

Government programme – Short form 2013

1. We need a solid finance policy and growth promotion in the form of structured reforms throughout the whole of Europe. We are campaigning for our successful dual education system.
2. We are laying the foundations for a stable currency, growth and secure jobs through saving and investment. Thus, a sustainable balanced budget is within reach.
3. Our target is zero unemployment. Where there is no collective wage agreement, the social partners should be committed to defining a negotiated minimum wage.
4. It remains our aim to maintain stable ancillary labour costs. We are opposed to tax increases. Entrepreneurs need favourable financing options and should not be restrained by unnecessary bureaucracy.
5. We want wage increases to compensate for price increases, which are not automatically wasted anymore on the “fiscal drag”.
6. We want a 25 billion Euro investment programme for the federal highways. We want to secure jobs and create revenue through the domestic energy supply. At the same time, energy should remain affordable.
7. The internet is a growth promoter for our economy. We want to make fast internet nationally available by 2018.
8. We want to supplement standard marital status relief with family relief. We want to increase child benefit and child allowance. We want to recognise the parental leave for parents of children born before 1992 with an additional pension credit. There should be better opportunities for taking occupational time out.
9. We want everyone to be able to live freely and safely – always and everywhere. For this reason, we want to strengthen the use of video cameras, for instance, in stations. We want to increase the search pressure and introduce tax concessions for security within a person’s own home.
10. We will further strengthen the municipal financial power and will contribute with tax to the building of affordable housing. Rural regions need strong agriculture, good education and childcare offers, wide voluntary commitment and high-quality medical care. We will further develop our cultural heritage.

1. The future of Germany in Europe

We want a Europe that professes its Western Christian heritage. **We stand for a strong Euro and stable prices. We are fighting for a strong European Union, which will emerge strengthened from the debt crisis.** Anyone who needs help must first abolish the mountain of debt himself and increase his own competitive ability through reforms in education, research and technology. We want to direct the funding from the European Union more strongly towards the creation of jobs and towards fighting youth unemployment.

We oppose a collectivisation of debts through the introduction of Eurobonds. We want effective European banking supervision by the European Central Bank for the large, system-relevant banks and the procedures for handling

overindebted banks. For the remaining financial institutes, the proven bank supervision remains. A Europe-wide deposit protection fund would mutualise the liability risk. We oppose this. **We urge that the rules of the strengthened stability and growth package and the fiscal package be strictly implemented.** We want a debt rescheduling procedure within the Eurozone to be developed, for those who are unable to carry their debts any longer.

We will also support other European countries in the introduction of a dual education system in schools and companies, because this can enable a good professional future for young people. The German-French partnership represents a drive of particular significance. We want to deepen and further develop our partnership with Poland.

We do not want a centrally organised and governed Europe. A Europe of diversity ensures the quality of life in the regions and respects the different ways of life. Our aim is that the German language is handled by the EU-authorities and administration in the same way as English and French. The European community should be strengthened through the learning of foreign languages and exchange programmes.

2. Securing Germany's prosperity

We stand for a policy that gives every person in our country the opportunity to advance, and that opens up a promising future. For a society of opportunities, we need a Germany that is inquisitive and imaginative, in a rapidly changing world.

We want companies to have good local growth potential. For this purpose, the ancillary labour costs should remain constant. We want to improve the tax framework conditions for investment in young enterprises and equity financing. Furthermore, we want to abolish further excessive bureaucracy.

The middle-class remains the backbone of our economy and one of the guarantees for our prosperity. With a view of the opportunities for our economy within the global market, we want to campaign further for German products and research results, in particular, for patents and standards. A reliable fiscal policy is indispensable for the planning reliability in this point. **We are firmly opposed to tax increases.** Our aim remains to maintain the ancillary labour costs, equally financed by the employer and employee, at a stable level below 40 per cent.

We want our companies to continue having a good global position. We are lobbying for fair international competition conditions, the strengthening of the international free trade movement and secure access to raw materials. **We want to invest specifically in important future technologies, such as microelectronics and air and space travel, and thereby further strengthen and develop the competitiveness of our country.** The dual education system in schools and companies offers our young people good opportunities in the employment market.

We want to open up opportunities for people. **Our target is full employment.** Therefore, we want to create the prerequisites through an intelligent economic policy that offers young persons, in particular, a good chance of a permanent job position. **Furthermore, this must be the normal situation.** We also consider contracts for work and labour to be important. With the social partners, we want to ensure that the current work rules are upheld and that the minimum wage levels are not undercut.

