

Directorate-General for the Presidency
 Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

Factsheet: The German Bundestag

















1. At a glance



Members of the German Bundestag are elected in general, direct, free, equal and secret elections. In the current electoral term, the Bundestag is composed of 703 Members, the biggest Bundestag ever, which subject to proposals to limit its size by changing the electoral law. The President of the German Bundestag holds the second highest office of state in Germany, after the Federal President. Legislation is one of the most important tasks performed by the Bundestag. Some acts require the consent of the Bundesrat, the organ through which Germany's 16 constituent states – the Länder – participate in the legislation and administration of the Federation.

A federal election was held on 24 September 2017 to elect the Members of the 19th Bundestag. The Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU, both EPP) of Chancellor Angela Merkel suffered significant losses compared to the 2013 results. The same is the case for the Social Democrats. The Liberals (FDP) could celebrate their re-entry into the Bundestag after having been kicked out in 2013. As predicted, the right wing party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) had an excellent score and entered into Bundestag for the first time becoming the biggest opposition party. For the first time in its history, the Bundestag consists of six political groups. Although there were strong intentions within the SPD on the election day to go into opposition the party decided at the end to continue the “grand coalition” after the other option for a new coalition out of CDU/CSU, FDP and Greens (“Jamaica model”) had failed. The coalition holds with 398 seats a solid majority.

2. Composition

Results of the federal elections on 22 September 2017				
Party		EP Affiliation	%	Seats
	Christlich-Demokratische Union		26,8	200
	Christlich-Soziale Union		6,2	46
	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands		20,5	153
	DIE LINKE		9,2	69
	DIE GRÜNEN		8,9	67
	Freie Demokratische Partei		10,7	80
	Alternative für Deutschland		12,6	94
Turnout: 75,6%				
The next federal elections will take place in 2021				

3. Officeholders

<p>President of the German Bundestag</p>  <p>Dr Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU/EPP)</p>	<p>Chairperson of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union</p>  <p>Gunther Krichbaum (CDU/EPP)</p>
<p>Secretary General of the German Bundestag: Dr Horst Risse, Direktor beim Deutschen Bundestag</p>	

4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

Participation rights for German MEPs in plenary sittings	No
Participation rights for German MEPs in committee meetings	Partially. They are members of the EU Affairs Committee with the right to speak but not to vote
Availability of videoconferencing system	Yes

5. Information links

- Official website: <http://www.bundestag.de>
- [Rules of procedure in English](#)
- [List of committees](#)
- [Recent documents submitted by the Bundestag to the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)
- [European Parliament Information Office in Berlin](#)

6. Contacts

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