



Deutscher Bundestag

The Committee on Food and Agriculture

Ausschuss für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft
Informationen in englischer Sprache



**New
2023
version**
20th electoral term



“The members of the Committee on Food and Agriculture deal with a wide range of issues. They work to support high-quality food, healthy eating, the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity on agricultural land and in forests, animal welfare, and the strengthening of family farms and rural areas. The agri-food sector is very important in terms of food security, and plays a key role in making Germany a good place to do business. It is therefore vital for society to stand behind our agricultural sector and to value the food that is produced in Germany.”



Hermann Färber, CDU/CSU
Chairman of the Committee
on Food and Agriculture

The German Bundestag's decisions are prepared by its committees, which are established at the start of each electoral term. Four of them are stipulated by the Basic Law, the German constitution: the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Defence Committee, the Committee on European Union Affairs and the Petitions Committee.

The Budget Committee and the Committee for the Scrutiny of Elections, Immunity and the Rules of Procedure are also required by law. The spheres of responsibility of the committees essentially reflect the Federal Government's distribution of ministerial portfolios. This enables Parliament to scrutinise the government's work effectively.

The committees of the German Bundestag

The German Bundestag sets political priorities of its own by establishing additional committees for specific subjects, such as sport, cultural affairs, human rights or tourism. In addition, special bodies such as parliamentary advisory councils, committees of inquiry or study commissions can also be established.

The committees are composed of members of all the parliamentary groups, reflecting the balance of these groups in the German Bundestag. The distribution of the chairs and deputy chairs among the parliamentary groups also reflects their relative strengths in the plenary. In the current electoral term, the committees have between 19 and 49 members.

The committees discuss and deliberate on items referred to them by the plenary. They also have the right to take up issues on their own initiative, allowing them to set priorities in the parliamentary debate. When necessary, they draw on external expertise – usually by holding public hearings. At the end of a committee’s deliberations – especially on bills and motions for which it is the lead committee – it adopts a recommendation for a decision and a report, which serve as the basis for the plenary’s decision.

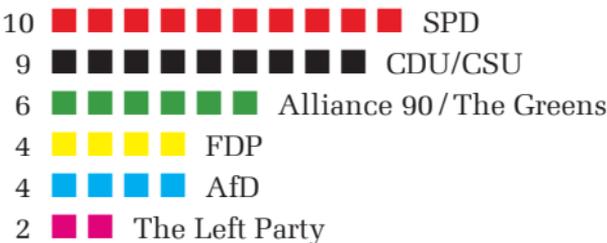
The Committee on Food and Agriculture has 35 members and is chaired by Hermann Färber (CDU/CSU), with Dr Gero Clemens Hocker (FDP) as his deputy. The Committee members deal with a wide spectrum of issues relating to food and agriculture, as well as consumer health protection in relation to food and consumer products. The Committee is the parliamentary counterpart of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The Committee on Food and Agriculture

The topic of “food” in the Committee’s name draws together issues relating to healthy food, nutrition education, and the handling, production and sale of food. The topics of food labelling and efforts to monitor food safety and quality are also discussed.

The German agri-food sector’s opportunities in the global value chain, the impacts of climate change on agriculture and efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and air pollutants caused by agriculture, world food security and international agricultural cooperation are also part of this policy field.

A healthy and balanced diet is important in all stages of life – from early childhood to old age. In this context, the Committee focuses in particular on the food policy pursued by the Federal Government and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Malnutrition, a lack of exercise and obesity represent growing challenges. The topic of “agriculture” in the Committee’s name refers to its parliamentary responsibility for national agricultural policy and the European Union’s common agricultural and fisheries policy. The Committee’s tasks include support for rural regions and social policy for the agricultural sector. Agriculture in Germany is still dominated by family farms, which are facing major challenges in the context of ongoing structural change.