For us, social partnerships, wage autonomy and codetermination remain the essential basis of our social market economy. They have already proved themselves in the financial and economic crisis. **Where there is no collective wage agreement, we want the social partners to be legally obliged in this matter.** Together in a commission, they should determine a negotiated minimum wage, and in doing so, the differing situations in the regions and sectors can be taken into consideration.

We are saving and investing at the same time. We have anchored the brake on debt in the constitutional law. We have achieved the assigned targets four years earlier than stipulated. **We have achieved this without tax increases and will continue to do so without raising taxes – unlike the Red-Green coalition.** We have set new targets in the Federal budget. In this way, we were able to spend more money on education and research than any other Federal government before us. We were able to advance the development of the day-care facilities (Kitas) and sustainably relieve the pressure on local authorities. Through our careful financial policy, a long-term, balanced budget is within reach. **We will continue along this successful path, reduce debts in the upcoming voting period, and further invest in Germany's future.**

Performance must pay-off. For this reason, we want to relieve further the pressure on service providers at the centre of our community. **To do this, we want to abolish the so-called fiscal drag.** A reintroduction of the property tax and an increase in inheritance tax, as is planned by the Red-Green coalition, damages our competitiveness and destroys jobs. For this reason, the CDU and CSU both oppose this.

We will resolutely continue to fight tax evasion. Tax havens must be drained through better international cooperation. Anyone who is economically active in Germany should also pay tax here.

3. Using Germany's opportunities

Every child deserves the best starting opportunities in order to be able to develop its abilities as well as possible. The CDU and CSU stand for the future of grammar schools, high-performing schools for preparation professional education, and the equality of general and occupational education. **So that every child has the best chance of a successful time at school, we want to enable more full-day childcare and to train young people to be good teachers.** We want our children who are already at school to learn about the new technological possibilities – modern computer technology and digital learning offers. **As a result, they should be able to take advantage of the huge opportunities of digitisation.**

Our colleges train exceptionally qualified persons and thereby contribute to securing our prosperity. **So that they are also able to continue their tasks in the future, we want to strengthen their financial power and create 625 000 additional study places.** We want to support the colleges on the path to attractive and competitive offers for digital learning.

With a supply based on renewable energies and low energy usage, we are protecting our environment and promoting climate protection. The energy supply of the future will be more diverse. We want to use the diversity of the renewable energies, network them intelligently with each other and pay attention to a healthy combination of energy producing methods. At the same time, we are securing jobs and creating value nationally. **For this**

reason, we want to advance the energy turnaround, resolutely, quickly and with a sense of proportion. We are focussed on market-based solutions with fair competition, open to technology and new technological developments. Our aim is that Germany remains a competitive industrial country. We are driving forward the expansion of the power grids and the development of new accumulator technologies, thus ensuring the future availability of power.

We stand for affordable energy prices. Therefore, we want to develop further the German Renewable Energy Act (EEG). We would like to achieve market-conform prices for renewable energy, to ensure they can compete in the market without state subsidies. At the same time, in order to avoid disadvantages though differing international framework conditions, we want to relieve energy-intensive firms and companies in a targeted manner.

We do not want a patronising state and therefore, object to a general speed limit on German motorways. Restrictions must reflect traffic conditions and time requirements in a targeted manner. We want to achieve that fewer people become stuck in traffic jams, trains are on time more often, our goods arrive on time where they are required, and that noise and pollution from traffic are reduced. In many rural regions, the private car remains indispensable, whereas in the towns, new concepts, such as rental bicycles and car-sharing, are gaining importance.

The future of our country lies in an efficient economy, which, with imagination and creativity, continues to develop products and services that are requested by the home market and abroad. Particularly for this, we need entrepreneurs. In the course of population shift, it is especially important to create the appropriate framework conditions in Germany with suitable financing models, which lead to more companies being founded, particularly by older persons.

By the end of the decade, we want to make Germany the Number 1 for digital growth in Europe. We want new technology and infrastructure, as well as to invest in new research focal points. **We want a nationally available broadband supply by the year 2018.** We want to create the prerequisites so that, particularly in towns, mobile internet via WLAN is available to everyone. **German businesses should continue to play an important role in digitalisation.** This is in the interest of future growth and employment opportunities. Additionally, we will strengthen research into new developments, such as “cloud computing” and “big data”, and develop future concepts for Industry 4.0.

