The Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection
“Whether it is changes to the Criminal Code, the Civil Code or other laws, or subjects such as the rent-rise cap, how user data is handled online, or restrictions under the Act to Improve Enforcement of the Law in Social Networks: the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection deals with important issues which touch on or even help to shape the daily lives of people in Germany.”

Stephan Brandner, AfD Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection
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 the Affairs of the European Union and the Petitions Committee. The Budget Committee and the Committee for 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 Bundestag committees
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, a majority of its members adopt a recommendation for a decision and a report, which serve as the basis for the plenary’s decision.

The German Bundestag sets political priorities of its own by establishing additional committees for specific subjects, such as sport, cultural affairs 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 nine and 49 members.
The Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection deals with all items of parliamentary business relating to justice and legal affairs, as well as consumer protection policy. This includes draft legislation on legal affairs in the traditional sense, such as family law, civil and criminal law, including the law governing the prison service, or copyright law. The Committee also deals with topical issues relating to consumer protection, such as the rights of passengers, banking practices, or safety issues when entering into contracts online. The 43 members of the Committee, chaired by Stephan Brandner (AfD), discuss a wide range of topics.
affecting everyone in Germany, and help to draw up fundamental legal rules which regulate coexistence in society. The Committee’s work is increasingly dominated by EU legal and consumer protection policy, for neither online commerce nor crime stop at Germany’s borders. In addition to serving as the lead committee on items falling within its remit, the Committee is also asked for its opinion on many others. It gives its views on a large proportion of the motions and bills considered by the Bundestag. Its members scrutinise bills to ensure they do not infringe the Basic Law or international obligations. This gives the members of the Committee a good overview of much of Germany’s federal legislation. The Committee also takes the lead if the Federal Constitutional Court gives the German Bundestag an opportunity to comment on proceedings brought before the Court. The Bundestag is often consulted if such proceedings are of particular relevance to Parliament, for example, or the legislative process in the German Bundestag is being challenged. If the Committee’s rapporteurs decide that a statement should be submitted to the Federal Constitutional Court, it is prepared by the Committee in cooperation with a legal counsel appointed to represent the Bundestag. Current proceedings before the Federal Constitutional Court regarding which the Bundestag has submitted a statement include proceedings about the CETA free trade agreement or the Unified Patent Court, for example.

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5 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ FDP
4 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The Left Party
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Number of members: 43
Chairman: Stephan Brandner, AfD
Deputy Chairman: Professor Heribert Hirte, CDU/CSU
One of the Bundestag’s key functions is ensuring parliamentary scrutiny of the Federal Government. In this context, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection plays an active, formative role in the parliamentary process. Whether through amendments to government bills, recommendations that opinions should be delivered on items of business concerning European legislation, or requests for oral or written briefings on other political initiatives: the Federal Government is continuously called upon to explain or correct its work.

The Subcommittee on European Law

Given the special importance of items of business relating to European affairs in the Bundestag’s work and, in particular, the work of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Committee has once again set up a subcommittee focusing specifically on European law in the current electoral term. Its nine members, chaired by Heribert Hirte (CDU/CSU), discuss European Union projects relating to legal and consumer protection policy, and issue recommendations to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection on what action should be taken. Once again, the spectrum of topics covered is wide – ranging from the establishment of
exercising the national parliaments’ rights in the European Union, which were boosted by the Treaty of Lisbon. The Bundestag itself can deliver opinions on EU projects to the European institutions, or call on the Federal Government to seek, as it conducts negotiations, to achieve the objectives set out by the Bundestag.

a European Public Prosecutor’s Office and the creation of a European Criminal Records Information System, to the question of what law applies in the case of cross-border marriages, to action to tackle fraud and counterfeiting involving non-cash means of payment, and cooperation on consumer protection within the European Union. By preparing the recommendations on European policy which the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection submits to the Bundestag as a whole, the Subcommittee plays an important part in
The Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection regularly holds public hearings of experts and receives briefings from government representatives. A wide spectrum of topics are covered: from draft legislation on end-of-life care, to copyright in the digital single market, to same-sex marriage. The Committee also deals with measures to enhance the protection of sexual self-determination, to prevent child marriage, to tighten up the provisions of criminal law so as to better protect enforcement officers, and to tackle unauthorised street racing. Arguments on these and other topics are exchanged not only at the Committee’s regular meetings behind closed doors, but also at public hearings. The members of the Committee draw on experts’ specialised knowledge when forming their opinions and, where appropriate, in the process of wording amendments to draft legislation. One issue which the Committee regularly revisits is protecting tenants’ rights. In view of the tight housing market in many urban areas in Germany, the Bundestag took the decision to reform...
tenancy law, on the basis of a government bill, and introduced a rent-rise cap. Motions tabled by the opposition parliamentary groups have called, both then and now, for this rent-rise cap to be further reinforced – by eliminating exemptions, for example, or by introducing fuller obligations for landlords to provide information.

