The Study Commission on Artificial Intelligence – Social Responsibility and Economic, Social and Ecological Potential
“Artificial intelligence is radically transforming our society, our economies and the way in which we coexist. Within the framework of the Study Commission, we therefore want to work together with experts to discuss concrete policy approaches which will enable us to influence the introduction of this technology. Our aim is to enhance its potential for people’s lives, our prosperity and society as a whole, and to promote this technology, while at the same time seeking to minimise the risks. Together, we intend to establish political guidelines to make sure that artificial intelligence works for people.”

Daniela Kolbe, SPD
Chairwoman of the Study Commission on Artificial Intelligence – Social Responsibility and Economic, Social and Ecological Potential
Recommendations for future action

Study commissions are set up by the German Bundestag to prepare decisions on wide-ranging and significant issues. The commission members discuss on a cross-party basis urgent future-relevant technical, societal, economic and environmental questions that cannot be easily responded to in day-to-day politics. They collect and evaluate information and draft a report once their work is concluded. Yet the reports from the study commissions contain more than a simple analysis of the situation. Above all, their mandate and objective is to formulate recommendations for action to be taken by Parliament. In this way, study commissions provide very specific advice to Parliament for future political decisions that could lead to legislative amendments or to new laws. A motion by a quarter of the Members of the Bundestag is sufficient to establish a study commission. While study

The Study Commission on Artificial Intelligence – Social Responsibility and Economic, Social and Ecological Potential
commissions can be demanded by a parliamentary minority, in general these are implemented on the basis of broad support. They operate for the duration of the electoral term, with some study commissions being re-established in the subsequent legislature. Unlike the permanent committees, study commissions are not involved in the general course of the legislative process.

**Nexus of politics, academia and practice**

Another particular feature of study commissions is their composition – unlike other bodies at the Bundestag, they are comprised in equal part of Members of the Bundestag and external experts on an equal footing. The latter are nominated by the parliamentary groups. The experts are often academics, or specialists with practical experience, who are able to feed in a wide range of different perspectives. This concentrated expertise makes study commissions akin to internal advisory bodies for Parliament, able to examine larger topics in detail and without any time pressure. The results of the study commissions are increasingly being listened to by the broader public and make an important contribution to debates within society.

**The Study Commission on Artificial Intelligence**

The range of issues being explored by this Study Commission is very wide, as its full name indicates: “Artificial Intelligence – Social Responsibility and Economic, Social and Ecological Potential”. Artificial intelligence (AI) – put very simply, information technology which is capable of learning rather than simply computing – is regarded as one of the biggest technological drivers of the digital revolution. It includes computer programs which are, to a growing extent, capable of learning and applying what they have learned to new situations, and systems which are able to plan processes independently, make predictions...
and interact with people. In some areas, this is already a reality today, and there are many pressing questions which require answers, for example with regard to our value systems, fundamental and human rights, and the benefits for society and the economy.

**A human-centric approach**

The decision establishing the Study Commission defines the specifics of its remit. The Commission is to study AI’s opportunities and potential, as well as the associated challenges, and develop answers to the many questions which exist – including technical, legal, political and ethical questions. Its remit sets out the following areas to be covered: the scientific framework; the state, society and democracy; values; the economy, and education and research. The focus is not just on the question of what approach should be taken to AI in these areas, but also whether – and if so, what – national, European and global regulation is needed to ensure that this technology works for people. The 38 members of the Study Commission – 19 Members of the Bundestag and 19 experts – have begun their work under the leadership of Chairwoman Daniela Kolbe (SPD) and Deputy Chairman Stefan Sauer (CDU/CSU). To find answers to the many questions which exist, the Members of the Bundestag and the experts are mapping the current situation, for example, and setting out development scenarios, visions and stakeholders. They are identifying opportunities and challenges for individuals, society and the state, and strategies for a potential legal framework. In addition, the Commission’s members are also looking at issues of liability, the links between
business, competition, innovation and AI, and AI’s significance for educational institutions, public and private research and the world of work. “No small task,” said Dr Wolfgang Schäuble, President of the Bundestag, regarding this wide range of topics when he spoke at the Study Commission’s constituent meeting on 27 September 2018 and thanked the members for their willingness to take on this task.

The work of the project groups

The Study Commission generally meets once a month. Each meeting normally focuses on a specific topic, and the Commission can invite additional guests to furnish information at the meeting or commission more in-depth academic studies on the topic. In addition, the members have divided their work into the following areas, which are explored by six project groups.

- AI and economic affairs (industry/production, finance, services, innovation)
- AI and the state (administration, security, infrastructure)
- AI and health (long-term care, sport)
- AI and work, education, research
- AI and transport (energy, logistics, environment)
- AI and the media (social media, opinion formation, democracy)

Some of the Study Commission’s meetings are public and can be attended in person or followed on Parliamentary Television. The Commission is thus playing its part in promoting transparency – as public confidence is essential, particularly when it comes to AI, for the technology to be accepted. The decision establishing the Commission asks its members to present their conclusions and recommendations for action soon after Parliament’s summer recess in 2020, so that the first steps towards implementation can be taken before the end of the current electoral term.