The pension adjustment in this year shows that, with the current law, an alignment of the pensions in the East and West can be achieved. The strengthened economy in the East is likely to result in the rapid further development of the current level, standing at 92 per cent of the level in the West. **Therefore, we are keeping with the annuity computation according to the current law.**

4. Strengthening Germany's cohesion

We are convinced that parents are the best decision-makers regarding their family situation, their professional occupation and how to arrange the daily life of their family. The welfare of the child must be at the heart of all the efforts. Most parents want to look after their child at home, particularly during its first year of life. In able to

make this easier, the CDU and CSU introduced the parental allowance. To allow parents even more freedom when organising the parental leave, we want to introduce a partial parental allowance.

We want a family-friendly working environment with flexible work times, part-time and telecommuting, as well as company childcare and cooperation with childcare facilities. Together with employers, we want to look for possibilities of maintaining and improving the expertise and skills of employees through further training measures, also during the family phase.

We are pushing resolutely for the continued expansion of child day-care facilities. We also want to continue working with countries, cities and communities in the expansion of childcare. **We support parents, who also do not wish to make use of public-funded childcare in the second and third years, with a childcare subsidy.** We want to improve further the offer of childminders and day nurseries. This also applies to further expansion of qualified care facilities for schoolchildren.

Our aim is equal opportunities for everyone – irrespective of sex, age or colour of skin. **For this reason, the CDU and CSU support the implementation of entitlement of women to the same pay for the same work.** The CDU and CSU have introduced a minimum wage in the care sector. The target must be the further upgrading of work in the areas of care, supervision and early childhood learning. We want to place an emphasis on the return to employment after the family phase or facilitate the changeover from part-time to full-time employment. We want more women in positions of managerial responsibility. **For this reason, we want to regulate by law the increase in the proportion of women in management boards and supervisory boards of companies.** As such, the federal government, countries and communities have to set a good example.

5. Protecting Germany's quality home environment

The protection of our environment is of central importance for us. We would like to bring forward environmental protection together with the people.

We would like to use every possibility for further reducing the energy and raw material usage and to develop further the consultation offers and incentives for companies. At the same time, we would like to sharpen the awareness of responsible and sustainable consumer consumption of energy and raw material, and also of goods and services. **We want to continue further on the path to a real circular flow economy.** We want to develop the packaging waste bin into a standardised recycling bin. This will enable us in the future to put even more reusable materials back into recycling and offer at the same time a comfortable recycling system.

We want to preserve the richness of nature and the biological diversity of our home country. Where possible, we would like to supplement the protected areas, and to do this, secure further areas for nature protection that are owned by the state. **We will improve noise protection by implementing a noise protection programme.** This, in particular, applies to the development and renovation of roads and railways. For us, the supply of drinking water and removal of wastewater are part of the public services. Cities and communes should be able to decide on their own, whether they want to take realise these tasks themselves, or in partnership with private companies. We want to improve the water quality further, in order to continue to increase the species diversity in our rivers and

streams. **We want to preserve the natural soils for our nature and for our farms.** Therefore, we would like to stop sealing of the countryside and reduce the area consumption until 2020 by a third to 30 hectares per day.

We want to create more affordable living space for families through state support and targeted incentives in the tax law. Factually, we want to reintroduce the declining allowance for depreciation. To support the housing costs of low-income households, we want to strengthen social housing schemes. The creation of living space for students in our university towns is an explicit part of this. We want to improve the performance of housing benefits. Housing must continue to be affordable. **We will give the states the opportunity to cap rent rises for re-rented property rentals to ten per cent above the local comparable rent on housing markets with high demand.** We support the wish of many people to live within their own four walls. The state helps with home purchase savings bonus and with the employee savings allowance.

Energy-saving measures must be worth the while for owners and renters. That is why we want to promote them. We will continue the successful CO₂ building renovation programme. We want to create further stimuli for the renovation of buildings through tax incentives. This will also strengthen the local tradesmen.

Our mission statement is rural entrepreneurial farming, borne locally by the farmers and their families. The German farmers and foresters produce high-quality food and feeds, regrowing raw materials and a large part of the renewable energy. With this, they not only secure the basic income of the people, but they also characterise our home country by taking care of the man-made landscape and the preservation of traditions. **The CDU and CSU want strong agriculture and forestry, anchored in community.** We want as much as possible of our food and the required raw materials to come from the fields of our farmers and from the forests of our home country. We object to farming determined by capital investors. We want the monies coming from Brussels to reach the farmers, and that they are used as efficiently as possible. We do not want patents on normal breeding procedures and also speak against the possibility to patent farm animals and farm plants. **We feel strongly about high-quality foods.** The consumers should know where the food comes from. Therefore, we demand a Europe-wide designation of origin.

