



# ***DARE MORE PROGRESS***

***ALLIANCE FOR  
FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND  
SUSTAINABILITY***

***COALITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
SPD, ALLIANCE 90/THE GREEN PARTY AND FDP***

## **Dare more progress**

Alliance for freedom, justice and sustainability

## **I. Climate protection in a social-ecological market economy**

Our economy, with its companies, employees and consumers, lays the foundation for our prosperity. However, as Europe's largest industrial and export economy, Germany faces profound transformation processes in global competition in the 2020s - from decarbonization to comply with the 1.5-degree path to digital transformation and demographic change. Added to this is the long-lasting Corona pandemic, which poses major challenges for parts of the economy. We therefore see the task of injecting new momentum into our country's economic strength. The economic strength and prosperity of our country will continue to lie in its diversity - from industry and small and medium-sized businesses to skilled trades, commerce and services. We are setting the course for a social-ecological market economy and ushering in a decade of investment in the future. In doing so, we are laying the foundations for securing sustainable prosperity and creating space for innovation, competitiveness and greater efficiency, for good work, social advancement and new strength.

We think economic development and ecological responsibility together. We must preserve what sustains us and protect our resources. Protecting the environment and nature is therefore an essential part of our political activities.

Nations (SDG) are the guiding principles of our policy. In particular, the fight against species extinction requires a high level of attention and political action. Our goal is sustainable, future-proof agriculture in which farmers can operate in an economically viable manner and which does justice to the environment, animals and the climate. We strengthen regional value chains and contribute to the preservation of rural structures.

We want to enable sustainable, barrier-free, innovative mobility that is affordable and suitable for everyday use by everyone. Mobility is part of the provision of public services and a prerequisite for equal living conditions in cities and rural areas.

### **Economy**

After the Corona pandemic, Germany's economy needs a new start. To achieve this, the public sector must provide impetus and create fair framework conditions nationally and in the European single market. We want more innovation, more competitiveness, more efficiency, good jobs and climate-neutral prosperity. To achieve this, we need a decade of investment in the future and more speed. Our goal is a social-ecological market economy.

### ***Industry***

Industry has a central role to play in the transformation of the economy with a view to climate protection and digitization. We will strengthen the innovation, investment and competitiveness of industry in order to remain a high-tech country. We are promoting regional transformation clusters and will support structurally weak regions. We are developing an industrial strategy which, in conjunction with the European Green Deal, is embedded in a European solution and prevents carbon leakage through appropriate measures. To support our domestic industry, in particular the basic materials industry, we will create suitable instruments to a sufficient extent to achieve the climate targets, for example carbon contracts for difference (CCfD), in order to close the economic viability gap in particular. These instruments will be designed in such a way that the payback phases are achieved with sufficient probability. We support the introduction of a Europe-wide effective CO<sub>2</sub> limit compensation mechanism or comparable effective instruments. It is crucial that this is WTO-compliant, does not disadvantage the export industry, prevents greenwashing and is implemented unbureaucratically within the existing emissions trading system.

We are committed to the establishment of a European Green Hydrogen Union. To this end, we want to quickly implement the IPCEI Hydrogen and financially support investments in the development of a hydrogen network infrastructure. In this way, we want to become the lead market for hydrogen technologies by 2030 and develop an ambitious update of the national hydrogen strategy for this purpose.

We are using the European Union and international bodies, together with European partners, to launch an initiative to establish an international climate club open to all countries, with a uniform minimum CO2 price and a common CO2 limit offset.

We create secure sales markets for climate-friendly products through minimum quotas in public procurement.

The German government will ensure that industry receives competitive electricity prices for industrial companies based in Germany, while consistently exploiting the country's own renewable energy potential, which it needs on the road to climate neutrality.

In addition to expanding the infrastructure, we will significantly increase the targets for electrolysis performance, promote European and international climate and energy partnerships for climate-neutral hydrogen and its derivatives on an equal footing, and introduce quotas for green hydrogen in public procurement to create lead markets. We are promoting the production of green hydrogen in Germany. In the interest of a rapid market ramp-up, we promote future-proof technologies even if the availability of green hydrogen is not yet sufficiently assured. We do not want to limit the use of hydrogen to certain fields of application. Green hydrogen should be used primarily in those sectors of the economy where it is not possible to convert procedures and processes to greenhouse gas neutrality through direct electrification.

Germany is to become a center for research, production and recycling of battery cells.

Together with social partners and local players, we are building regional transformation and qualification clusters. We want to make Germany the global location for the semiconductor industry. To this end, the German semiconductor industry along the entire value chain is also to be

be adequately supported financially in order to secure, strengthen and expand this key technology in Europe in a future-proof manner.

### ***Transformation of the automotive industry***

We support the transformation of the automotive sector in order to achieve the climate targets in the transport sector and to preserve jobs and value creation in Germany. We are making Germany the lead market for electromobility and a center of innovation for autonomous driving, and are massively accelerating the expansion of the charging station infrastructure. Our goal is to have at least 15 million fully electric passenger cars by 2030. The regional transformation of SMEs is equally central to the value creation of this key German industry. We will therefore support the transformation in automotive regions toward electromobility through targeted cluster funding. The continuation and further development of the European Battery Projects (IPCEI) and the establishment of additional cell production sites, including recycling, in Germany are of central importance. To this end, strengthening research into new sustainable battery generations is crucial. We want to bundle the existing cooperation and dialog formats at the federal level in the area of the automotive industry in a "Transformation Automotive Industry" strategy platform with the mobility industry, environmental and transport associations, social partners, science, the German parliament, the states and municipal umbrella organizations with the responsible federal ministries in order to secure the goal of climate neutrality, value creation and jobs and training positions.

### ***Aerospace***

Space and the New Space sector are key technologies of the future. We are strengthening the national space program and the European Space Agency (ESA) and preserving their autonomy. We are developing a new space strategy taking into account the avoidance and recovery of space debris. We are strengthening Germany as an aerospace production location. We support research into and the market ramp-up of synthetic fuels that enable climate-neutral flying. The contracting procedures in connection with the aeronautics research program for the development and use of digital tools, process development, materials research and lightweight construction are to be further accelerated and advance payments made possible. We are strengthening research into the use of sustainable fuels, quieter engines and a platform for simulating and optimizing the overall aviation system in terms of its impact on the climate.

### ***Maritime economy***

Through innovation and technology leadership, we ensure a competitive maritime economy in Germany, especially in climate-friendly ship propulsion systems. We are committed to the goals of the Maritime Agenda. We are strengthening shipbuilding across the entire value chain, including ship recycling, as an industrial core in Germany. At European level, we advocate fair competitive conditions and the establishment of a European fleet modernization program. We will accelerate award procedures by consistently classifying naval submarine and surface shipbuilding as well as government and research shipbuilding as key technologies, including maintenance. We will initiate a new concept for maritime training in cooperation with the federal states. We are committed to coordinating sediment management between the federal and state governments. We want more ships to sail under the German flag. We will speed up customs clearance.

### ***Small and medium-sized enterprises, skilled trades and freelancers***

Our economic policy focuses on a forward-looking framework for competitive small and medium-sized enterprises, for a strong skilled trades sector and for the liberal professions. To this end, we will strengthen the opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in award procedures. Funding programs and investment grants should be much easier to apply for and document, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises and the self-employed. To this end, we will digitize, evaluate and design them in line with requirements.

To secure skilled workers in the skilled trades, we will strengthen the dual system of vocational training and improve the transition from school to vocational training and promote training ambassadors as part of a training pact. We also want to improve the permeability of vocational and academic education. We will provide targeted support for training in the skilled trades. In addition, we want to introduce support for gifted students in vocational education.

We want to facilitate access to master craftsman training by significantly reducing the cost of master craftsman courses and letters for participants. In the training market, we want to strengthen people with a migration history with a support initiative. We will strengthen women in the skilled trades. We want to strengthen collective wage agreements in the skilled trades and SMEs. We want to strengthen voluntary participation and transparency in the chamber system in dialog with the social partners.

### ***Retail***

Brick-and-mortar retail in Germany needs attractive framework conditions if it is to hold its own against pure online retail in the structural change and benefit from digitization. We will continue to strive for fair competition between business models of large digital companies and locally rooted companies. We want to support digitally supported value creation in industry, trade, crafts and services and create a level playing field for this.

We are using the "Sustainable Inner Cities and Centers" funding program and continuing the federal government's inner city strategy, in particular the "Living Centers" program as part of the federal-state urban development funding. These are to be used to improve the quality of stay and experience in the inner cities.

We will examine the specific repayment arrangements for Corona aid.

### ***Health Economics***

An innovative healthcare industry is the basis for further medical progress and at the same time holds great potential for employment and prosperity. We want to continue to invest in research to enable cutting-edge medical achievements (such as the current application of mRNA vaccines). We are committed to high medical technology "made in Germany". At the same time, we want to use the potential of digitization to achieve better quality of care, but also to leverage efficiency potential. In order for healthcare workers to be able to master the digital transformation, early training opportunities are essential. At the same time, we will counteract the shortage of personnel in the healthcare sector through our measures to secure skilled workers.