Number of members: 35
 Chairman: Hermann Färber, CDU/CSU
 Deputy Chairman: Dr Gero Clemens Hocker, FDP

Agriculture stands for animals and plants, forestry and hunting, the climate and the environment, organic farming and renewable raw materials. Agriculture means crop farming, horticulture and wine-growing. The maintenance of cultivated landscapes and efforts to enhance quality of life in rural areas also fall within this part of the Committee's remit. Relevant issues also include the social security arrangements for agricultural workers, the use of biomass as a renewable energy source, animal feed, animal protection, welfare and

health, and high welfare standards in animal husbandry. The Committee also focuses on approaches to dealing with animal diseases, sustainable use of crop protection products and fertilisers, as well as hunting, which contributes to the conservation of animal and plant habitats. The Committee's deliberations also cover wood, among other things as a renewable construction material, and fishing, including aquaculture and maritime policy. Naturally, the policy field of agriculture also covers the major economic issues relating to the national implementation of and support for the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).



The new CAP funding period (2023–2027) is intended to make farms more competitive, intensify climate and environmental measures by farmers, and provide sustainable support to rural areas. The principle of sustainability is key in this context. In addition, digitalisation and online commerce are of growing importance in the Committee's work.

The Committee supports and scrutinises the policies pursued by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. It is the lead committee in the Bundestag for matters relating to food, agricultural, forestry and fisheries policy. In addition, it is consulted by other committees when they deal with initiatives which touch on the remit of the Committee on Food and Agriculture.



A large proportion of the items of business for which the Committee is the lead committee are bills, usually introduced by the Federal Government. There are also a large number of motions tabled by the parliamentary groups in the Bundestag. The Committee also regularly requests briefings from the Federal Government and discusses its reports. In the case of items referred to the Committee as the lead committee, the Committee prepares recommendations and reports for the plenary, on the basis of which the Bundestag as a whole takes its decision.

The Committee devotes a great deal of time to EU items, and to the Federal Government's reports on its activities within the Council of the EU, especially the preparations for and follow-up to the meetings of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council. The Committee also has a role to play in relation to international cooperation, global trade or the world food situation. More than 800 million people are still suffering from hunger and undernourishment – an unacceptable situation which is being further exacerbated by climate change.



The Committees seeks not only to respond to political and humanitarian challenges, but also to set priorities of its own and help to shape the issues of the future.

Dealing with these issues requires a wealth of detailed knowledge. For this reason, in-depth talks are regularly held – often by the rapporteurs of the parliamentary groups – with experts, representatives of associations and non-governmental organisations, and with academics and researchers. Consultations and public hearings with experts are another valuable tool which enables the Committee members to form their own impression of a

subject. In addition, the Committee sends delegations on trips abroad to gather information about current issues, developments and challenges in the field of food and agricultural policy in the countries and regions they visit. In turn, representatives of foreign parliaments and governments are often keen to hold talks with the Committee members during visits to the Bundestag.



Hermann Färber,
CDU/CSU
Chairman
Farmer,
b. 26 Mar. 1963 in
Böhmenkirch.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Dr Gero Clemens
Hocker,
FDP
Deputy Chairman
Economist,
b. 30 June 1975 in
Bremen.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Committee members

The 35 members of the Committee
on Food and Agriculture

Susanne Mittag,
SPD
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Police officer,
b. 25 July 1958 in
Cleveland, Ohio
(United States).
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Artur Auernhammer,
CDU/CSU
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Farmer,
b. 9 Mar. 1963 in
Oberhochstatt.
Bundestag Member
from 2004 to 2005 and
since 2013



Karl Bär,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Agricultural economist,
b. 13 Mar. 1985 in
Tegernsee.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Ulrike Harzer,
FDP
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Executive,
b. 13 June 1968 in
Karl-Marx-Stadt
(now Chemnitz).
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Stephan Protschka,
AfD
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Self-employed,
b. 8 Nov. 1977 in
Dingolfing.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Ina Latendorf,
The Left Party
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Lawyer,
b. 26 June 1971 in
Greifswald.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Dr Daniela De Ridder,
SPD
Business consultant,
b. 27 Nov. 1962 in Kiel.
Bundestag Member
from 2013 to 2021 and
since 2022



