



Deutscher Bundestag

**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

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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.

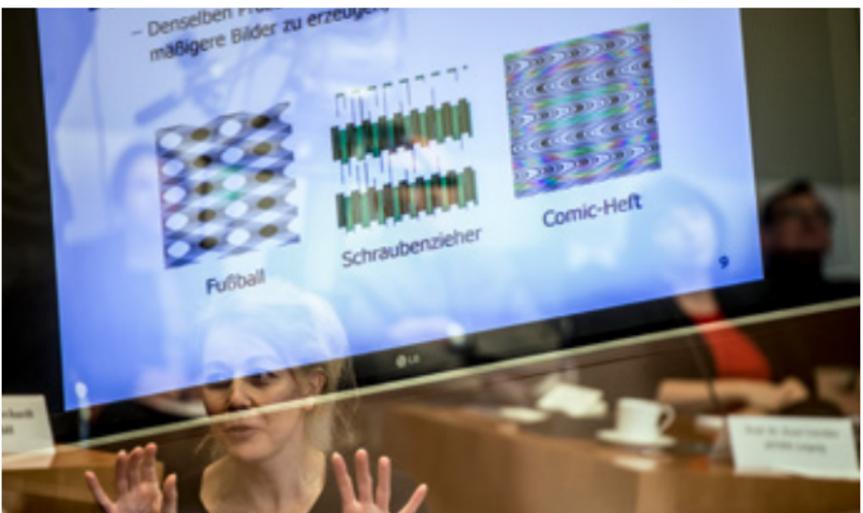
Nexus of politics, academia and practice

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



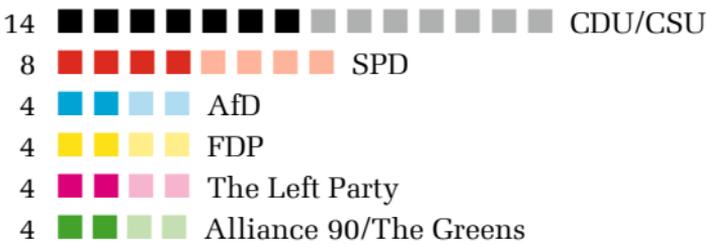
business, competition, innovation and AI, and AI's significance for educational institutions, public and private research and the world of work. "No small task," said Dr Wolfgang Schäuble, President of the Bundestag, regarding this wide range of topics when he spoke at the Study Commission's constituent 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.



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

■ Members of the Bundestag ■ Experts

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Chairwoman
Physicist,
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in Schleiz;
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two children.
Bundestag Member
since 2009



Stefan Sauer,
CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairman
Business administrator,
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in Rüsselsheim;
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Bundestag Member
since 2017



Members of the Study Commission

The 19 Members of the Bundestag and 19 experts

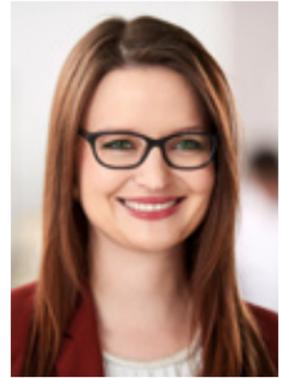
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www.bundestag.de/en/committees/bodies/study/artificial_intelligence

Twitter: #EnqueteKI



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Published by: German Bundestag, Public Relations Division
Coordination: Robert Schönbrodt
Text: Katharina Frier-Obad
Translated by: Language Service of the German Bundestag,
in cooperation with Emma Hardie
Design: Marc Mendelson
Bundestag eagle: Created by Professor Ludwig Gies,
revised in 2008 by büro uebele
Photos: p. 2 Deutscher Bundestag (DBT)/Linus Lintner Fotografie;
p. 5 DBT/Marc-Steffen Unger; p. 6 DBT/Werner Schüring; p. 19 DBT/studio kohlmeier
Portrait photos: p. 3, 8 spdfraktion.de/Benno Kraehahn (Daniela Kolbe);
DBT/Julia Nowak (Stefan Sauer); p. 9 Christoph Bernstiel/Christoph Jann
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Holger Münch (Andrea Martin); CC BY NC 4.0/Corporate Inspiration (Lena-
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Graphic: p. 7 Marc Mendelson
Printed by: Druckhaus Waiblingen Remstal-Bote GmbH

As at: July 2019
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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