

# Seizing Germany's Opportunities.

## Economic Growth. Jobs. Security.

Government Manifesto 2005 - 2009

Passed at a common session by the boards of CDU and CSU

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**(Courtesy Translation)**

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### **6. Germany: Partner in Europe and the World**

#### **6.1 New Confidence in Europe**

##### **Where are we?**

The European unification process is the key to permanent peace, freedom, and wealth on our continent. Nevertheless, the European Union is in deep crisis right now which has become obvious in the refusal of the EU-Constitutional Treaty by France and the Netherlands and by the failure of the last summit. The Red-Green Government has split Europe and damaged its credibility by national solo runs, malicious weakening of the European Stability- and Growth Pact and unilateral partisan politics in the European Council.

##### **What do we want?**

We need European policies that rebuild lost confidence in the European peace and integration policies. We want to strengthen the Europe of the citizens, to lead back the German policies on Europe to a path of a fair-play of the larger with the smaller member states and to give hope back to the people for their future on our continent. We perceive the current crisis of Europe as an opportunity to lead back European policies to credibility and public support.

- **We prevent further centralism and fetch back competences.** Not every problem in Europe is also a task for Europe. The variety of tasks of the European Union must be limited to the tasks necessary. The principle of subsidiarity must be the standard for the actions of the EU. This includes a clear definition of competences between the European Union and the member states, regions and municipalities. European legislation has to be better checked on their necessity and their consequences for the citizens, the economy and administrations. Furthermore, we will transform EU-regulations into national law only 1 to 1 in the future.
- **We will work for the progress** reached by the Constitutional Treaty, especially for the Charta of Fundamental Rights, the rules on the institutions and the improvements of the separation of competences as well as the improvements of the foreign policy set-up of the European Union. We want to strengthen the role of national parliaments essentially by applying the early warning system concerning the principle of subsidiarity already before the Constitutional Treaty goes into force and to extend the rights of the German Bundestag with EU-decisions versus the German government.
- **We demand a strict interpretation of the stability pact that was watered down against our will**, in order that it can unfold its disciplining effects again. We want to secure the value of our currency.
- **We will work for an economical EU-budget that takes regard to the limited productive power of Germany.** The European Union must also make savings and thus also to support the consolidation of the national budgets. The contributions of the member states to the EU-budgets must become more just and must be calculated according to the economic wealth of each member state. The spending structure of the EU-budget must also be improved by a concentration and partly relocation of competences to the member states.
- **We work for a privileged partnership with Turkey. We refuse a full Turkish membership, because it would overburden the ability of the European Union to integrate.** We want to support forcefully the development of Turkey, with which we are closely connected in security terms by NATO, towards democracy, the rule of law, and a viable economy by a privileged partnership, not by an unrealistic perspective of accession.
- **We will only adopt countries into the European Union that are ready for accession.** The criteria of accession must be strictly adhered to also in the case of the planned accessions of Bulgaria and Romania. We will decide on the ratification of the EU-accession treaties only after the progress reports of the European Commission have been presented. We want to start accession negotiations with Croatia, a prosperous country deeply rooted in Europe, as soon as still existing doubts in the cooperation of Croatia with the International Tribunal on Former Yugoslavia will have been cleared.
- **We will use the trusted friendship between Germany and France again for a positive perspective of Europe.** We will shape the Franco-German cooperation in a way again that justifies the trust of the other EU-partners, includes their interests and avoids gestures of authoritarian style and dominance. Trusted and close relations to all neighbouring countries and EU-members are of elementary importance.

- **The German persons expelled and the German ethnic groups in Eastern Europe have also after the EU-enlargement to the east an important bridging function in our cooperation with our Eastern neighbours.** We want to build a centre against expulsion in Berlin in the spirit of reconciliation and in order to remind of the injustice of expulsion and to outlaw expulsion for ever.

## **6.2 Responsibility for Peace, Freedom and Development**

### **Where are we?**

The Federal Government has gambled away international trust and damaged Germany's reputation in the world without a comprehensive concept for the German foreign and security policy in the last few years by a systematic weakening of our ability to be an ally in NATO, by a policy without principles towards Russia and China, by visa policies that violated German interests and in the final analysis at the cost of the people.

### **What do we want?**

The responsibility of Germany for the European unification process, the transatlantic partnership and for the existence of Israel are the core of Germany's raison d'état. German foreign policy must return to that basic consensus again.

- **European unification and Transatlantic partnership are no contrasts, but the two most important pillars of our foreign policy.** We will revive the transatlantic cooperation with the USA. European identity and European self-confidence does not need the delimitation from the USA, but a trustworthy partnership. They prove worthwhile in the forceful commitment for the solution of international conflicts and for the fight against international terrorism. Good and confidential Transatlantic relations does not exclude differences of opinions, but rests instead of on scolding on a dialogue among partners in a spirit of friendship.
- **Germany has a special interest in stable and permanent ties of Russia with the Euro-Atlantic structures and in the success of the difficult political and economic modernisation of that country.** We want to have good relations with Russia, but not neglecting or ignoring the interests of our neighbours. We must not ignore problematic developments within Russia, either.
- **NATO is and remains the most important safety network for Germany.** We will strengthen NATO with a more reliable contribution and by intensifying the political dialogue. In order to strengthen the European pillar of the Transatlantic partnership of security, we will work for the increase and the improvement of the capacities and options to act of the European Union.
- **We believe that a significant improvement of the international division of labour and of the appropriate instruments of the United Nations is indispensable.**

- **The most important instrument for Germany's external security is and remains the Bundeswehr, the German army.** The balance between the ability for missions in crises all over the world and the still elementary task of defending our own national territory has gone lost. Its efficiency has to be increased in the framework of the economic situation of our country with scarce financial means. Our security is not only defended in remote regions and "at the Hindukush". Home security and the task of defending our own national territory must therefore no longer be neglected. Thus, defending our territory remains the constitutional core task of the Bundeswehr (German army) as an army of conscription. This makes also its presence all over the country necessary. A further developed and just system of conscription must take account of the fact that internal and external security can no longer be strictly separated. Therefore the service in the field of disaster prevention and control must be fully recognised, too. The system of conscription strengthens public acceptance of the Bundeswehr, makes it easier to find new qualified personnel and guarantees the ability to call reserve troops in times of crisis.
- **Development cooperation is an indispensable part for a strategy for the stabilization of regions in a crisis.** Development politics is an increasingly a field of politics of its own for CDU and CSU resting on three pillars: the responsibility for those suffering from poverty and for the environment on the basis of our Christian concept of Man; the defence from global threats and the strengthening of our strategic, political, scientific and economic partnerships. Germany's development policies will go along with the interests of the receiving countries as well as with our interests. The consequences of the escalating problems of development in Asia, Africa and Latin America endanger peace and wealth in Germany immediately in connection with globalisation. We will work for a better coherence of our development policy, foreign policy, security policy external trade policy and external culture policy, for an increase of the efficiency of the instruments of our development policy as well as for the strengthening of good governance and the forces of self-help in the countries and regions concerned. That requires a concentration of our measures to certain countries and key industries and the even more closely integration of all working in the field of development aid: the churches, NGOs, and political foundations, as well as a closer cooperation with the German private economy. We stand for meeting our obligations to increase the German public development aid to 0.7% in the medium-term as soon as the state of the economy and of the budget allows that.