman:
Johannes Selle, CDU/CSU
18 members
(6 CDU/CSU, 4 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a17
Chairwoman:
Gyde Jensen, FDP
Deputy Chairman:
Jürgen Braun, AfD
17 members
(6 CDU/CSU, 3 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Petitions Committee
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a02
Chairman:
Marian Wendt, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairwoman:
Martina Stamm-Fibich, SPD
28 members
(9 CDU/CSU, 6 SPD, 4 AfD, 3 FDP, 3 The Left Party, 3 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a06

Chairman:
Stephan Brandner, AfD

Deputy Chairman:
Professor Heribert Hirte, CDU/CSU

43 members
(15 CDU/CSU, 9 SPD, 6 AfD, 5 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Subcommittee on European Law
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a06_Recht/a06_europarecht

Chairman:
Professor Heribert Hirte, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairman:
Tobias Matthias Peterka, AfD

9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Sports Committee
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a05

Chairwoman:
Dagmar Freitag, SPD

Deputy Chairman:
Dieter Stier, CDU/CSU

18 members
(6 CDU/CSU, 4 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Tourism
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a20

Chairman:
Sebastian Münzenmaier, AfD

Deputy Chairwoman:
Astrid Damerow, CDU/CSU

18 members
(6 CDU/CSU, 4 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety  
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a16  
Chairwoman: Sylvia Kotting-Uhl, Alliance 90/The Greens  
Deputy Chairman: Michael Thews, SPD  
39 members  
(14 CDU/CSU, 8 SPD, 5 AfD, 4 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure  
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a15  
Chairman: Cem Özdemir, Alliance 90/The Greens  
Deputy Chairwoman: Daniela Kluckert, FDP  
43 members  
(15 CDU/CSU, 9 SPD, 6 AfD, 5 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 4 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Defence Committee  
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a12  
Chairman: Wolfgang Hellmich, SPD  
Deputy Chairman: Prof. h. c. Dr Karl A. Lamers, CDU/CSU  
36 members  
(12 CDU/CSU, 8 SPD, 5 AfD, 4 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 3 Alliance 90/The Greens)

1st Committee of Inquiry of the Defence Committee  
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a12_Verteidigung/a12_Untersuchungsausschuss  
Chairman: Wolfgang Hellmich, SPD  
Deputy Chairman: Prof. h. c. Dr Karl A. Lamers, CDU/CSU  
36 Mitglieder  
(12 CDU/CSU, 8 SPD, 5 AfD, 4 FDP, 4 The Left Party, 3 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Committee for the Scrutiny of Elections, Immunity and the Rules of Procedure
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a01

Chairman:
Professor Patrick Sensburg, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairman:
Dr Florian Toncar, FDP

14 members
(5 CDU/CSU, 3 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Economic Affairs and Energy
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a09

Chairman:
Klaus Ernst, The Left Party

Deputy Chairman:
Dr Matthias Heider, CDU/CSU

49 members
(17 CDU/CSU, 11 SPD, 6 AfD, 5 FDP, 5 The Left Party, 5 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Subcommittee on Regional Economic Policy and ERP Budgets
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a09/rwp

Chairman:
Frank Junge, SPD

Deputy Chairwoman:
Astrid Grotelüschen, CDU/CSU

9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a19

Chairman:
Dr Peter Ramsauer, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairman:
Uwe Kekeritz, Alliance 90/The Greens

24 members
(9 CDU/CSU, 5 SPD, 3 AfD, 3 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)
In addition to the permanent committees, the Bundestag can set up special bodies. These include study commissions, where parliamentarians and external experts jointly consider important issues for the future, and committees of inquiry. The Bundestag has established a Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development to support and scrutinise the Federal Government’s National Sustainable Development Strategy and provide its own input. Information about the work of these bodies is available from the specified webpages.

Other bodies in the 19th electoral term
Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/bodies/sustainability

Chairman:
Dr Andreas Lenz, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairwoman:
Dr Nina Scheer, SPD

17 members
(6 CDU/CSU, 3 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)

1st Committee of Inquiry (“Breitscheidplatz”)
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/bodies/inquiry/1inquiry

Chairman:
Armin Schuster, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairman:
Mahmut Özdemir, SPD

9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Study Commission
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/bodies/study/artificial_intelligence

Chairwoman:
Daniela Kolbe, SPD

Deputy Chairman:
Stefan Sauer, CDU/CSU

19 members + 19 external experts in the relevant field
(7 CDU/CSU, 4 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Study Commission
“Vocational Training in the Digital Work Environment”
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/bodies/study/vocational_training

Chairman:
Dr Stefan Kaufmann, CDU/CSU

Deputy Chairwoman:
Marja-Liisa Völlers, SPD

19 members + 19 external experts in the relevant field
(7 CDU/CSU, 4 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 2 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Federal Finance Panel (established under Section 3 (1) of the Act on Federal Debt Management)
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/weitere_gremien/bundesfinanzierungsgremium

Chairwoman:
Patricia Lips, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairman:
Sven-Christian Kindler, Alliance 90/The Greens
13 members
(5 CDU/CSU, 3 SPD, 2 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Confidential Committee (Body set up under Section 10a (2) of Federal Budget Code)
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/weitere_gremien/vertrauensgremium

Chairman:
Johannes Kahrs, SPD
Deputy Chairwoman:
Dr Gesine Lötzsch, The Left Party
10 members
(4 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee for the Scrutiny of Acoustic Surveillance of the Private Home
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/weitere_gremien/Artikel13

Chairman:
Volker Kauder, CDU/CSU
9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Committee for the Election of the Judges of the Federal Constitutional Court to be appointed by the Bundestag
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/weitere_gremien/Wahlausschuss

Chairman:
Volker Kauder, CDU/CSU
12 members
(5 CDU/CSU, 3 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

Mediation Committee
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/vermittlung

16 Members of the Bundestag + 16 members of the Bundesrat
(6 CDU/CSU, 3 SPD, 2 AfD, 2 FDP, 2 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Parliamentary Oversight Panel
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/weitere_gremien/parlamentarisches_kontrollgremium
Chairman:
Armin Schuster, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairman:
Dr Konstantin von Notz, Alliance 90/The Greens
9 members
(3 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)

G 10 Commission
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/weitere_gremien/g10_kommission
Chairwoman:
Andrea Lindholz, CDU/CSU

Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly
www.bundestag.de/dfv
Chairman of the Assembly:
Dr Wolfgang Schäuble, CDU/CSU, President of the Bundestag
50 members
(17 CDU/CSU, 11 SPD, 6 AfD, 6 FDP, 5 The Left Party, 5 Alliance 90/The Greens)
Chairman of the Executive Committee:
Andreas Jung, CDU/CSU
8 members
(2 CDU/CSU, 2 SPD, 1 AfD, 1 FDP, 1 The Left Party, 1 Alliance 90/The Greens)
The German Bundestag takes decisions on what are at times highly complex and controversial bills and parliamentary initiatives relating to the entire spectrum of policy fields. The committees play a central role in parliamentary deliberations. They are the forum where the Members thrash out compromises and draw on expert advice before submitting their reports and recommendations for decisions to be voted on by the Bundestag as a whole.

www.bundestag.de/en/committees