The Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure
“Transport and digital infrastructure are vital for social inclusion and the strength of the Germany economy. On the other hand, the transport sector has a large climate footprint. If we can square the circle of business and environmental concerns successfully in this area, we can do so anywhere. The digital transformation has the potential to become a catalyst for environmental modernisation. Today, high-speed internet and mobile communications rank alongside good bus and rail services, railways, roads and cycle superhighways as factors which determine people’s quality of life and the competitiveness of our regions. These are the aims being pursued by the Committee.”

Cem Özdemir, Alliance 90/The Greens Chairman of the Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure
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 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 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 subjects dealt with by the Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure, which is chaired by Cem Özdemir (Alliance 90/The Greens), affect everyone in Germany – whether they use mobile communications, surf the internet, travel by train, car, bicycle, ship or plane, or are waiting at home for a parcel to be delivered. With 43 members, the Committee is one of the largest in the German Bundestag. The Committee’s work has a significant influence on transport, quality of life, the economy, regional competitiveness, and climate and environmental protection throughout Germany and beyond. The Committee participates in the legislative process, submits political recommendations to the plenary and

The Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure and its work in practice
hearings, and submits recommendations for decisions to the plenary. Transport and digital policy-making has to take diverse European and international factors into account. The Committee therefore also discusses international matters and examines EU initiatives.

**Transport infrastructure**

One of the most important recent decisions in which the Committee played a key role was the adoption of the Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan for the period to 2030, which involves around 270 billion euros in funding. For the first time, a Waterways Upgrading Act was also adopted, forming the basis for upgrading the federal waterways.

- **CDU/CSU:** 15
- **SPD:** 9
- **AfD:** 6
- **FDP:** 5
- **The Left Party:** 4
- **Alliance 90/The Greens:** 4

Number of members: 43
Chairman: Cem Özdemir, Alliance 90/The Greens
Deputy Chairwoman: Daniela Kluckert, FDP
Improving planning capacities and speeding up planning in the context of transport projects, as well as giving the public a greater say in transport planning, will be key priorities for the Committee, including against the background of the current increase in the budget for transport infrastructure. The reorganisation of the trunk road administration agreed in the last electoral term and the establishment of a federal trunk road company are also among the topics discussed by the Committee. The tolling scheme for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) is a key component of the planned shift to the “user pays” principle for transport. The Committee examines the scheme’s development on an ongoing basis. The passenger car tolling scheme agreed in the last electoral term was also the subject of intensive and contentious public debate.

Modes of transport

Issues relating to rail transport also attract significant public interest. On a day-to-day basis, the focus here is on the quality of rail services, customer-friendliness and punctuality, but also, for example, the protection of lineside residents from railway noise, the condition of stations and accessibility on board trains. The subjects are discussed in detail by the Committee. Vital local passenger rail services will benefit from the significant increase in devolved funding agreed in the last electoral term. With regard to air transport, the focus is on the standardisation of rules in Europe and aviation safety, but also the sector's environmental and climate-related impact. The construction of the new Berlin Brandenburg Airport is also a frequent subject of the Committee’s deliberations. Intensive discussions on how to deal with autonomous aerial systems, better known as drones, already took place.
Sustainable and climate-friendly transport

A key aim of the Committee’s work is securing comprehensive, sustainable transport, with a focus on environment and social compatibility, and modernising Germany’s position as a key location for business. Several very different requirements have to be balanced in this context: people want to be mobile, travel on holiday, be supplied with goods and have secure jobs. At the same time, they expect to be protected from the disadvantages of transport, such as noise, air pollution, land use and the risk of accidents. Policy-makers have to square the circle of these competing requirements. A shift from roads to other modes of transport such as rail and waterways could help to achieve this, for example. The use of new propulsion technologies – such as electric mobility – also plays a vital role in this context, as do

in the last electoral term. Improving road safety is an important priority for the Committee. The focus is currently on what can be done to prevent collisions between HGVs and cyclists, which are often fatal, for example by introducing turn assist systems. Measures to curb illegal street racing and speeding also remain an important issue. The deliberations on long-distance lorry drivers’ driving time and rest periods focus both on road safety and on the social conditions for workers in the road haulage industry. Many people are unaware that the Committee is also responsible for the German Meteorological Service and deals with the European navigation satellite system Galileo.
Transport and digital systems

Transport can also be made safer and more efficient by means of digital infrastructure. Many forms of transport are now all but unimaginable without the support provided by digital systems. Vehicles are already “rolling computer networks”, and this trend will be intensified further by the current shift towards highly automated and autonomous driving. The Committee is monitoring this trend particularly closely.