### ***Tourism***

Domestic tourism is an important economic factor with great potential for the future, especially in rural areas. We are resuming the process for a national tourism strategy, improving the coordination of tourism policy in order to make Germany a sustainable, climate-friendly, socially just and innovative tourism location after the Corona crisis. We are providing unbureaucratic support for new and re-established businesses with a "Future Tourism" modernization program. National Natural Landscapes, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks are important components of German tourism. For sustainable, nature-compatible tourism, we support increased development of the appropriate infrastructure, especially for hiking, biking and water tourism. For a long-term dialog on the



future topics of the industry, climate neutrality, digitalization, skilled workers, we are establishing a "National Platform Future of Tourism. Where possible, we are abolishing the analog registration requirement for tourist overnight stays in the Federal Registration Act. In the future, registration forms will be handled completely digitally. We will make it easier to attract foreign professionals to the German tourism industry by reducing bureaucratic hurdles.

### ***Start-up, foundation and innovation support***

We will strengthen start-up and founder support. We will support start-ups from all walks of life and a second-chance culture, and create a new funding instrument for this purpose that is also open to business successors. We will adopt a comprehensive start-up strategy. We will remove obstacles for women and people with a migration background in accessing financing and funding; we will ensure better access to venture capital for female founders. We are enabling simplified, legally secure access for startups and young companies to public contracts. We are creating the conditions for nationwide "One Stop Shops", i.e. contact points for start-up advice, funding and registration. The aim is to enable start-ups within 24 hours. The state development bank KfW should act more strongly as an innovation and investment agency and as a co-venture capital provider, especially for AI, quantum technology, hydrogen, medicine, sustainable mobility, bioeconomy and circular economy. We want to enable private capital from institutional investors, such as insurance companies and pension funds, to be mobilized for startup financing. We want to significantly strengthen the participation of women on investment committees of state funds and investment companies. We will make employee share ownership more attractive, among other things by further increasing the tax allowance. A modern corporate culture also includes new forms such as social enterprises, or companies with tied assets. We are developing a national strategy for social enterprises in order to provide greater support for public welfare-oriented companies and social innovations. We are improving the legal framework for public welfare-oriented business, such as cooperatives, social enterprises, integration enterprises. For companies with tied assets, we want to create a new appropriate legal basis that excludes tax-saving structures. We will remove barriers to access to financing and funding. We will create the legal framework to enable assets in orphaned accounts to be used to promote the common good.

We are creating new confidence in entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and entrepreneurship. To this end, we are strengthening and de-bureaucratizing innovation funding and financing. The funding programs such as

We will continue to develop the "Central Innovation Program for SMEs (ZIM)", "Industrial Cooperative Research for Companies (IGF)", "INNO-KOM", "go-digital" and "Digital Now" as well as the "Innovation Program for Business Models and Pioneer Solutions (IGP)". Federal innovation funding is to be consistently opened up for social and ecological innovations. The funding programs are to be flexibly equipped in line with demand and dynamically updated. We will create a Real Laboratories and Freedom Zones Act that provides uniform and innovation-friendly framework conditions for real laboratories and enables new freedom to test innovations. Among other things, the law will enshrine overarching standards for reallabs and experimentation clauses in law that offer companies, research institutes and municipalities attractive conditions while promoting regulatory learning. We also want to support the development steps from innovation to market entry within the framework of existing funding structures.

### ***Fair competition***

We are improving the framework conditions for fair competition. These must also take into account the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises and integrate the aspects of innovation, sustainability, consumer protection and social justice. We will evaluate and further develop the Act against Restraints of Competition (GWB). We will examine how the Federal Cartel Office can be strengthened to investigate and remedy infringements in the event of significant, persistent and repeated violations of economic consumer law standards in analogy to violations of the GWB. We will reform the ministerial permit procedure in such a way that appropriate legal action against a ministerial permit is once again possible and the German Bundestag is involved in the procedure. We advocate an unbundling option at European level, independent of abuse, as a last resort in entrenched markets. We want to establish an obligation to interoperability at European level and via the ARC for market-dominant companies. Based on international technical standards, this should ensure communications secrecy, a high level of data protection and IT security, and end-to-end encryption. Data portability is to be strengthened. At EU level, we are also working for the adoption of an ambitious Digital Markets Act (DMA) and its enforcement by the competition authorities of the member states. At the European level, we will advocate an adjustment of merger control to prevent innovation-inhibiting strategic acquisitions of potential competitors (so-called killer acquisitions).

### ***Bureaucracy reduction***

We want to simplify processes and rules and give the business community, especially the self-employed and entrepreneurs, more time for their actual tasks. We will introduce a new Bureaucracy Relief Act that will relieve the burden on business, citizens and the administration compared with the previous bureaucracy, without sacrificing necessary standards of protection. We will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy. We will consistently continue the interdepartmental "one-in-one-out" regulation. The German government will develop a systematic procedure for reviewing the bureaucratic burden of laws and regulations that provides for regular stakeholder involvement (practice check). When implementing EU law, we will ensure that it is done effectively, with little red tape and in the spirit of the single European market. We will introduce the "once-only" principle as quickly as possible. The basic business data register, which has already been adopted, is to be implemented quickly and its funding secured. We will examine the extent to which we can reduce the expense for and through the purely electronic storage of receipts and business documents. Unnecessary requirements for A1 certificates in cross-border service provision must be quickly abolished by introducing a European electronic real-time register.

We want to amend the Postal Act and in the process further develop socio-ecological standards and strengthen fair competition. We use the federal financing body to regularly review whether the objectives pursued with the investment are also being achieved and whether they are still needed for the provision of public services.

We want to integrate prosperity reporting in the Annual Economic Report that covers ecological, social and societal dimensions of prosperity in addition to economic ones. We will strengthen the federal government's scientific advisory bodies along the lines of the Monopolies Commission and guarantee their independence. We will discuss the reports of the expert councils as a separate agenda item after their publication in the Bundestag.

### ***Professionals***

The shortage of skilled workers in many sectors can be one of the biggest obstacles to economic growth, to securing prosperity, to high quality in health, care, support and education, and to the success of Germany's transformation. The

The German government will therefore continue to develop its strategy for skilled workers and the national strategy for continuing education. Key building blocks are:

First, we aim to increase the labor force participation of women. Our labor market, gender equality and family policies serve this goal.

Second, we want to enable all older workers who are able and willing to do so to continue working at least until the regular retirement age.

Third, we need a new push for vocational training, continuing education or reorientation even in mid-life, especially when technological change requires it.

Fourth, Germany needs more labor immigration. We will continue to develop our immigration law and remove time limits from proven approaches under the Skilled Workers Immigration Act, such as the Western Balkans regulation. In addition to the existing immigration law, we will establish a second pillar with the introduction of an opportunity card based on a points system to give workers controlled access to the German labor market to find jobs. We will extend the Blue Card in national law to non-academic professions; the prerequisite will be a concrete job offer at standard market conditions.

At the same time, we will lower the hurdles in the recognition of educational and professional qualifications from abroad, reduce bureaucracy and speed up procedures.

Fifth, working conditions must become more attractive in areas where there is already a shortage of skilled workers or where this is foreseeable.

### ***Public procurement law***

We want to simplify, professionalize, digitize and accelerate public procurement procedures. The German government will align public procurement and awarding economically, socially, ecologically and innovatively and strengthen bindingness without jeopardizing the legal certainty of award decisions or raising access barriers for SMEs. We will specify the existing requirements in accordance with European public procurement law in national public procurement law. The public sector is to participate in the development of a system for calculating climate and environmental costs.

We want to drive forward legally compliant digitization in this area and, to this end, create a user-friendly central platform via which all public procurement contracts can be accessed and which enables companies to be prequalified. We want to promote fast decisions in public procurement procedures and, in doing so, support states and municipalities in simplification, digitization and sustainability.

***Raw materials, supply chains and free trade***

We want to support our economy in securing a sustainable supply of raw materials, facilitate domestic raw material extraction and orient it ecologically.

We want to modernize federal mining law.

We want to make full use of the economic and ecological potential of recycling, reduce resource consumption and thus create jobs (product design, recycle, recycle). We will speed up the approval processes for untied financial loans without lowering sustainability standards.

We support an effective EU supply chain law based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights that does not overburden small and medium-sized enterprises. The law on corporate due diligence in supply chains will be implemented unchanged and improved where necessary. We support the EU Commission's proposal on the Deforestation-Free Supply Chains Act. We support the EU's proposed ban on imports of products from forced labor.