Rita Hagl-Kehl,
SPD
Teacher, former
Parliamentary State
Secretary,
b. 11 Nov. 1970 in
Porz am Rhein.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Anna Kassautzki,
SPD
Political scientist,
b. 25 Dec. 1993 in
Heidelberg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Dr Franziska Kersten,
SPD
Farmer, veterinarian,
b. 19 Dec. 1968 in
Lutherstadt Wittenberg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Sylvia Lehmann,
SPD
Industrial clerk,
economist,
b. 23 Apr. 1954 in
Schorbus.
Bundestag Member
since 2019



Luiza Licina-Bode,
SPD
Civil servant,
b. 10 Oct. 1972 in
Bad Berleburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Isabel Mackensen-Geis,
SPD
Political scientist,
b. 29 Sep. 1986 in
Schwetzingen.
Bundestag Member
since 2019



Johannes Schätzl,
SPD
IT specialist,
b. 10 June 1993 in
Hutthurm.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Peggy Schierenbeck,
SPD
Leadership and
communication coach,
b. 9 Oct. 1970 in
Neuwied.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Astrid Damerow,
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Bank clerk, business
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b. 30 Mar. 1958 in
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Bundestag Member
since 2017



Albert Stegemann,
CDU/CSU
Farmer,
b. 9 Mar. 1976 in
Nordhorn.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Dieter Stier,
CDU/CSU
Agricultural specialist,
b. 29 June 1964 in
Weißenfels.
Bundestag Member
since 2009



Max Straubinger,
CDU/CSU
Insurance salesman,
farmer,
b. 12 Aug. 1954 in
Oberlucken.
Bundestag Member
since 1994



Christina Daniela
Stumpp,
CDU/CSU
Tax law specialist,
b. 16 Nov. 1987 in
Backnang.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Hans-Jürgen Thies,
CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 11 Aug. 1955 in
Celle.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Dr Oliver Vogt,
CDU/CSU
Physicist,
b. 15 July 1977 in
Neuhaus am Rennweg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Renate Künast,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Former Federal
Minister,
b. 15 Dec. 1955 in
Recklinghausen.
Bundestag Member
since 2002



Zoe Mayer,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Industrial engineer,
b. 7 Aug. 1995 in
Karlsruhe.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Christina-Johanne Schröder,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Policy officer,
b. 6 Dec. 1983 in
Bremen.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Dr Anne Monika Spallek,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Stable manager horse
farm,
b. 16 Jan. 1968 in
Münster.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Niklas Wagener,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Student,
b. 16 Apr. 1998 in
Aschaffenburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Ingo Bodtke,
FDP
Engineer meat industry,
b. 6 June 1965 in
Eisleben.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Karlheinz Busen,
FDP
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b. 5 Apr. 1951 in
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Bundestag Member
since 2017



Peter Felser,
AfD
Entrepreneur,
b. 20 Sep. 1969 in
Dillingen a. d. Donau.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



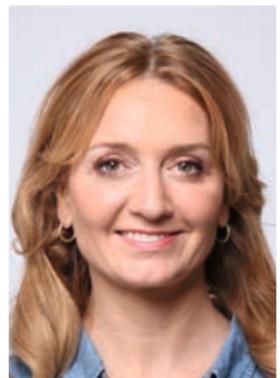
Frank Rinck,
AfD
Farmer,
b. 4 Nov. 1996 in Stade.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Bernd Hans Schattner,
AfD
Executive,
b. 27 June 1968 in
Annweiler am Trifels.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Caren Lay,
The Left Party
Sociologist,
b. 11 Dec. 1972 in
Neuwied.
Bundestag Member
since 2009





Information online

The Committee on Food and Agriculture
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a10



The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)
www.bmel.de



The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and
Food Safety (BVL)
www.bvl.bund.de



The Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
www.ble.de



The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
www.bfr.bund.de



The Julius Kuehn Institute (JKI) –
Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants
www.julius-kuehn.de



The Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI) –
Federal Research Institute for Animal Health
www.fli.de



The Max Rubner Institute (MRI) –
Federal Research Centre for Nutrition and Food
www.mri.bund.de



The Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (TI) – Federal
Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestries and Fisheries
www.thuenen.de



The Federal Centre for Food and Nutrition (BZfE)
www.bzfe.de



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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.

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