



For a safe Europe

For a beneficial Europe that protects

Brief summary of the CDU CSU European
election programme

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A united Europe represents peace and freedom. It is the foundation of our prosperity. In these turbulent times, the CDU and CSU, as the German European parties, take on the task of securing the EU project of peace and freedom to make it fit for the future. A strong EU must fully guarantee the security of its citizens and provide the best framework conditions for a competitive economy. Our prosperity is the foundation for the elevated level of social security that we enjoy in Germany. It is also the prerequisite for the transformation towards a climate-neutral economy. We support Dr Ursula von der Leyen, the lead candidate of the Europäische Volkspartei (EVP), for re-election as Commission President in 2024. We, the CDU/CSU, make policy for a Europe where we, our children, and our grandchildren can live in freedom and security. For us, this means:

I. Securing peace and freedom in Europe

Defending our freedom, safeguarding peace. Europe is a community of shared values: Our way of life is built on protecting human dignity, freedom, the rule of law and tolerance. We must defend this liberal way of life, this European core culture. However, only people living in safety can be free. The Russian war of aggression on Ukraine shows that we must do much more for Europe's security. Europe must assume more NATO responsibilities and expand its military capabilities. We want to remain transatlantic but become more European. A comprehensive security agenda is needed. We want to create a proper European Defence Union, with an EU Commissioner for Defence, closer cooperation between national armed forces, and a joint missile defence shield. We want to develop and procure military equipment like aircraft and tanks with our European partners. More EU money must be spent on defence to complement member states' efforts. We want to give new impetus to Franco-German cooperation and revitalise the Weimar Triangle. We want to establish high-speed train connections to Poland and the Czech Republic. The USA is and will remain our close partner.

Providing security, fighting crime. We are declaring war on cross-border crime, extremists, Islamists, and anti-Semites. Thus, Europol must work more closely with national police forces. In particular, we want to protect women from violence by improving the coordination of criminal prosecution in cases of human trafficking and a restrictive prostitution policy, among other measures. We will protect children from sexual abuse with an EU Action Plan. Evidence must also be secured at digital crime scenes. However, we reject unrestricted control of all chats. The EU also has to improve its cyber crisis management: That is why we want to establish a European Cyber Brigade.

Limiting migration with the help of humanity and order. We stand by our humanitarian duty to help people in need of protection. However, we want to end irregular migration to Europe and Germany. The new European Migration Pact is essential to this goal and must be realised as quickly as possible. However, further measures are needed. We want to implement the concept of safe third countries. Thus, the asylum procedure and the granting of protection need to occur in a safe non-EU country. It is not human traffickers but state authorities who decide on EU entry. We want to give Frontex more control and increase its staff to 30,000 border guards to improve the protection of the EU's external borders. National border controls must remain possible until European external border protection is up and running. We want to harmonise social benefits for refugees within the EU. We are focusing on aid on the ground and agreements with transit countries and countries of origin, such as Tunisia and Egypt, to permanently address the root causes of migration.

II. Securing prosperity and competitiveness

Strengthening Europe as a competitive economic area. The domestic market within the EU is the engine of our economic success. We want to develop the domestic EU market further and strengthen Europe as a location for large and small to mid-sized enterprises. We want to strengthen the role of the EU envoy for small to mid-sized enterprises. Affordable energy, raw material access, and skilled labour are prerequisites for a robust and competitive economy. We want to create raw material and energy partnerships with reliable partners, ramp up the hydrogen economy, and launch more free-trade agreements with the USA, South America, India, Australia, and others. We will strengthen the internal EU energy market. Europe must

be able to satisfy its energy requirements internally. We want to support all forms of renewable energy. Nuclear power is part of our mixed energy strategy. We want to facilitate the immigration of skilled workers by issuing work visas more quickly and switching to digital application procedures.