We want to strengthen rules-based free trade on the basis of fair social, ecological and human rights standards and advocate a German and European trade policy against protectionism and unfair trade practices. In this way, we guarantee prosperity and sustainable economic growth. We support the strengthening of multilateralism and the further development of the World Trade Organization (WTO), including the renewal of the rules on market-distorting subsidies, the lifting of the blockade on the dispute settlement mechanism and an alignment with the Paris Climate Agreement and the UN Global Sustainability Goals. We support the reorientation of the EU trade strategy and want future EU trade agreements (with Chile, New Zealand, Australia, ASEAN, India, among others) to include effective sustainability standards using a dispute settlement mechanism.

equip. At the European level, we are working to ensure that the decision-making powers of the EU Parliament are strengthened in the further development of treaties through regulatory cooperation.

We use European competition law and the strength of the European internal market precisely with a view to unfair competition practices by authoritarian regimes. We support the creation and further development of autonomous trade policy instruments against unfair trade practices at the European level.

We support credit safeguards for exports in the form of Hermes guarantees, especially for small-ticket SMEs. At the same time, they should not conflict with climate policy goals.

Europe should seize the opportunity to enter into an intensive exchange with the new U.S. administration to promote trade and investment with high environmental and social standards in order to be able to set global standards with the transatlantic economic area. Together with the U.S., we want to advance multilateral trade, WTO reform, the establishment of environmental and social standards, prosperity, and the dynamics of sustainable global trade.

We are committed to an ambitious agreement with the USA that enables legally secure and data-protection-compliant data transfer at a European level of protection. We will make the decision on ratification of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) after the Federal Constitutional Court has completed its review. We will only support the ratification of the Mercosur Agreement if the partner countries first enter into legally binding commitments on environmental, social and human rights protection that can be implemented and verified, and if practically enforceable supplementary agreements on the protection and conservation of existing forest areas have been concluded. Ratification of the EU-China Investment Agreement in the EU Council cannot take place at present for various reasons. We will advocate for reciprocity. We are committed to investment agreements that focus investment protection for companies abroad on direct expropriation and discrimination and want to prevent the misuse of the instrument - including in the agreements that are still pending.

We will strengthen the Society for Foreign Trade and Investment (GTAI) and the network of foreign chambers of commerce. We want to examine whether, in the case of clearly

defined security threats from the takeover of critical infrastructures, e.g., in the German power grid or broadband network, by foreign investors, the legal instruments are sufficient and, if necessary, create suitable instruments for this so that the German government can respond appropriately and quickly.

### ***Regional economic development***

As part of the overall German funding system, we will increase funding for the joint task of regional economic development for innovation promotion, digitization, operational productivity targets, sustainability and decarbonization. In this context, the existing 50-km rule is to be reviewed and, if necessary, abolished. The aim is to use this to provide additional regional growth impetus. We will use the experience gained with this instrument to focus the entire federal funding system even more strongly on creating equal living conditions and transforming the economic structure in the future. All departments will review their funding guidelines. All departments will disclose the regional distribution of their funding programs and establish uniform data standards for this purpose. We will strive for a balanced regional distribution of non-university research institutions, including within the major science and research organizations. We will prioritize support for the expansion and relocation of non-university facilities in regions that are currently under-equipped, such as many parts of eastern Germany.

### **Environmental protection and nature conservation**

The United Nations' 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guide our policies. In doing so, we protect the freedom and opportunities of current and future generations. We will further develop the German Sustainability Strategy and the Sustainability Action Program and review governance structures.

We increase the binding nature of sustainability strategies, goals and programs in concrete government action and in the drafting of laws, and strengthen parliamentary participation rights. The public sector sets a good example in its procurement.

### ***Nature conservation and biodiversity***

The conservation of biodiversity is a human task and an ethical obligation. We want to protect and enhance biodiversity, ensure its sustainable use and exploit the potentials

of natural climate protection. To this end, we are making an ambitious contribution at international level, strengthening nature conservation and seeing cooperation with land users as a central building block. We will take and finance the necessary measures. At the Biodiversity Conference, we will advocate an ambitious new global framework. We will significantly increase our financial commitment to implement the global framework.

Within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), we are working in the spirit of the European biodiversity strategy to achieve 30 percent protected areas and to protect them effectively. For national implementation, we will further develop the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) with action plans, concrete targets and measures, anchor it in binding form and strengthen scientific monitoring.

We support the designation of the European Green Belt, also taking into account the culture of remembrance and SED injustices committed. We are establishing an action plan for protected areas with the aim of improving their management. Federally owned land in external areas is of considerable importance for climate protection, both as potential sites for wind power and PV plants and for biodiversity - such as biotope networks, national natural heritage, wilderness areas, water protection and species conservation - and can support development in rural areas and be made available for sustainable use. Areas suitable for this purpose will be exempted from privatization in the future and transferred to the Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben (Federal Agency for Real Estate Tasks) if they are not already in its ownership. The Federal Agency will lease this land and land from its own portfolio on a permanent basis for the purpose in question. The BVVG areas that are prepared and listed for transfer to the National Natural Heritage at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation will be transferred quickly and developed in such a way that they increase their function as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks.

We are implementing European nature conservation law on a one-to-one basis. We are significantly strengthening contract-based nature conservation for the implementation of nature conservation measures above statutory minimum standards and are allowing regional leeway and flexible solutions such as the Dutch approach. We are strengthening nature conservation in the Joint Task for Agricultural Structure and Coastal Protection (Gemeinschaftsaufgabe Agrarstruktur und Küstenschutz - GAK) and increasing funding for the states' contract-based nature conservation programs.

We will push ahead with the energy transition without dismantling ecological protection standards. We will launch a national species assistance program that will improve the protection of those species in particular where there are conflicts with the expansion of renewable energies, in order to



energy transition in a nature-compatible manner and ensure financing with operator participation.

We are committed to consistent insect protection, will significantly reduce the use of pesticides and promote the development of nature- and environment-friendly alternatives.

We want to intensify the fight against poaching and prevent illegal trade in protected species, including online trade, and strengthen enforcement through a task force. We advocate a ban on imports of wild-caught animals for the pet market.

Our goal is to make the coexistence of grazing animals, humans and wolves as good as possible so that as few conflicts as possible occur despite the still increasing wolf population. We will establish an institutionalized dialog with all organizations and associations involved in these issues.

"Grazing livestock and wolves". By revising the monitoring standards, we will provide a realistic picture of the number of wolves living in Germany and want to enable the federal states to manage the population in a regionally differentiated manner in accordance with European law.

### ***Natural climate protection***

We are developing a Natural Climate Action Program to create synergies between nature conservation and climate protection and are strengthening the resilience of our ecosystems, especially peatlands, forests, floodplains, grasslands and marine and coastal ecosystems, against the climate crisis with renaturation measures. We provide sufficient funding from the Energy and Climate Fund. In addition, we are establishing a federal nature conservation fund and bundling existing federal programs for nature conservation. Peatland protection is in the public interest. We will adopt and swiftly implement a National Peatland Protection Strategy. We will accompany the implementation of peatland protection measures with a participatory process to draw up sustainable development concepts, develop perspectives for the regions and strengthen alternative forms of management (including paludiculture). We will develop alternatives to peat use and adopt a phase-out plan for peat extraction and use.

We will protect the existing natural heritage on the Oder and Middle Elbe. We will strengthen the competences of the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV) for climate protection and climate adaptation.

We will improve the natural CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity of the oceans through a targeted rebuilding program (seagrass meadows, algae forests).

It is precisely in the forest that the consequences of the climate crisis become visible. At the same time, it is essential for achieving our climate protection goals. Species-rich and climate-resilient forests with predominantly native tree species must be created through targeted forest conversion. Forest management plays an important role in this. In line with these goals, we are amending the Forest Act. We will evaluate the Forest Damage Compensation Act and adapt it if necessary. We will review the intervals and form of the federal forest inventory and introduce digital forest monitoring. Together with the states, the federal government will develop a long-term approach that addresses concrete requirements for additional climate protection and biodiversity services that go beyond the existing certification systems, rewards these services, and thus enables forest owners to further develop their forests in a climate-resilient manner and, if necessary, to convert them or support new forestation and reforestation. We stop logging in old-growth, near-natural beech forests in public ownership. In the medium term, federally owned forests should be managed at least according to FSC or Naturland standards. We promote international forest protection and forest restoration. At the EU level, we advocate a legally binding regulation that prevents the import of products and raw materials that are associated with deforestation. We support regional timber value chains with a timber construction initiative. We want to anchor cascade use as a principle. We will strengthen forestry associations. We will develop nationwide prevention and control strategies and expand forest firefighting options on the ground and from the air, also within the framework of the rescEU mechanism. We will promote soil-conserving forest management, e.g., with plow horses and seed drones.