The CDU and CSU are interested in the opinions of the citizens; we want active citizens, who take part in discussion. This is especially true for large projects. Therefore, the CDU and CSU have arranged for better involvement of the citizens. Through traceable procedures and planning steps, we achieve greater understanding from the citizens. This creates reliable conditions for investors, and contributes to faster realisation of large projects. The CDU and CSU want to improve further public participation.

Protect the home country – create good chances for tomorrow. That is our aim. **We would like attractive village and communes with a strong economy and a diverse homeland culture.** With good traffic connections, comprehensive medical care and fast internet connections, we would like to create the best prerequisites for this. We want to support the rural regions in becoming better known as attractive holiday destinations.

The CDU and CSU explicitly profess to the Christian character of our country and also to the respect for any other belief. Many efforts of church-based facilities in the communes are only possible because the church infuses

its own means, to a considerable extent, and furthermore, through the voluntarily work of the members of the congregations. These services are at the same time supported considerably by the State. While doing so, the State also pays attention to the religious quality of the respective facilities, which is also reflected in the religious labour law.

6. Germany: Taking responsibility for freedom and security

Security is a predisposition for freedom; living peacefully together and trust in our State. **To be able to ward off violence and theft, to be able to solve crimes such as attacks and other crimes, we would like to strengthen the use of video cameras in focal crime spots and in danger spots, for instance, in stations.** The CDU and CSU want a well-equipped police force, able to be reached instantaneously by the people, and quickly to be where there is need. Facing a rising number of break-ins and a quota of solved crimes that is too low, we want to increase the search pressure, especially on cross-border acting gangs.

Violence and delinquency in children and youth has to be effectively counteracted. Especially for delinquent youth, the motto has to be: The punishment for the deed must follow immediately. **Therefore, acceleration and simplification of the youth penal process is the correct way.**

We want to protect women against violence and forced prostitution. Therefore, we have ensured that the Bundestag has taken the first measures for better surveillance of places of prostitution. We want to strengthen the rights of victims of sexual abuse. We want to improve victim support.

Fighting organised crime is a great challenge, in part due to its economic strength. The CDU and CSU would like to simplify the rules for asset recovery and through their application, speed up the preliminary impounding of those assets.

However greatly many extremists differ in their aims; they are similar in their hatred of our democratic society and the values it is based upon. **Therefore, we focus on the entire spectrum of political and religious extremism.** The CDU and CSU will strengthen the states and the communes in their local fight against extremism. Working together with the Federal office for the protection of the constitution and the police force in the combined centre for defence against extremism and terrorism (GETZ), we will increase the impact force of the security forces. We want to extend further this successful approach.

We want to tighten the extradition law for foreign criminals. Those who preach religious hatred or use violence for the enforcement of their religious aims, ignore our basic values and must expect that they will be extradited.

We want to protect better the business location Germany and, with it, the jobs in our country against targeted industrial espionage. Germany should develop into an international market leader for cyber security solutions. **We want to close the gaps in criminal liability in the digital area, for example, in the case of “cyber mobbing”.**

We believe that the western Baltic States have a prospect of accession. However, it is essential that the new membership states completely and totally fulfil all the accession criteria. We would like to deepen the relationship between the European Union and Turkey. **We would like the strongest possible cooperation between the European**

Union and Turkey, and a close strategic cooperation in questions of foreign and security policies. We oppose full membership for Turkey.

For the CDU and CSU, the friendship with the USA is a basic pillar of our international cooperation. **We would like to remove obstacles to trade within the framework of a transatlantic trade and investment partnership.**

It is in our interest to maintain good neighbourly relations with a politically and economically modern Russia. The depth and extent of this partnership are mainly dependent on how far Russia adheres to its international duties of compliance with the standards of a constitutional and democratic state.

We stand for international religious freedom for all. This includes the persistent commitment to the Christians in more than 50 countries, who are under pressure, hunted and exiled as a result of their belief. At the same time, we strictly oppose any form of anti-Semitism.

We want to finish the reorientation of the Bundeswehr by 2017. Modern equipment is decisive in making the service attractive. We want to further the support for service members returning from service overseas. We will take further measures to attract young women and men to the service in the armed forces. The Bundeswehr must continue to remain in the public eye. We will resolutely counteract all efforts to drive the Bundeswehr from the centre of our community.

The development policy of the CDU and CSU is value oriented and in the interest of Germany. Our development and human rights policy must be effective in an even more sustainably stabilising manner. **We are keeping to the target of using 0.7 per cent of the gross national income for development cooperation.**