There are clearly no limits to the variety of the topics with which the Committee deals – whether as the lead committee or as a committee asked for its opinion. It is responsible for dealing with measures relating to legal affairs and consumer protection, and it is also the body which examines bills to ensure they comply with the constitution. In short, the members of this Committee play a vital role by examining and helping to shape federal legislation.
Committee members

The 43 members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection
Alexander Hoffmann, CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 6 Mar. 1975
in Würzburg;
moved; one child and one foster child.
Bundestag Member since 2013

Ingmar Jung, CDU/CSU
Former State Secretary,
b. 4 Apr. 1978
in Wiesbaden-Sonnenberg;
moved; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr Jan-Marco Luczak, CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU spokesman on the Committee
Lawyer,
b. 2 Oct. 1975
in Berlin; unmarried.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Mechthild Heil, CDU/CSU
Architect,
b. 23 Aug. 1961
in Andernach;
moved; three children.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Ansgar Heveling, CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 3 July 1972
in Rheydt;
moved; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Michael Frieser, CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 30 Mar. 1964
in Nuremberg;
moved.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Mechthild Heil, CDU/CSU
Architect,
b. 23 Aug. 1961
in Andernach;
moved; three children.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Ansgar Heveling, CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 3 July 1972
in Rheydt;
moved; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2009
Sebastian Steineke, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, b. 19 June 1973
in Hamburg; married; two children.
Bundestag Member since 2013

Dr Volker Ullrich, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, business administrator, b. 14 Oct. 1975
in Illertissen.
Bundestag Member from 2005 to 2009 and since 2013

Professor Patrick Sensburg, CDU/CSU
University lecturer, lawyer, b. 25 June 1971
in Paderborn.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Axel Müller, CDU/CSU
Former presiding judge at regional court, b. 24 July 1963
in Esslingen am Neckar.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Carsten Müller, CDU/CSU
Bank clerk, lawyer, b. 8 May 1970
in Braunschweig.
Bundestag Member from 2005 to 2009 and since 2013

Nina Warken, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, b. 15 May 1979
in Bad Mergentheim; married; three children.
Bundestag Member from 2013 to 2017 and since Dec. 2018

Carsten Müller, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, business administrator, b. 8 May 1970
in Braunschweig.
Bundestag Member from 2005 to 2009 and since 2013

Professor Patrick Sensburg, CDU/CSU
University lecturer, lawyer, b. 25 June 1971
in Paderborn.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Nina Warken, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, b. 15 May 1979
in Bad Mergentheim; married; three children.
Bundestag Member from 2013 to 2017 and since Dec. 2018
Esther Dilcher, SPD
Lawyer and notary, b. 18 Sep. 1965 in Hofgeismar; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr Johannes Fechner, SPD
SPD spokesman on the Committee, SPD spokesman on legal affairs and consumer protection
Lawyer, b. 25 Nov. 1972 in Freiburg im Breisgau; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Ingo Wellenreuther, CDU/CSU
Former presiding judge at regional court, b. 16 Dec. 1959 in Karlsruhe; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2002

Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker, CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU spokeswoman on legal affairs and consumer protection
Former local court judge, b. 15 Sep. 1962 in Troisdorf; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2005

Dr Karl-Heinz Brunner, SPD
Business administrator, b. 14 Mar. 1953 in Munich; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Michael Groß, SPD
Division manager, b. 26 July 1956 in Marl; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2009

Esther Dilcher, SPD
Lawyer and notary, b. 18 Sep. 1965 in Hofgeismar; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2017
Marianne Schieder, SPD
Lawyer, b. 23 May 1962 in Schwarzberg. Bundestag Member since 2005

Sonja Amalie Steffen, SPD
Lawyer, b. 22 Oct. 1963 in Dreiborn, Eifel; three children. Bundestag Member since 2009

Dirk Heidenblut, SPD
Executive at the Workers' Samaritan Federation, b. 21 Apr. 1961 in Essen; married. Bundestag Member since 2013