### ***Marine Conservation***

Intact oceans are crucial for climate protection and biodiversity. We want to reconcile protection, security and sustainable use of the oceans. We are launching a marine offensive to protect marine nature, developing a coherent and binding marine strategy, establishing marine coordination under the leadership of a marine commissioner and establishing a national marine conference. We want to preserve the ecosystem services of the North Sea and Baltic Sea. To this end, we will effectively manage the protected areas in Germany's EEZ and provide the necessary human and infrastructural resources. We will strictly protect 10 percent of the EEZ in accordance with the EU biodiversity strategy and designate zones there free of harmful use. We are committed to the swift conclusion of a UN agreement on the

protection of biodiversity on the high seas, for an internationally binding framework against marine litter, and for the establishment of international protected areas, especially the Weddell Sea. We advocate for a ban on dolly ropes at the European level. An immediate program will be set up for the salvage and destruction of ammunition dumps in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, and a federal-state fund for medium- and long-term salvage will be established and solidly financed. We are committed to strict international environmental standards and binding environmental impact assessments for deep-sea mining, and will continue marine research to expand knowledge of the deep sea. We do not want to issue any new permits for oil and gas drilling beyond the framework operating permits issued for the German North Sea and Baltic Sea.

### ***Climate adaptation***

We are developing a precautionary climate adaptation strategy, particularly in light of the flood disaster in 2021. With a Climate Adaptation Act, we are creating a framework for implementing a national climate adaptation strategy with measurable targets in areas such as heat prevention, health and allergy prevention, and water infrastructure, and for taking timely follow-up action. We will also launch the first urgent measures very quickly with an immediate action program. We aim to anchor joint federal and state funding for climate prevention and climate adaptation and provide it with sufficient financial resources. We are creating more space for innovation, digitalization and private sector initiatives for climate adaptation. We see coastal and flood protection as a task for society as a whole and will strengthen the financial resources of the states and municipalities. We will create uniform federal standards for the assessment of flood and heavy rainfall risks and the creation and publication of hazard and risk maps. We are reviewing the catalog of exceptions for the approval of construction projects in designated floodplains and adjusting it where necessary with the aim of minimizing risks. We support private households with KfW funding for private flood and heavy rain prevention. We support municipalities in investing in climate resilience, particularly in climate-proof water infrastructure that takes account of extreme precipitation and low water. With unsealing projects, we strengthen the infiltration of rainwater and reduce the risks of flooding.

### ***Water protection***

Together with the federal states, we are consistently and swiftly implementing the EU Water Framework Directive to protect water as a public good. We are swiftly implementing a joint federal and state water

We are implementing a national water strategy with the aim of integrated water management. Together with the federal states, we are developing a guideline on water withdrawal that gives priority to public drinking water supplies. For the reuse of wastewater, we are striving for the rapid implementation of European requirements and a safe and legally secure design. We will amend the Wastewater Levy Act with the aim of improving water protection. We will set incentives to efficiently prevent water pollution. We want to limit the use of water-polluting substances in products to essential uses to protect against unacceptable risks. We are improving the state of knowledge about water quality in Germany with validated data, including from water suppliers, and introducing digital mapping. We anchor an environmental quality standard for active pharmaceutical ingredients in water law in order to be able to assess substance inputs in a differentiated manner. We support a European ban on deliberately added microplastics in cosmetics and detergents and on liquid polymers. Substances in wastewater can also be raw materials that should be used in the sense of the circular economy.

We are taking all necessary measures to safely achieve obligations under European law to reduce nitrogen emissions to water and air, thereby averting penalty payments to the EU.

### ***Air pollution control***

We want to further reduce air pollution in order to sustainably protect human health and the environment. We support the European Commission's plan to amend the EU Air Quality Directive to gradually achieve the latest standards. We will ensure transparency in the dumping of kerosene and develop ways of avoiding it. We will support local authorities on their way to better air quality. We will implement BAT conclusions in a timely and sustainable manner. In order to achieve the reduction targets from the National Emission Ceilings Directive on time, we will implement all necessary measures in the national clean air program.

### ***Soil protection***

We will evaluate the federal soil protection law and adapt it to the challenges of climate protection, climate adaptation and the preservation of biodiversity, taking into account the different uses. At EU level, we will advocate improved soil protection and binding regulations. We will establish a national soil monitoring center. In order to reduce land consumption for settlement and transport purposes, we will

to the 30-ha target by 2030 at the latest, we will provide incentives, avoid misaligned incentives, and reduce sealing through effective initiatives.

### ***Chemicals Policy***

The chemical industry faces global competition. We are strengthening its competitiveness and innovative strength, sustainability and climate protection, as well as Germany as a production location, safeguarding jobs and reducing the risks associated with the use of substances that are hazardous to health (e.g. perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals). We are making a constructive contribution to the debate on the EU chemicals strategy. With this in mind, we want to further develop REACH (EU Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals), whereby substances and groups of substances are assessed for their risks. Following a risk assessment in the context of use, authorization can be granted. We are developing a national plan for protection against endocrine disruptors. We will better protect our companies and consumers from imports that do not meet EU standards by working with countries to strengthen enforcement in control and facilitate product recalls. We will strengthen human biomonitoring and ensure continuous funding. For a comprehensive evaluation of substances and the development of sustainable chemicals, we will strengthen research and Germany as a production location.

### ***Circular economy***

We promote the circular economy as an effective climate and resource protection, opportunity for sustainable economic development and jobs. We have the goal of reducing primary raw material consumption and closed material cycles. To this end, we are adapting the existing legal framework, defining clear targets and reviewing waste legislation. We are bundling existing raw materials policy strategies in a "National Circular Economy Strategy". On this basis, we advocate uniform standards in the EU. Requirements for products must be defined ambitiously and uniformly throughout Europe in dialog with manufacturers. Products must be durable, reusable, recyclable and, if possible, repairable. We are strengthening extended producer responsibility at European level. We are introducing digital product passports, supporting companies in their implementation and upholding the principle of data economy. We strengthen waste avoidance through legal targets and ecologically beneficial reusable, return and deposit systems as well as industry agreements. In this context, we support innovative, sustainable ideas such as shared use. We are establishing an incentive system to dispose of certain electrical appliances and hazardous lithium-ion batteries in an environmentally friendly manner and to feed them into the circular economy. We will reduce the destruction of returned goods. With a legally anchored

fund model, we reward resource-conserving and recycling-friendly packaging design and the use of recycled materials. We are introducing a recycling label. By accelerating the development of quality standards for recyclates, new high-quality material cycles will be created. Quality-assured waste products are to be released from waste legislation and gain product status. We are stipulating higher recycling quotas and a product-specific minimum quota for the use of recyclates and secondary raw materials at European level. We include chemical recycling as a recycling option in the Packaging Act. We advocate a Europe-wide end to the landfilling of municipal waste. Together with the countries, we are taking decisive action against illegal waste exports. Under European law, waste can only be exported to certified recycling facilities. We want a level playing field for plastic recyclates.

### **Agriculture and nutrition**

Sustainable agriculture serves the interests of farms, animal welfare and nature at the same time and is the basis of a healthy diet.

#### ***Animal welfare***

From 2022, we will introduce mandatory animal husbandry labeling that also covers transport and slaughter. Our goal is to achieve corresponding binding EU-wide uniform standards. We are also introducing comprehensive origin labeling. We are accompanying the introduction with an information and education campaign. We want to support farmers in restructuring livestock farming in Germany in a manner that is appropriate to the species. To this end, we aim to develop a financial system supported by market participants, the income from which will be earmarked to offset the running costs of farms and promote investment without imposing a bureaucratic burden on the trade. In the future, investment subsidies will be based on holding criteria and will generally be granted only to the upper tiers. Building and licensing laws are to be adapted accordingly. The development of livestock is to be oriented to the area and will be brought into line with the goals of climate, water and emission protection (ammonia/methane). We want to significantly reduce emissions from ammonia and methane while taking animal welfare into account. Farmers are to be supported on the path to climate neutrality as part of the restructuring of livestock farming.

We strive to establish planning and investment security. We are introducing a testing and approval procedure for barn systems and for mass-produced stunning equipment. We

improve the legislation on protection against fires and technical malfunctions in barns, taking into account appropriate transition periods. We close existing loopholes in the Farm Animal Husbandry Ordinance and improve the Animal Welfare Act (specify torture breeding, significantly reduce non-curative interventions, end tethering in ten years at the latest).

We will develop an animal health strategy and establish a comprehensive database (incl. processing plants of animal by-products). We will record and reduce antibiotic use on farms in relation to active ingredients and application.

In the future, live animal transports to third countries will only be permitted if they take place on routes with proven animal welfare-friendly supply facilities. We also advocate at EU level for better regulations for animal transports and an expansion of the TRACES database system. We promote decentralized and mobile slaughter structures. They create the legal basis for the introduction of a standardized camera-based monitoring system in areas of particular relevance to animal welfare in slaughterhouses of a relevant size and above. We close legal and enforcement gaps in the area of animal welfare in order to meet the responsibility arising from the authority to intervene that belongs exclusively to the state. We are transferring parts of animal protection law to criminal law and increasing the maximum penalty. We present a reduction strategy on animal experiments. We are strengthening research into alternatives, their implementation in practice and establishing an interdepartmental competence network.