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4 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Alliance 90/The Greens

Number of Members of the Bundestag: 19
Number of experts: 19
Chairwoman: Daniela Kolbe, SPD
Deputy Chairman: Stefan Sauer, CDU/CSU

[Diagram of Members of the Bundestag and Experts]
Members of the Study Commission

The 19 Members of the Bundestag and 19 experts

Daniela Kolbe, SPD
Chairwoman
Physicist, b. 22 Feb. 1980 in Schleiz; unmarried; two children. Bundestag Member since 2009

Stefan Sauer, CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairman
Business administrator, b. 14 Jan. 1966 in Rüsselsheim; married. Bundestag Member since 2017
Jan Metzler, 
CDU/CSU  
Business administrator,  
b. 5 July 1981 in Worms;  
unmarried.  
Bundestag Member since 2013

Professor 
Claudia Schmidtke, 
CDU/CSU  
Cardiac surgeon, MBA  
in Healthcare Management,  
b. 29 Mar. 1966 in Neumünster.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Andreas Steier, 
CDU/CSU  
Engineer,  
b. 7 Jan. 1972 in Trier;  
mARRIED; three children.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Ronja Kemmer,  
CDU/CSU  
CDU/CSU spokes-  
woman on the Commission  
Economist,  
b. 3 May 1989 in Esslingen am Neckar;  
mARRIED.  
Bundestag Member since 2014

Andreas Steier, 
CDU/CSU  
Engineer,  
b. 7 Jan. 1972 in Trier;  
mARRIED; three children.  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Christoph Bernstiel, 
CDU/CSU  
Communications consultant,  
b. 8 Feb. 1984 in Bernburg (Saale).  
Bundestag Member since 2017

Hansjörg Durz, 
CDU/CSU  
Business administrator,  
b. 29 July 1971 in Augsburg;  
mARRIED; two children.  
Bundestag Member since 2013

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Business administrator,  
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CDU/CSU spokes-  
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Economist,  
b. 3 May 1989 in Esslingen am Neckar;  
mARRIED.  
Bundestag Member since 2014
Saskia Esken,
SPD
IT specialist,
b. 28 Aug. 1961
in Stuttgart;
marrided; three children.
Bundestag Member
since 2013

Falko Mohrs,
SPD
Business administrator,
b. 23 July 1984
in Wolfsburg;
unmarried.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

René Röspel,
SPD
SPD spokesman
on the Commission
Biologist,
b. 9 July 1964
in Hagen, Westphalia;
marrried; four children.
Bundestag Member
since 1998

Joana Cotar,
AfD
AfD spokeswoman
on the Commission
Self-employed,
b. 6 Apr. 1973
in Pitești, Romania;
marrried.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Dr Marc Jongen,
AfD
Philosophy lecturer,
b. 23 May 1968
in Merano, Italy;
unmarried.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Falko Mohrs,
SPD
Business administrator,
b. 23 July 1984
in Wolfsburg;
unmarried.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Mario Brandenburg,
FDP
FDP spokesman
on the Commission
IT business engineer,
b. 3 Oct. 1983
in Bad Bergzabern;
marrried; two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2017
Dr Petra Sitte, 
The Left Party
spokeswoman
on the Commission
Economist,
b. 1 Dec. 1960
in Dresden; unmarried.
Bundestag Member
since 2005

Dr Anna Christmann, 
Alliance 90/The Greens
spokeswoman
on the Commission
Political scientist,
b. 24 Sep. 1983
in Hanover; married; one child.
Bundestag Member
since 2017

Dieter Janecek, 
Alliance 90/The Greens
Political scientist,
b. 25 May 1976
in Pirmasens; married; three children.
Bundestag Member
since 2013

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

Jessica Tatti, 
The Left Party
Social worker,
b. 22 Apr. 1981
in Marbach am Neckar; unmarried.
Bundestag Member
since 2017
Professor Wolfgang Ecker,  
Head of the “iCommunity Deep Learning” think tank on artificial intelligence at Infineon Technologies AG, honorary professor at the Technical University of Munich

Dr Aljoscha Burchardt,  
Senior Researcher and Lab Manager at the Speech and Language Technology Lab of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI GmbH)

Dr Florian Butollo,  
Head of the “Work in Highly-Automated Digital-Hybrid Processes” Research Group at the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society

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Lawyer and member of the senior management team of the German Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media (Bitkom)

Professor Alexander Filipović,  
Professor of Media Ethics at the Munich School of Philosophy

Professor Alexander Filipović,  
Professor of Media Ethics at the Munich School of Philosophy
Professor Antonio Krüger,
Director of the Innovative Retail Laboratory at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI GmbH), Globus Foundation Professor of Computer Science at Saarland University

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Professor of Artificial Intelligence / Theoretical Informatics at Dresden University of Applied Sciences

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Lena-Sophie Müller, Managing director of the association Initiative D21 e.V.

Professor Knut Lösche, Honorary professor at Leipzig University of Applied Sciences (HTWK)

Professor Jörg Müller-Lietzkow, President of HafenCity University Hamburg, Professor of Economics and Digitalisation

Andrea Martin, Head of the global Watson IoT Center in Munich, IBM Deutschland GmbH

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Dr Sebastian Wieczorek,
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Information online

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

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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. Study commissions play an important role in the parliamentary decision-making process. They provide forums where Members and experts – both academics and practitioners – deliberate on significant issues before presenting the results of their work and recommendations to the Bundestag in a final report.

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