A holistic approach to economy, energy and climate. We are committed to a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. Instead of bans, we focus on open technologies and market-based instruments like emissions trading. We want to push a closed-loop economy using recycled waste materials and reusing water and energy. We stand by the car, regardless of its propulsion method. We want to abolish the ban on combustion engines.

Reducing the burden on businesses, eliminating red tape. We want to end the over-regulated economy by stopping hindrances on new and ongoing EU initiatives. For every new onerous regulation, two old ones must be abolished (one-in, two-out). A more straightforward data protection law and a General Data Protection Regulation reform are needed urgently. We want to abolish superfluous regulations such as those on whistleblowers. We are in favour of reviewing the taxonomy and Green Deal for practicality.

Initiative for research and innovation. We want 3% of the GDP to be invested in research and development Europe-wide. Europe must become a centre of innovation and lead the development of vital technologies. Artificial intelligence must be developed and used, not over-regulated.

Facilitating medical development, improving the supply of medication, and ensuring good care. We want to create a European Health Union that provides the best framework for modern medical research and pools efforts in the fight against diseases like cancer. We want to ensure that more medicines are manufactured in Europe again to prevent shortages. Thus, we are committed to comprehensive patent protection and diversifying supply chains in the pharmaceutical industry. A European care strategy is needed to improve the recruitment of carers. The EU certificate of disability must be introduced quickly. We reject introducing medical tests for older people to keep their driving licences.

Securing regional food production. Regarding agricultural policies, we must focus more on food security and the interests of farmers. The EU Agricultural Policy (CAP) is intended to enable farmers to cultivate more sustainably and earn a sufficient income. We are calling for an immediate stop to burdens on farmers. We are abolishing the EU obligation to set aside 4% of agricultural land. The number of wolves must be limited, and shooting them must be permitted when densities are too high to ensure that livestock grazing has a future.

Ensuring secure finances and sound budgeting. We are in favour of a responsible European financial policy. Each member state is only liable for its debts. We reject all forms of Germany being liable for other countries' debts or savings deposits (deposit protection). We maintain that the EU must not incur any debt. We stand by the Stability and Growth Pact with the criteria of 60% and 3%. We are committed to preserving fiat money. Future structural and cohesion policies should continue to support former GDR states and disadvantaged regions.

Ensuring a fair and sustainable business environment. We stand for a social Europe with a well-functioning economy and high employment. With a healthy European economy as a base, Germany can finance its efficient welfare state to secure pensions and a solid health and care system. We aim to facilitate employee mobility and remove obstacles. We strengthen collective bargaining. We are in favour of fair wages and working conditions. However, we reject European unemployment insurance.

III. Securing a more cohesive Europe

Inspiring young people for Europe. We want to strengthen the exchange of young people and volunteer programmes in Europe to promote the mobility of young people in Europe, for example, by expanding 'DiscoverEU'. We want to encourage trainees, in particular, to take part in exchange programmes by offering them support. We are committed to increasing and expanding the Erasmus+ programme to benefit pupils, students, and trainees.

EU expansion and reforms must go hand in hand. The EU must become more effective: We want to streamline the EU Commission and strengthen the EU Parliament by giving it its own right of initiative. In the future, we want to use qualified majority voting to decide on shared foreign and security policy: This way, Europe will become a powerful voice on the global stage.

It's in Germany's and Europe's interest that the Western Balkan countries, like Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, join the EU. We want to align expansion policies more closely with candidate countries without compromising the criteria for membership.

We stand by the principle of subsidiarity – the EU must return to this. We need an EU that focuses on tasks that can be better fulfilled at European than national, regional, or local levels. More Europe where Europe can do more. This principle applies to internal and external security, migration, trade, the economy, energy, and climate protection.

Leveraging the diversity of the regions as a strength of Europe. Europe's strength lies in the diversity of its regions, where people experience home. That is why we want to strengthen the Committee of the Regions. At the same time, we aim to expand and promote greater regional cooperation across national borders.