We are introducing mandatory identity verification for online pet trade. The identification and registration of dogs will become mandatory. We update the guidelines for animal exchanges and develop a positive list for wild animals that can still be kept in circuses after a transition period.

We will support the educational work of zoological gardens. We will support animal shelters through a consumption foundation. We advocate an EU-wide ban on the keeping and breeding of fur animals. The federal government will play a coordinating and supporting role in cross-border crises and epidemics such as African swine fever and eliminate legal deficiencies. We create the office of an animal protection officer.

### ***European Agricultural Policy***

We immediately ensure that the accompanying regulations to the national strategic plan of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are adapted with the aim of environmental and climate protection as well as income security.

The current architecture will be reviewed by the middle of the legislative period at the latest and adjusted to achieve the objectives. For reliable further development from 2027, the German government is presenting a concept with this evaluation on how direct payments can be adequately replaced by rewarding climate and environmental services. This also serves to ensure income effectiveness.

### ***Joint Task Improvement of Agricultural Structure and Coastal Protection (GAK)***

In line with the reform of the GRW, we will realign the joint task to our objectives and advocate flexible funding over the course of the year. New tasks such as nature conservation and climate adaptation must be secured through additional funding. Cooperation between nature conservation and agriculture should be given a legal basis for agricultural funding.

### ***Nutrition***

We will adopt a nutrition strategy with stakeholders by 2023, especially with children in mind, to create a healthy environment for nutrition and physical activity.

We will update the standards of the German Nutrition Society, establish them as the standard in communal catering, continue to operate networking centers and conduct model region competitions. Our goal is to increase the share of regional and organic products in line with our expansion targets. Together with all stakeholders, we will reduce food waste on a binding, sector-specific basis, clarify liability issues and facilitate tax relief for donations. We strengthen plant-based alternatives and advocate for the approval of innovations such as alternative protein sources and meat substitutes in the EU. In the future, advertising for foods with high sugar, fat and salt content aimed at children must no longer be allowed in programs and formats for under-14s. We will further develop an EU-wide Nutriscore in a scientific and generally understandable way. We support the development of criteria for an ecological footprint. We will strengthen consumer health protection and conduct research on substances hazardous to health such as endocrine disruptors, multiple exposures, contact materials. Lebensmittelwarnung.de will be developed more practicable. We



create scientifically based reduction targets for sugar, fat and salt that are tailored to target groups.

### ***Agriculture***

Species extinction, the loss of biodiversity, is another ecological crisis. We want to limit the use of pesticides to what is necessary. We want to ambitiously reduce their use with the following measures:

- We will align all agriculture in its diversity with the goals of environmental protection and resource conservation (organic farming). We want to further develop agriculture in harmony with nature and the environment. We want to achieve 30 percent organic farming by 2030. To this end, we want to increase federal funding for the federal organic farming program and make agricultural research funds available for organic farming research issues in line with the expansion target. We are expanding the future strategy for organic agriculture to include the entire organic value chain.
- Integrated Pest Management will be supplemented, we will strengthen its research and promotion and further develop the National Action Plan.
- Plants are to be protected in such a way that side effects on the environment, health and biodiversity are avoided. The approval of plant protection products must be transparent and legally secure, based on scientific criteria; existing gaps at the European level will be closed. At the same time, decisions must be made more quickly.
- In addition, we are improving the availability of crop protection products, especially for small-scale applications in diversely grown specialty crops, for stock protection and for appropriate resistance strategies.
- We also rely on digital applications and modern application technology for targeted application and avoidance of drift.
- We are strengthening alternatives to synthetic chemical pesticides (biologicals, low risks, plant fortifiers, physical, biological, cultivation methods, robotics, drones, digitalization, forecasting models, etc.) and improving the associated processes.
- Analogous to existing regulations on pesticides in nature reserves, where farmers receive compensation for hardship, we want to find rules for drinking water protection areas.
- We are taking glyphosate off the market by the end of 2023.
- A digital origin and identification system nutrient and plant protection, with the aim of advancing the reduction strategy, is to be introduced.

- We want to support the breeding of climate-resistant plant varieties. To this end, we are also improving the framework conditions for population varieties, promoting model projects such as crowd-breeding and digitization, creating transparency about breeding methods and strengthening risk and detection research.

### ***Digitalization in agriculture***

We will make the public data required by agriculture and nutrition freely available to authorized users in a simpler manner and in suitable quality and timeliness, and to this end we will establish a genuine platform with central access to all government data and services, in particular also for corresponding administrative services. In the future, state data of all administrative levels should be made available in uniform formats. The agricultural data space in Gaia-X as the basis of a European data infrastructure with clear rights of use for farmers to the farm-specific data they have helped to create will be further developed with standardized interfaces. Open source formats are explicitly supported.

### ***Land Policy***

We are actively accompanying the EU Commission's debate on the "Carbon Removal Certification Guidelines". We need an update of the Soil Protection Act, a soil monitoring center and we must support the EU with a soil directive. We are stepping up research and funding for climate-friendly crop production. To this end, we are launching a federal program entitled "Sustainable Crop Production. We are continuing to develop the protein crop strategy.

The BVVG areas are used for compensation and replacement measures as well as climate and species protection. Agricultural land is primarily leased to sustainable or ecological farms and not sold.

### ***Fishing***

We are committed to preserving fisheries along our coasts. We will call for a fair, science-based determination and allocation of fishing quotas at European and international level. To this end, we will initiate a "Future Commission on Fisheries" to develop recommendations for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, inland and deep-sea fishing. We want to limit bottom trawling and adapt fishing techniques to specific species, as well as regulate set gillnets in a way that respects nature conservation. We recognize the contribution of anglers to nature and species conservation.

### ***Food market***

We support fair competition with fair prices in the food market. We will strengthen antitrust abuse supervision and merger control at the Federal Cartel Office. We will take action against unfair trade practices and examine whether the sale of food below production costs can be prevented. We will continue to monitor the milk market and evaluate the balance of supply relationships.

### **Mobility**

We want to use the 2020s to make a fresh start in mobility policy and enable sustainable, efficient, barrier-free, intelligent, innovative mobility that is affordable for all. We are seeking acceptance for the necessary change processes and will implement our goals in a dialog-oriented manner and regularly review the measures. We will take the necessary decisions to achieve our climate protection targets for 2030 and 2045 with the aim of decarbonizing the mobility sector and significantly accelerate practical implementation. For us, mobility is a central component of services of general interest, a prerequisite for equal living conditions and the competitiveness of Germany as a business and logistics location with future-proof jobs. To this end, we will expand and modernize infrastructure and further develop the framework for a wide range of mobility options in cities and rural areas.

### ***Infrastructure***

Investments in transport infrastructure must be further increased and secured for the long term. We want to invest considerably more in rail than in road transport in order to prioritize the implementation of projects for a "Deutschlandtakt". In the case of federal trunk roads, we want to focus more strongly on maintenance and rehabilitation, with particular emphasis on engineering structures. To this end, we will gradually increase the share of maintenance funding by 2025 as the budget grows.

We are striving for a new infrastructure consensus on federal transport routes. To this end, we will launch a dialog process with transport, environmental, business and consumer protection associations in parallel with the ongoing review of the requirements plan, with the aim of reaching an agreement on the priorities for implementing the current Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan. Until the requirements plan is reviewed, there will be joint coordination on current projects.

We will launch a new 2040 Federal Transport Infrastructure and Mobility Plan based on new criteria. We want to abolish the coexistence of Autobahn GmbH and Deutsche Einheit Fernstraßenplanungs- und -bau Gesellschaft (DEGES). We want to conclude a multi-year financing agreement between the federal government and Autobahn GmbH.

In 2023, we will introduce CO<sub>2</sub> differentiation in the truck toll, include commercial road haulage of 3.5 metric tons or more, and introduce a CO<sub>2</sub> surcharge, on condition that we rule out a double burden from the CO<sub>2</sub> price. We will use the additional revenue for mobility.

We want to reduce noise pollution from traffic, work to reduce wanton noise, and provide more active and passive noise protection. To arrive at appropriate noise abatement measures, we will take the entire noise situation into account. We will improve the financing of noise abatement programs for federal highways and railroads. We will support innovative noise abatement technology, for example for new freight cars, until it is launched on the market.

### ***Rail traffic***

We will continue to develop the Rail Master Plan and implement it more quickly, increase rail freight transport to 25 percent by 2030 and double passenger transport performance. We will align the target timetable of a "Deutschlandtakt" and infrastructure capacity with these goals. As far as budgetary feasibility allows, the use of rail will be made more affordable in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the railroads.

We will connect more major centers to long-distance services. We will ensure that the implementation of a "Deutschlandtakt" system complies with European law in terms of infrastructure, finance, organization and rail law.

