



Deutscher Bundestag

The Committee on Economic Affairs

Wirtschaftsausschuss
Informationen in englischer Sprache



New
2023
version
20th electoral term



“Germany is an economic powerhouse with a healthy SME sector. To ensure this remains the case, it is important to drive forward digitalisation, the energy transition, and efforts to reduce bureaucracy and foster innovation. Strategic resource and trade alliances must also be forged in Europe and around the world. The successful model of the social market economy should remain our compass in strategic decision-making. We must embrace the opportunities of change, including with regard to sustainable economic activity, as they will help to boost Germany’s competitiveness.”



Michael Grosse-Brömer, CDU/CSU
Chairman of the Committee on
Economic Affairs

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.

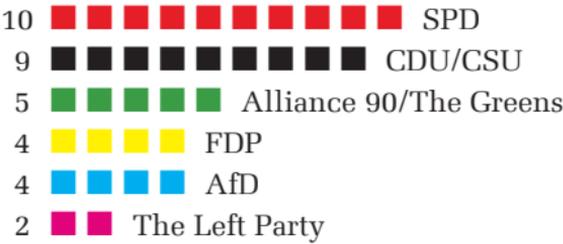
The committees discuss and deliberate on items referred to them by the plenary. They also have the right to take up issues on their own initiative, allowing them to set priorities in the parliamentary debate. When necessary, they draw on external expertise – usually by holding public hearings. At the 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 34 members of the Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Michael Grosse-Brömer (CDU/CSU), closely monitor what policies businesses need on the path to a climate-friendly, sustainable and digital Germany, what impact laws have on markets, the economy and people, what factors boost competitiveness and strengthen Germany's position as a good place to do business, and how jobs can be safeguarded or new jobs created. The issues dealt with by the members of the Committee on Economic

The Committee on Economic Affairs

Affairs are wide-ranging, and include all aspects of technology policy, industrial policy, policy towards small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the topics of the European internal market, foreign trade and investment, and global competition. Establishing good economic conditions does not happen by chance. Policy-makers have to take strategic decisions for the future on a daily basis. The Bundestag's choice to establish a separate Committee on Climate Action and Energy in the current elec-

toral term, alongside the Committee on Economic Affairs, underlines the scale of the action needed in the fields of both economic policy and climate and energy policy. The Committee on Economic Affairs deliberates on draft legislation in the relevant policy fields of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, and scrutinises the Ministry's work together with the Committee on Climate Action and Energy.



Number of members: 34
 Chairman: Michael Grosse-Brömer, CDU/CSU
 Deputy Chairman: Hannes Walter, SPD

Priorities in economic policy

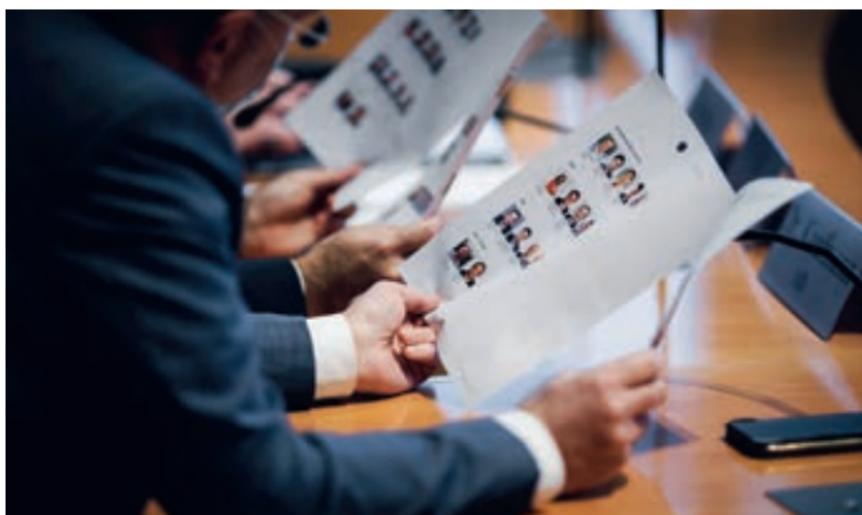
The business and working world will be fundamentally transformed by the digital revolution. Data is an important factor in value creation. We are seeing a rise in the market power of platform operators, who collect and analyse user data, and who can make it more difficult for providers to access customer groups. One important debate taking place within the Committee is therefore what instruments and rules are needed – including at European level – for a digitalised economy, in order to maintain and boost companies' competitiveness in future.

Small and medium-sized businesses – from craft enterprises to start-ups – are the backbone of the German economy. The German SME sector stands for innovation and is a source of economic growth and employment. Everything that helps to boost the SME sector is therefore especially important to the Committee, which discusses issues such as how the bureaucratic burden on the SME sector can be reduced and how skilled workers can be recruited in future, in light of demographic change.



Funding from the Joint Task of the federal government and the *Länder* for the Improvement of Regional Economic Structures (GRW) is used to promote value creation and employment in lagging regions and to compensate for existing locational disadvantages. The Committee examines the question of how support can be focused even more strongly on the energy transition, digitalisation and innovation. Establishing the annual operating budget for the European Recovery Program (ERP) Special Fund is another of the Committee's tasks. The funding focuses on financial support for the SME sector, in particular through start-up, innovation and equity financing. The results of GRW and ERP support are regularly analysed and discussed by the Committee on Economic Affairs.

At the same time, aspects of the energy transition also feature on the Committee's agenda. How the energy transition is affecting the German economy is just one of the questions it examines. The Committee also looks at issues relating to the EU internal market, foreign trade and investment and global competition, as cross-border trade contributes to growth and employment worldwide. In this context, answers need to be found to the questions of how Germany's competitiveness can be safeguarded in future, for example through trade agreements concluded within the framework of the European Union, and what to do about Germany's dependence on imports of raw materials.



The Committee's work in practice

Climate, energy, education or research – all of these issues are related to economic affairs. For this reason, rather than looking only at companies, the Committee on Economic Affairs also focuses on the wider environment in which businesses operate. The Committee is therefore involved in many cross-cutting economic issues as the lead committee

or as a committee asked for its opinion. Dealing with the wide range of economic policy issues requires the Committee members to have a wealth of detailed knowledge. In order to reach a decision, the Committee members often engage in dialogue with experts or with representatives of associations. Public hearings with experts are another valuable tool in developing a picture of the item under discussion. 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.



If the Committee is asked for its opinion on an item, it submits its recommendations to the lead committee, which takes them into account in its deliberations. To scrutinise the government's work, the Committee also regularly requests detailed written and oral reports from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, including up-to-date briefings or lengthy written reports, such as the Annual Economic Report. Particularly in times of crisis, the Federal Government's reports are highly important to the Committee, as they provide information

about necessary measures and their economic impacts. The Committee also sends delegations on trips abroad. Traditionally, the Committee on Economic Affairs has cultivated close relations with its counterpart committee in the French National Assembly. Its trips are intended to allow it to gather information about current economic and trade issues and developments in the countries visited by the delegations. When representatives of foreign parliaments and governments visit the Bundestag, they are often keen to hold talks with the members of the Committee on Economic Affairs.



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Committee members

The 34 members of the Committee on Economic Affairs

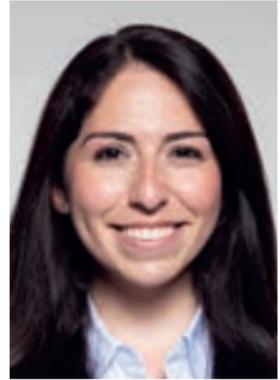
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Wirtschaftsausschuss

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



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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.

www.bundestag.de/en/committees



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