For rail passengers, too, access to the digital world is playing an ever more important role, for example in the availability of wireless internet access on board trains and sufficient density of mobile masts along rail routes to provide coverage. And rail is also seeing the introduction of digital systems “behind the scenes”: digital signal boxes and the European Train Control System (ETCS) are just two of the topics examined by the Committee in this context.
Digital infrastructure

Digital infrastructure makes an important contribution to people’s quality of life, facilitates a wide range of ways to share information, and helps to ensure that Germany is a key location for business. This is only possible if high-quality infrastructure is as widely available as possible. The Committee will therefore continue to deal with issues such as extending the broadband infrastructure and creating a modern mobile communications infrastructure.

The digital transformation also entails new risks with which the Committee must grapple. As digital infrastructure becomes more and more important, it must be fully protected against outages and attacks. These issues also include the distraction caused by mobile devices when driving, for example. The consequences of the digital transformation also pose challenges for the transport network. For example, the rise of e-commerce is resulting in a considerable increase in goods transport.

These various links between “transport” and “digital infrastructure” mark the place where the two fields of policy dealt with by the Committee intersect. The examples given above illustrate the diverse range of subjects which make up the work of the Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure. The issues it deals with are highly topical, are crucial to our future, have an international dimension and can, at times, be contentious – but above all else, they are issues which affect everyone in Germany.
Cem Özdemir,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Chairman
Youth and community worker, b. 21 Dec. 1965
in Bad Urach; married; two children.
Bundestag Member from 1994 to 2002, MEP from 2004 to 2009,
Bundestag Member since 2013

Daniela Kluckert, FDP
Deputy Chairwoman
Economist, b. 22 Dec. 1980 in Nuremberg; married.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Committee members
The 43 members of the Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure
Karl Holmeier, CDU/CSU
Bank clerk, former mayor, b. 10 Sep. 1956 in Weiding; married; three children. 
Bundestag Member since 2009

Thomas Jarzombek, CDU/CSU
IT consultant, b. 28 Apr. 1973 in Düsseldorf; married; one child. 
Bundestag Member since 2009

Manfred Behrens, CDU/CSU
Administrative enforcement officer, b. 28 Oct. 1956 in Magdeburg; married; two children. 
Bundestag Member since 2009

Veronika Bellmann, CDU/CSU
Public manager, marketing and sales specialist, b. 20 Nov. 1960 in Karl-Marx-Stadt (now Chemnitz); married; one child. 
Bundestag Member since 2002

Michael Donth, CDU/CSU
Public administration specialist, b. 8 June 1967 in Metzingen, Baden-Württemberg; married; three children. 
Bundestag Member since 2013

Daniela Ludwig, CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU spokes­woman on the Committee Lawyer, b. 7 July 1975 in Munich; married; two children. 
Bundestag Member since 2002

Karl Holmeier, CDU/CSU
Bank clerk, former mayor, b. 10 Sep. 1956 in Weiding; married; three children. 
Bundestag Member since 2009

Thomas Jarzombek, CDU/CSU
IT consultant, b. 28 Apr. 1973 in Düsseldorf; married; one child. 
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Manfred Behrens, CDU/CSU
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Public administration specialist, b. 8 June 1967 in Metzingen, Baden-Württemberg; married; three children. 
Bundestag Member since 2013

Daniela Ludwig, CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU spokes­woman on the Committee Lawyer, b. 7 July 1975 in Munich; married; two children. 
Bundestag Member since 2002
Patrick Schnieder,  
CDU/CSU  
Lawyer,  
b. 1 May 1968  
in Kyllburg;  
marrried.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2009

Felix Schreiner,  
CDU/CSU  
Member of Land Parliament until 2017,  
executive board assistant,  
public employee,  
b. 29 Jan. 1986  
in Waldshut;  
marrried.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017

Dr Christoph Ploß,  
CDU/CSU  
Historian,  
b. 19 July 1985  
in Hamburg.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017

Eckhard Pols,  
CDU/CSU  
Master glazier,  
b. 14 Mar. 1962  
in Lüneburg;  
marrried;  
five children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2009

Reinhold Sendker,  
CDU/CSU  
Business administrator,  
b. 24 Oct. 1952  
in Warendorf;  
marrried;  
three children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2009

Florian Oßner,  
CDU/CSU  
Economist,  
b. 5 July 1980  
in Vilsbiburg;  
marrried;  
two children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2013

Dr Christoph Ploß,  
CDU/CSU  
Historian,  
b. 19 July 1985  
in Hamburg.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017
Björn Simon, CDU/CSU
Railway officer, b. 18 May 1981 in Offenbach am Main; married.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Gustav Herzog, SPD
Chemical laboratory technician, b. 11 Oct. 1958 in Harxheim, Palatinate; married; two children.
Bundestag Member since 1998

Martin Burkert, SPD
Railway officer, b. 14 Oct. 1964 in Würzburg; married; two children.
Bundestag Member since 2005