We want to strengthen cross-border traffic and develop night train services with the EU and its member states. By 2030, we want to electrify 75 percent of the rail network and support innovative drive technologies. We will prioritize the digitization of vehicles and routes. We will launch a "Rapid Capacity Expansion" program, improve accessibility and noise abatement, bundle and strengthen station programs, expand the rail network, reactivate lines and avoid closures, and develop a

Set up Rail Acceleration Commission. We want to accelerate the introduction of Digital Automatic Coupling, strengthen single-wagon transport and provide investment incentives for sidings. Rail connections should be made mandatory for new commercial and industrial areas. We want to further promote CT terminals, promote the cranability of standard semitrailers and exempt inward and outward transport up to a maximum of 50 kilometers from truck tolls.

We will maintain Deutsche Bahn AG as an integrated group, including the Group's internal labor market, under public ownership. We will make the internal structures more efficient and transparent. The infrastructure units (DB Netz, DB Station und Service) of Deutsche Bahn AG will be merged within the Group to form a new, public-sector infrastructure division. This will be wholly owned by Deutsche Bahn as the overall Group. Profits from infrastructure operations will remain in the new infrastructure unit in the future. The rail transport companies will continue to operate on a market- and profit-oriented basis in competition.

We want to increase investment funding for DB Infrastructure.

#### ***Public transport and new mobility services***

We want to enable states and municipalities to improve the attractiveness and capacity of public transport. The aim is to significantly increase public transport ridership. In 2022, we will compensate for pandemic-related revenue shortfalls as before. We want an expansion and modernization pact in which the federal, state and local governments agree, among other things, on funding up to 2030, including the state and local governments' own contributions and the distribution of federal funds, and discuss tariff structures. Regionalization funding will be increased from 2022. Together, we will define quality criteria and standards for services and accessibility for urban and rural areas.

For seamless mobility, we oblige transport companies and mobility providers to make their real-time data available under fair conditions. We want to enable digital booking and payment across providers. We will continue to develop the mobility data space.

We will strengthen intermodal links and promote barrier-free mobility stations.

We will support digital mobility services, innovative mobility solutions and car sharing and include them in a long-term strategy for autonomous and connected driving of public transport.

To ensure that all new buses, including the infrastructure, are climate-neutral as soon as possible, the federal government will extend the existing subsidy and make it more SME-friendly.

We are committed to fair working conditions in public transport. To this end, we are strengthening tariff compliance and creating the legal basis for making collective agreements a condition of tenders. Medium-sized interests must be taken into account when awarding contracts. We will continue to give priority to self-supported transport services.

We will upgrade mobility research on an interdisciplinary basis, reorganize and expand the Center for the Future of Mobility, and strengthen the Center for Rail Transport Research.

### ***Freight traffic***

We support regional freight transport concepts and promote emission-free urban logistics such as loading zones and logistics hubs. We want to make it easier to obtain permits for heavy-load and large-volume transports. We will strengthen the inspection authorities and enforce better social standards and working conditions. We will expand and telematically optimize secure truck parking areas on and around highways. We will counteract the shortage of skilled workers, modernize qualification and reduce bureaucracy.

### ***Car traffic***

We will support the transformation process of the German automotive industry against the backdrop of digitalization and decarbonization. We will align framework conditions and support measures to ensure that Germany is the lead market for electromobility with at least 15 million electric cars by 2030.

According to the European Commission's proposals, only CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral vehicles will be registered in the transport sector in Europe in 2035 - this will have a correspondingly earlier impact in Germany. Outside of the existing system of fleet limits, we are working to ensure that only vehicles that can demonstrably be fueled with e-fuels can be newly registered.

We are committed to the adoption of an ambitious and implementable EURO 7 emissions standard and will take into account value creation and jobs.

The expansion of the charging infrastructure must precede demand. We will therefore support the expansion of the charging station infrastructure ahead of time with the goal of one million public and

non-discriminatory charging points by 2030, with a focus on fast-charging infrastructure, reviewing its efficiency and reducing bureaucracy. We are focusing on mobilizing private investment. Where competitive solutions are not effective, we will establish reliable accessibility of charging points by imposing supply requirements where construction is possible. We will make funding for the expansion of the charging infrastructure more effective and efficient. We will remove obstacles in approval processes, network infrastructure and network connection conditions and support municipalities in forward-looking planning of the charging infrastructure. We will enable bidirectional charging, we will ensure transparent electricity prices and a publicly visible occupancy status. We will accelerate the development of a nationwide network of fast-charging hubs and increase the number of hubs put out to tender. We will swiftly revise the charging infrastructure master plan and bundle necessary measures from the areas of construction, energy and transport in it, as well as placing an emphasis on municipal networking of solutions. We are committed to ambitious expansion targets at European level.

We advocate further development of CO<sub>2</sub> fleet limits for commercial vehicles and support the European Commission's proposals for the development of refueling and charging infrastructure for trucks.

We are creating a Mobility Data Act and ensuring free accessibility to traffic data. For the competition-neutral use of vehicle data, we are striving for a trustee model that adequately takes into account the access needs of users, private providers and government bodies, as well as the interests of affected companies and developers. In the law on autonomous driving, we will improve the regulations, clarify liability issues and ensure users' data sovereignty.

### ***Traffic regulations***

We will adapt the Road Traffic Act and Road Traffic Regulations so that, in addition to the fluidity and safety of traffic, the objectives of climate and environmental protection, health and urban development are taken into account in order to give states and municipalities scope for decision-making. We want an opening for digital applications such as digital parking control. In implementing Vision Zero, we will further develop the road safety program. There will be no general speed limit.

To train young people for the dangers of road traffic at an early age, we will enable accompanied driving from the age of 16. We want to enable more digital elements of driver's license instruction, drive forward the digitization of vehicle documents, and abolish the monopoly on driver's license testing while maintaining applicable quality standards.

We want emergency braking and distance assist systems in commercial vehicles to be prohibited from being switched off. We will continue to promote the retrofitting of truck turn-off assistance systems until they are mandatory.

### ***Bicycle traffic***

We will implement and update the National Cycling Plan, drive forward the expansion and modernization of the cycle path network and promote municipal cycling infrastructure. To strengthen cycling, we will secure funding until 2030 and promote the combination of cycling and public transport. We will provide structural support for pedestrian traffic and underpin it with a national strategy.

### ***Shipping***

We will develop a National Ports Strategy and promote close cooperation between our ports. The federal government stands by its shared responsibility for the necessary port infrastructures. We want to increase the share of shipping in freight transport and strengthen hinterland connections to this end. We will promote shore-side electricity and alternative drives and fuels. We will adapt the fleet renewal program for climate-friendly inland shipping. We want to keep an eye on the overall impact on shipping when designing Fit for 55.

We will strengthen the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency to introduce a uniform flag state administration and to accelerate offshore wind energy development.

We will accelerate the rehabilitation and expansion of locks. We will initiate a dialogue across society on climate resilience and nature conservation in waterways. We will strengthen the waterways and navigation administration and increase its efficiency.

### ***Air traffic***

We want to further develop the German air transport economy and industry as key sectors in a sustainable and efficient manner, draw up an Air Transport Concept 2030+ on the future of airports in Germany in a comprehensive participation process, promote rail links to hubs and reduce the number of short-haul flights through better rail connections.



Germany should become a pioneer in CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral flying while maintaining fair conditions in international competition. Our goal is to create a fair framework in international competition for effective climate protection in aviation that effectively reduces emissions and avoids carbon leakage. Pending a European decision on the introduction of a kerosene tax based on energy content, we will advocate the introduction of an air traffic tax throughout Europe, as is the case in Germany. We will lobby the European Union to ensure that airline tickets cannot be sold at a price below taxes, surcharges, fees and charges. In view of the current pandemic-related crisis in the aviation industry, we will not consider increasing the air traffic tax until after 2023. We will use revenues from the aviation tax to promote the production and use of CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral electricity-based aviation fuels as well as for research, development and fleet modernization in aviation. We support ambitious quotas for power-to-liquid (PtL quotas) in aviation and shipping to stimulate a market ramp-up. We want to reduce aircraft noise and increase the share of noise-based airport charges. We promote climate-neutral airport operations.

The task of German air traffic control will be expanded to include the issue of effective noise abatement. We will consider amending the Aircraft Noise Protection Act on the basis of the German government's evaluation report. We will lobby at EU level for the implementation of the "Single European Sky" and a lower sulfur content of kerosene.

Detection and defense against drones is a sovereign task.

### **Climate, Energy, Transformation**

Man-made climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We must tackle the climate crisis together. This also presents great opportunities for the modernization of our country and Germany as an industrial location: New business models and technologies can create climate-neutral prosperity and good jobs. The new German government will make the expansion of renewable energies a central project of its government work. We will align our national, European and international climate, energy and economic policies with the 1.5-degree path and exploit the potential at all levels of government.

activate. To achieve this, we will ambitiously derive our goals from the joint contribution to which the European Union has committed itself under the Paris Agreement.