Sarah Ryglewski, SPD
Political scientist, b. 31 Jan. 1983 in Cologne; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2015

Sarah Ryglewski, SPD
Political scientist, b. 31 Jan. 1983 in Cologne; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2015

Dr Nina Scheer, SPD
Political scientist, lawyer, musician, b. 11 Sep. 1971 in Berlin; unmarried; one child. Bundestag Member since 2013

Dirk Heidenblut, SPD
Executive at the Workers' Samaritan Federation, b. 21 Apr. 1961 in Essen; married. Bundestag Member since 2013

Fabian Jacobi, AfD
Lawyer, b. 19 June 1973 in Münster; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Marianne Schieder, SPD
Lawyer, b. 23 May 1962 in Schwarzberg. Bundestag Member since 2005

Fabian Jacobi, AfD
Lawyer, b. 19 June 1973 in Münster; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017
Roman Johannes Reusch, AfD
AfD spokesman on legal affairs and consumer protection
Regional court judge, b. 10 Feb. 1962 in Bremen; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr Marco Buschmann, FDP
Lawyer, b. 1 Aug. 1977 in Gelsenkirchen; married. Bundestag Member from 2009 to 2013 and since 2017

Katrin Helling-Plahr, FDP
Lawyer, b. 2 Apr. 1986 in Hagen; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2017

Professor Lothar Maier, AfD
University lecturer, b. 19 June 1944 in Wolfach; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Tobias Matthias Peterka, AfD
Lawyer, b. 4 Sep. 1982 in Achern; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Jens Maier, AfD
AfD spokesman on the Committee
Regional court judge, b. 10 Feb. 1962 in Bremen; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017

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Lawyer, b. 2 Apr. 1986 in Hagen; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2017

Professor Lothar Maier, AfD
University lecturer, b. 19 June 1944 in Wolfach; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Tobias Matthias Peterka, AfD
Lawyer, b. 4 Sep. 1982 in Achern; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017
Gökay Akbulut, The Left Party
Social scientist, b. 6 Nov. 1982 in Pinarbasi, Turkey; unmarried.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Amira Mohamed Ali, The Left Party
Bundestag Member since 2017

Niema Movassat, The Left Party
The Left Party spokesman on the Committee
Lawyer, LL.M., b. 22 Aug. 1984 in Wuppertal; married; one child.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Dr Jürgen Martens, FDP
FDP spokesman on legal affairs
Lawyer, b. 3 Aug. 1959 in Munich; married; two children.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Roman Müller-Böhm, FDP
FDP spokesman on the Committee
Student, b. 12 Dec. 1992 in Essen; unmarried.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Katharina Willkomm, FDP
FDP spokeswoman on consumer protection
Lawyer, b. 19 Feb. 1987 in Düsseldorf; married.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Roman Müller-Böhm, FDP
FDP spokesman on legal affairs
Lawyer, b. 3 Aug. 1959 in Munich; married; two children.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Katharina Willkomm, FDP
FDP spokeswoman on consumer protection
Lawyer, b. 19 Feb. 1987 in Düsseldorf; married.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Roman Müller-Böhm, FDP
FDP spokesman on legal affairs
Lawyer, b. 3 Aug. 1959 in Munich; married; two children.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Katharina Willkomm, FDP
FDP spokeswoman on consumer protection
Lawyer, b. 19 Feb. 1987 in Düsseldorf; married.
Bundestag Member since 2017
Friedrich Straetmanns,  
The Left Party  
The Left Party  
spokesman on legal affairs and consumer protection  
Social court judge,  
b. 5 Aug. 1961  
in Bielefeld;  
marrried; three children.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Canan Bayram,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
Lawyer,  
b. 11 Feb. 1966  
in Malatya, Turkey;  
unmarried; one child.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Katja Keul,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
spokeswoman on legal affairs and consumer protection  
Lawyer,  
b. 30 Nov. 1969  
in Berlin;  
marrried; three children.  
Bundestag Member since 2009

Tabea Rößner,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
Journalist,  
b. 7 Dec. 1966  
in Sassenberg;  
marrried; two children.  
Bundestag Member since 2009

Dr Manuela Rottmann,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
spokeswoman on the Committee  
Lawyer,  
b. 9 May 1972  
in Würzburg;  
divorced; one child.  
Bundestag Member since 2017
Information online

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a06

The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection
www.bmjv.de/EN
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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