Gero Storjohann, CDU/CSU
Business administrator, b. 12 Feb. 1958 in Bad Segeberg; married; three children.
Bundestag Member since 2002

Arno Klare, SPD
Teacher, b. 1 Feb. 1952 in Oberhausen.
Bundestag Member since 2013

Markus Uhl, CDU/CSU
Business administrator, b. 31 Oct. 1979 in Cologne; married.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Björn Simon, CDU/CSU
Political scientist, b. 14 Oct. 1964 in Würzburg; married.
Bundestag Member since 2005

Gustav Herzog, SPD
Chemical laboratory technician, b. 11 Oct. 1958 in Harxheim, Palatinate; married; two children.
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Bundestag Member since 2013

Markus Uhl, CDU/CSU
Business administrator, b. 31 Oct. 1979 in Cologne; married.
Bundestag Member since 2017
Elvan Korkmaz,
SPD
Public administrator,
b. 27 July 1985
in Gütersloh.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Kirsten Lühmann,
SPD
SPD spokeswoman
on the Committee
Police officer,
b. 28 Apr. 1964
in Oldenburg;
married;
three children.
Bundestag Member
since 2009

Detlef Müller,
SPD
Train driver,
b. 20 Aug. 1964
in Karl-Marx-Stadt
(now Chemnitz);
four children.
Bundestag Member
from 2005 to 2009
and since 2014

Udo Schiefner,
SPD
Quality assurance
technician,
b. 7 Aug. 1959
in Kempen;
marrried;
one child.
Bundestag Member
since 2013

Uwe Schmidt,
SPD
Skilled port worker,
b. 14 Feb. 1966
in Bremerhaven;
marrried;
one child.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Mathias Stein,
SPD
Hydraulic and
construction
technician,
b. 21 Feb. 1970
in Kiel;
one child.
Bundestag Member
since 2017
Andreas Mrosek, AfD  
Ship’s officer,  
b. 18 Jan. 1958  
in Dessau;  
unmarried.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Leif-Erik Holm, AfD  
Economist,  
b. 1 Aug. 1970  
in Schwerin;  
madrid;  
two children.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Frank Magnitz, AfD  
Property agent,  
b. 29 June 1952  
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six children.  
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Matthias Büttner, AfD  
IT specialist,  
b. 4 Nov. 1990  
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Bundestag Member since 2017

Dr Dirk Spaniel, AfD  
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Engineer,  
b. 3 Nov. 1971  
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madrid;  
one child.  
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Wolfgang Wiehle, AfD  
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b. 20 Oct. 1964  
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madrid;  
two children.  
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unmarried.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

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madrid;  
two children.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

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madrid;  
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b. 3 Nov. 1971  
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one child.  
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two children.  
Bundestag Member since 2017
Bernd Reuther, FDP
Social scientist, b. 1 May 1971 in Wesel; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2017

Jörg Cezanne, The Left Party
Executive, sociologist, b. 8 June 1958 in Frankfurt am Main; divorced; one child. Bundestag Member since 2017

Sabine Leidig, The Left Party
b. 7 Aug. 1961 in Heidelberg; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2009

Oliver Luksic, FDP
Business consultant, b. 9 Oct. 1979 in Saarbrücken; married; two children. Bundestag Member from 2009 to 2013 and since 2017

Dr Christian Jung, FDP
Former director of studies, b. 20 Dec. 1977 in Heidelberg; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Torsten Herbst, FDP
FDP spokesman on the Committee Business administrator, b. 23 Aug. 1973 in Dresden; Bundestag Member since 2017

FDP
Ingrid Remmers,  
The Left Party  
Social scientist,  
b. 26 Mar. 1965  
in Ibbenbüren;  
unmarried;  
one child.  
Bundestag Member  
from 2009 to 2013  
and since 2017

Andreas Wagner,  
The Left Party  
The Left Party spokes­man on the Committee  
Toolmaker,  
curative education therapist,  
b. 16 Apr. 1972  
in Bad Tölz;  
marr­ied;  
three children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017

Matthias Gastel,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
Self-employed  
business mediator,  
b. 26 Dec. 1970  
in Stuttgart.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2013

Stefan Gelbhaar,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
Alliance 90/The Greens spokes­man on the Committee  
Lawyer,  
b. 9 July 1976  
in Berlin;  
two children.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2017

Stephan Kühn,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
Sociologist,  
b. 6 Sep. 1979  
in Dresden;  
unmarried,  
one child.  
Bundestag Member  
since 2009

Daniela Wagner,  
Alliance 90/The Greens  
Former city councillor,  
b. 4 Apr. 1957  
in Darmstadt;  
marr­ied;  
one child.  
Bundestag Member  
from 2009 to 2013  
and since 2017
Information online

The Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a15
Contact details for the Committee Secretariat

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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