In doing so, we safeguard the freedom of future generations in line with the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court by designing a reliable and cost-efficient path to climate neutrality by 2045 at the latest, with no restrictions on technology. We are sticking to the German nuclear phase-out. We are committed to a social-ecological market economy and to concrete measures that will be implemented in the next few years and that will bring people along with them.

In the negotiations on the EU's "Fit for 55" program, we support the EU Commission's proposals and want to make the instruments in the individual sectors as technology-neutral as possible.

### ***Climate Protection Act***

We will continue to systematically develop the Climate Protection Act before the end of 2022 and launch an immediate climate protection program with all the necessary laws, ordinances and measures. We will make climate protection a cross-cutting task by ensuring that the responsible ministry examines its draft legislation for its impact on the climate and its compatibility with national climate protection targets and provides an appropriate justification (climate check).

All sectors will have to contribute: Transport, construction and housing, power generation, industry and agriculture. We will monitor compliance with the climate targets on the basis of a cross-sectoral and, analogous to the Paris Climate Agreement, multi-year overall account. The basis for this is annual monitoring.

On the road to climate neutrality, all sectors must make their contribution to achieving the climate targets. We want to do everything in our power to prevent Germany from having to buy EU emissions trading certificates under the EU burden sharing scheme as a result of failing to meet its climate targets, which would burden the federal budget.

We will launch and complete an immediate climate protection program with all the necessary laws and projects by the end of 2022.

### ***Renewable energies***

We are making it our joint mission to dramatically accelerate the expansion of renewables and to remove all hurdles and barriers.

We are aligning our renewables target with a higher gross electricity demand of 680-750 TWh in 2030. Of this, 80 percent is to come from renewables. We are accelerating grid expansion accordingly. We are dynamically adjusting the annual tender volumes.

We need a mix of instruments to achieve the massive expansion: In addition to the EEG, we will strengthen instruments for subsidy-free expansion, such as long-term power supply agreements (PPAs) and Europe-wide trading in guarantees of origin in the interests of climate protection.

We want to strengthen the decentralized expansion of renewable energies. It should be possible to use renewable electricity more in the region where it is generated, especially from plants that have been subsidized and plants that are not subsidized under the Renewable Energy Sources Act. To this end, we will review all necessary regulations. Green electricity must also be allowed to be used as green electricity in the region where it is generated.

We will significantly accelerate planning and approval procedures. Renewable energies are in the public interest and serve security of supply. When weighing up the protected goods, we will ensure that renewable energies are given priority for a limited period of time until climate neutrality is achieved. We will create legal certainty in species protection law, among other things by applying a uniform nationwide assessment method in the species protection assessment of wind energy projects. Furthermore, we will advocate a stronger focus on population protection at the European level and make the exceptions legally secure.

We are committed to ensuring that the regulatory authorities are effectively relieved of their workload through the use of external project teams. The start of the statutory approval periods is to be ensured by clear requirements for the application documents. A clarification of the implementation deadlines for approvals is also to be made.

All suitable roof surfaces are to be used for solar energy in the future. This should be mandatory for new commercial buildings and the rule for new private buildings. We will remove bureaucratic hurdles and open up ways to avoid overburdening private builders financially and administratively. We also see this as an economic stimulus program for small and medium-sized enterprises and the skilled trades.

Our target for the expansion of photovoltaics (PV) is around 200 GW by 2030. To achieve this, we will remove all barriers, including accelerating grid connections and certification, adjusting remuneration rates, and reviewing mandatory tendering for large rooftop systems and caps. We will also strengthen innovative solar energy such as agri- and floating PV and enable co-utilization.

Two percent of the state's land area is to be designated for onshore wind energy. The details of the area target will be set out in the Building Code. We are strengthening the federal-state cooperation committee.

In the first half of 2022, we will initiate all necessary measures together with the federal government, the states and the municipalities in order to organize the common goal of an accelerated expansion of renewable energies and the provision of the necessary areas.

We will ensure that the expansion of wind energy also makes significant progress in less windy regions, so that onshore wind energy is also available close to consumption throughout Germany (and grid bottlenecks are avoided).

Where wind farms are already in place, it must be possible to replace old wind turbines with new ones without major approval effort. We want to defuse the conflict between wind power expansion and species protection through innovative technical avoidance measures, including anti-collision systems. We want to reduce the distances to rotating radio beacons and weather radars in the short term. When designating low-altitude corridors, wind power expansion should be given greater consideration.

We will significantly increase offshore wind energy capacity to at least 30 GW in 2030, 40 GW in 2035 and 70 GW in 2045. To this end, we will secure corresponding areas in the external economic zone. Offshore facilities are to be given priority over other forms of utilization. We also see co-use as an opportunity for a better balance of interests. We are driving forward European offshore cooperation and strengthening cross-border projects in the North Sea and Baltic Sea.

We will connect the additionally generated offshore wind power in an accelerated, intervention-minimizing and bundled manner. We will make the necessary technological decisions without delay, for example on the role of hybrid interconnectors, meshed offshore grids, or multi-terminal connections, while also keeping an eye on onshore grid integration.

Bioenergy in Germany is to have a new future. To this end, we will develop a sustainable biomass strategy.

We want to make greater use of the potential of geothermal energy for energy supply, among other things by improving the data situation and examining an exploration risk insurance.

We want to ensure that municipalities can benefit appropriately financially from wind turbines and larger ground-mounted solar installations on their territory.

We are strengthening citizen energy as an important element for greater acceptance. As far as possible under European law, we will improve the framework conditions for citizen energy (energy sharing, examination of a fund to cover the risks) and make full use of the de minimis regulations as a contribution to reducing bureaucracy.

As part of the amendment to the tax, levy and apportionment system, we will simplify and strengthen support for tenant electricity and neighborhood concepts.

We will advocate comprehensive municipal heating planning and the expansion of heating networks. We are aiming for a very high share of renewable energies in heating and want to generate 50 percent of heat in a climate-neutral manner by 2030.

We will invite the states to discuss how the federal government can best support them in implementing climate education as enshrined in the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### ***Coal phase-out***

Meeting climate protection targets also requires an accelerated phase-out of coal-fired power generation. The decision of the German Constitutional Court, the stricter 2030 climate target and the forthcoming tightening of EU emissions trading, which we support, are increasingly restricting the scope for action. This calls for the massive expansion of renewables and the construction of modern gas-fired power plants that we are striving for in order to meet the rising demand for electricity and energy over the next few years at competitive prices. To this end, we will carry out the review step envisaged for 2026 in the Coal Phase-out Act by the end of 2022 at the latest, in line with the law.

The gas-fired power plants required until security of supply is ensured by renewable energies should also be built at existing power plant locations in order to use the existing (grid) infrastructures and to secure future prospects. They must be built in such a way that they can be converted to climate-neutral gases (H2-ready). We will regularly review security of supply and the rapid expansion of renewables. To this end, we will further develop the monitoring of security of supply with electricity and heat into a real stress test.

The regions affected and those affected by coal mining can continue to count on solidarity-based support. Measures under the Structural Strengthening Act, such as the Cottbus University Medical Center project, will be brought forward or accelerated. The accompanying labor policy measures such as the adjustment allowance will be adjusted accordingly and supplemented by a qualification component for younger employees. No one will be left in the lurch. Our aim is not to pay any additional compensation to companies as part of the coal phase-out in addition to the benefits promised to municipalities in the law to date. We want to preserve the villages in the Rhenish mining area affected in the third relocation phase. The courts will decide on Lützerath.

The establishment of a foundation or company that organizes the dismantling of coal-fired power generation and renaturation is being examined.

### ***Gas and hydrogen***

An energy infrastructure for renewable electricity and hydrogen is a prerequisite for Europe's ability to act and compete in the 21st century. We want to diversify the energy supply for Germany and Europe. European energy law applies to energy policy projects in Germany as well.

We are accelerating the massive expansion of renewables and the construction of modern gas-fired power plants to meet the rising demand for electricity and energy over the next few years at competitive prices. The gas-fired power plants that will be needed until supply is secured by renewables must be built in such a way that they can be converted to climate-neutral gases (H2-ready). Natural gas is indispensable for a transitional period.

The hydrogen strategy will be updated in 2022. The goal is a rapid market ramp-up. The first priority is domestic generation based on renewable energies. For a rapid ramp-up and by

to a low-cost supply of green hydrogen, we rely on a technology-open design of the hydrogen regulatory system.

We want to drive forward the development of an efficient hydrogen economy and the necessary import and transport infrastructure as quickly as possible. We want to achieve an electrolysis capacity of around 10 gigawatts in 2030. We will ensure this through, among other things, the expansion of offshore wind energy and European and international energy partnerships. This will require a dedicated build-up of the necessary infrastructure. To this end, we will create the necessary framework conditions, including efficiently designed support programs, and in particular also strengthen European cooperation in this area.

