

Basic Agreement for Coalition Negotiations between CDU/CSU and SPD

(Courtesy Translation)

1. Cooperation of the Parties

General Remarks

This coalition agreement should run for the 16th legislative period of the German Bundestag. The coalition partners vow to put his agreement into government action. Both partners bear responsibility for all policies of the coalition in common.

The coalition partners CDU, CSU and SPD will consult each other on their work in Parliament and Government consistently and comprehensively and will produce consensus on matters of procedure, policies and personnel. The coalition partners meet regularly at least once a month for coalition talks in the Coalition Committee. They will meet even more often, if one coalition partner wishes to do so. They will consult on matters of fundamental importance that have to be agreed on among the coalition partners and will produce a consensus. Members of the Coalition Committee will be the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the leaders of the parliamentary groups (the first deputy leader of the parliamentary group in the case of the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group) and the Party leaders, if they are not already covered by the persons mentioned above.

Working in the German Parliament

The parliamentary groups of the coalition will vote always in common in the German Bundestag and in all bodies constituted by the Bundestag. This is also true for issues on which there is no common agreement. Changing majorities are prohibited.

Agreement will be reached on the procedure and the work in Parliament between the parliamentary groups of the coalition. Motions, legislative initiatives, and questions to the government by the parliamentary groups are introduced into Parliament in common or in exceptional cases with the agreement of each other. The parliamentary groups of the coalition will reach a formal agreement on that issue.

Working in the Cabinet

No party will be outvoted in the Cabinet in issues of fundamental importance for one coalition partner. An agreed conduct in bodies of the European Union will be assured.

The coalition partners are represented in all committees of the Cabinet and in all bodies constituted by the Cabinet, if the number of representatives of the federal level allows that. The choice of personnel for commissions, consulting councils, etc., with the Cabinet will be done in agreement.

Organisation of the Cabinet

It is up to the Federal Chancellor to decide on the organisation of the Cabinet. Major changes of the separation of competences among the portfolios within the legislative period will be agreed on among the coalition partners.

Agreement on Personnel

The CDU/CSU will nominate the Federal Chancellor.

The CDU/CSU will nominate the Vice Federal Chancellor.

The CDU/CSU will nominate the head of the following federal ministries:

- Economy and Technology
- Home Affairs
- Defence
- Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- Education and Research
- Consumers' Protection, Nutrition and Agriculture

The head of the Federal Chancellery in the rank of a federal minister will be nominated by CDU/CSU

The SPD will nominate the head of the following federal ministries:

- Foreign Office
- Finance Ministry
- Justice

- Economic Cooperation and Development
- Labour and Social Security
- Health
- Transport and Affairs of Construction and Dwelling
- Environment, Natural Protection and the Security of Nuclear Plants

The right of competence to nominate the federal ministers is with the party concerned.

The CDU/CSU and the SPD will have an equal number of Parliamentary Junior Ministers. The same is true with Representatives of the Federal Government (for special issues).

The right to nominate Junior Ministers of Parliament and of the civil service is up to the Federal Minister concerned.

2. First Agreements on Policy Issues

The CDU/CSU and the SPD agree on the following in the face of negotiations to form a grand coalition:

1. Germany must invest at least 3 percent of Gross Internal Product annually in research and development from 2010 onwards.
2. The CDU/CSU and the SPD agree on the perseverance of autonomous collective bargaining. They agree that alliances for jobs on the plant level are important in the framework of autonomous collective bargaining in order to save jobs. There will be talks with the partners of collective bargaining on how to achieve that aim.
3. The CDU/CSU and the SPD agree that the income tax law will be simplified to achieve more transparency, efficiency and justice. We want to reduce the number of exceptions. There will be no taxation on supplements on work on Sundays, at night, and on holidays also in the future.
4. The CDU/CSU and the SPD want to improve the living conditions for families. Therefore we will talk about an equal tax allowance for parents and children. The same is true with talks on the introduction of a "parents' money".