Once adopted, we will implement the amended Renewable Energies Directive as openly and ambitiously as possible, while continuing to exclude nuclear power.

When importing hydrogen, we will consider the climate policy implications and ensure fair competitive conditions for our economy.

We advocate at the European level for uniform certification of hydrogen and its downstream products and strengthen European import partnerships. We will quickly implement the IPCEI Hydrogen together with the German states and promote investments in the development of a hydrogen infrastructure. We want to further develop programs such as H2Global on a European level and provide appropriate funding.

### **Nets**

Electricity and hydrogen networks are the backbone of the energy system of the future. For the massive expansion of renewable energies, we need more speed and commitment in grid expansion at all levels. In the future, we want to plan grid infrastructures more jointly and with greater foresight at all political levels. To this end, we will immediately commission the Federal Network Agency and network operators to calculate a plan for a climate-neutral network that goes beyond the current network development plans and update the Federal Requirements Plan accordingly. Particular attention must be paid to the electricity highways in all measures.

We will launch further measures as part of the immediate climate protection program. We will accelerate the planning and approval processes for faster planning and implementation of electricity and hydrogen networks. We will ensure clear allocation of the

political responsibility for good early public participation in grid expansion. We will present a "Roadmap System Stability" by mid-2023. We will modernize and digitize distribution networks, including through forward-looking planning and greater controllability. We will significantly accelerate the rollout of smart metering systems as a prerequisite for smart grids while ensuring data protection and IT security. We will legally define storage as an independent pillar of the energy system. The provision of capital for network infrastructure will continue to require attractive investment conditions in comparison with the rest of Europe. In accordance with European law, we will ensure state influence on critical infrastructure where security interests are affected.

### ***Electricity Market Design***

In the course of the expansion of renewable energies, we will develop a new electricity market design. To this end, we, the federal government and the coalition factions, are jointly setting up a platform "Climate Neutral Electricity System," which will make concrete proposals in 2022 and involve stakeholders from science, industry and civil society. In doing so, we are committed to further integration of the European internal energy market.

To stimulate the rapid addition of secured capacity and safeguard the nuclear and coal phase-out, we will evaluate existing instruments and examine competitive and technology-neutral capacity mechanisms and flexibilities. These include secured renewables capacity, highly efficient gas-fired power plants with combined heat and power generation as part of the further development of the relevant law, an innovation program to incentivize H2-ready gas-fired power plants at coal-fired power plant sites as well, storage facilities, energy efficiency measures, and load management.

We will take appropriate account of market prices in future CHP subsidies.

There is also a need for rapid and comprehensive reform of the financing architecture of the energy system. The way forward must be to consistently strengthen incentives for the cross-sector use of renewables, distributed generation models, and the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions. We ensure that renewable electricity is used economically for sector coupling instead of shutting down plants due to grid bottlenecks.



We will fundamentally reform the state-induced price components in the energy sector, aiming for systematic, consistent, transparent and, as far as possible, distortion-free competitive conditions, enabling sector coupling and thus creating a level playing field for all energy sources and sectors. The  $CO_2$  price plays a central role in this.

We are driving a reform of grid charges that strengthens transparency, promotes the transformation to climate neutrality, and fairly distributes the costs of integrating renewables.

### ***Socially fair energy prices***

In order to ensure socially fair energy prices that are competitive for the economy - also in view of higher  $CO_2$  price components - we will end the financing of the EEG levy via the electricity price. We will therefore transfer it to the budget on January 1, 2023. It will be financed by the EKF, which will be fed by revenue from the emissions trading systems (SES and ETS) and a subsidy from the federal budget. The EKF will be able to finance the necessary climate protection measures and the EEG levy. With the completion of the coal phase-out, we will phase out support for renewables. As part of these changes, all exemptions from the EEG surcharge and energy taxes, as well as compensation schemes, will be reviewed and adjusted. The aim is to reduce tax concessions that relate to the economic use of electricity, taking into account the relief provided by the elimination of the EEG surcharge. As a result, companies should no longer be burdened overall.

We want to revise European emissions trading and the Fuel Emissions Trading Act (BEHG) in line with the EU's "Fit for 55" program. We are relying on an increasing  $CO_2$  price as an important instrument, combined with strong social compensation, and will support people with lower incomes in particular. What is good for the climate will become cheaper - what is bad will become more expensive.

We therefore support the European Commission's plans to strengthen the existing emissions trading system and advocate an ambitious reform. In particular, we advocate an ETS minimum price at European level and the creation of a second emissions trading scheme for the heat and mobility sectors (ETS 2). Provision should be made for social compensation in the respective EU member states. In the 2030s, there should be a uniform EU emissions trading system across all sectors that does not shift burdens unilaterally to the detriment of consumers.

The price in the ETS is currently around 60 euros/ton. According to all forecasts, it will not structurally fall below this level, but rather rise. Should the development of the next few years be different and the European Union has not agreed on an ETS minimum price, we will decide on the appropriate national measures (such as certificate deletion or minimum price, etc.) to ensure that the CO<sub>2</sub> price does not fall below 60 euros/ton in the long term.

We want to review the Fuel Emissions Trading Act (BEHG), including covered fuel emissions in industry (industrial process heat), for compatibility with a possible ETS 2 and, if necessary, adjust it to ensure the smoothest possible transition. We consider energy prices and CO<sub>2</sub> prices together. Given the current price level due to non-CO<sub>2</sub> price-driven factors, we maintain the current SES price path for social reasons. We will make a proposal for the design of the market phase after 2026. To compensate for a future price increase and ensure acceptance of the market system, we will develop a social compensation mechanism beyond the abolition of the EEG levy (climate money).

### ***Climate and energy foreign policy***

We are strengthening multilateral cooperation within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and will expand German environmental, climate and energy cooperation. Among other things, we will use the German G7 presidency in 2022 to launch an initiative to establish climate partnerships and an international climate club open to all countries. Our goals include climate neutrality, the massive expansion of renewable energies and their infrastructure, and the production of hydrogen. We are striving for a global emissions trading system that will lead to a uniform CO<sub>2</sub> price in the medium term.

We will fulfill our pledges for Germany's share of the \$100 billion in international climate financing as part of a coherent external climate policy and increase it in the long term.

We want to make our external climate policy more coherent and stronger, among other things

with the Climate Cabinet. We are committed to reforming the Energy Charter Treaty.

### ***Transformation of the economy***

We want to increase the competitiveness of Germany as a business location as the basis for sustainable growth, prosperity and high employment in a social-ecological market economy. We will provide the best possible support for companies and employees, promote innovation and create new confidence in entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and entrepreneurship. We must tackle the climate crisis together. This also presents great opportunities for our country and for Germany as an industrial location: New business models and technologies can create climate-neutral prosperity and good jobs.

We see the path to a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral world as a great opportunity for Germany as an industrial location. New business models and technologies can create climate-neutral prosperity and good jobs if we ensure the right framework conditions for industry and SMEs, such as a massive expansion of renewable energies, competitive energy prices, security of supply with electricity and heat, and fast and unbureaucratic approval procedures.

We want to activate more private capital for transformation projects. To this end, we are also examining what contributions public development banks can make to risk hedging.

In dialog with business, trade unions and associations, we want to forge an "Alliance for Transformation" and discuss stable and reliable framework conditions for transformation in the first six months of 2022.

To support companies in their investments on the path to climate neutrality, we are using targeted instruments. To this end, we are setting up a transformation fund at KfW, using differential climate protection agreements, promoting lighthouse projects and creating incentives for lead markets and climate-neutral products. We will also support and promote small and medium-sized enterprises on their way to climate technology transformation.

We advocate effective carbon leakage protection (border adjustment mechanism, free allocation).

When amending the European climate, environmental and energy aid guidelines and other regulations, we will ensure that the competitiveness of companies is maintained.

Energy and resource efficiency plays an important role in the transformation, i.e., such as linking industrial incentives to the implementation of economic energy efficiency measures or further developing product standards. This applies equally to the energy transition.

We acknowledge the need for technical negative emissions as well and will develop a long-term strategy for dealing with the approximately 5 percent of unavoidable residual emissions.

In dialog with the companies, we will seek solutions on how to issue operating permits for energy infrastructure (power plants or gas pipelines) using fossil fuels in a legally secure manner so that operations can continue beyond 2045 using only non-fossil fuels without triggering an investment freeze, bad investments and compensation claims.

### **Atom**

In the international efforts to achieve climate neutrality, Germany is clearly committed to the expansion and use of renewable energies. At the international and European level, we are working to ensure that nuclear energy pays for the costs it causes. We accept responsibility for radioactive waste. The search for a site for a final repository for highly radioactive waste is to be continued in accordance with the principles laid down by law: science-based, participatory, transparent, self-questioning and learning.

Approved repositories must be completed and put into operation quickly. This also includes site selection and construction of the necessary logistics center.

We will advocate the shutdown of the high-risk reactors near the border. We are in favor of bundling competencies in this area.