Euro GroKo

How the new grand coalition, once formed, will pursue Germany’s European and foreign policy

In recent years, asymmetries within international politics have become fiercer for Germany. European integration appears more fragile due to growing social disparities within the EU, Brexit and sondierende trends across most of Europe are also playing a role. At the same time, international policy regimes and fundamental principles such as international law, multilateralism and the universal validity of human rights have come under pressure. The threat of a new arms race and efforts by large powers to project their influence imply additional risks and distort new political equations.

Along with our partners, we face the great challenge of pursuing a course of our time that is Europe and its neighboring countries, and of averting Europe-bound refugee flows triggered by civil war, climate change and under- and unemployment, in a lasting condition. From Aside from these issues, sustainable German and European development policy has an essential part to play. The new German Federal government will work to shape the political course set under Chancellor Angela Merkel by the Grand Coalition will further expand development cooperation particularly in Africa, with an investment priority in equal proportion of European development policy to its principles on the global political stage. This means that international cooperation, dialogue and multilateralism, and firm commitments to the European Union and the transatlantic alliance are and will remain the cornerstone of Germany’s values and interests.

More than ever, Europe as a normative and political foundation of Germany’s foreign policy stands at the center of this strategy. While the new government has a chance to preserve its core values and interests, it is a global age. Strengthening the transatlantic alliance is thus the key political task for the new government. Working jointly with France, Germany will introduce a strong, democratic, competitive and social Europe.

This includes notions of the Economic and Monetary Union, an investment budget for the euro zone in line with a one-dimensional policy of austerity. Moreover, the fight for a European social compact and against youth unemployment will be carried on as vigorously as the fight against international corporate tax evasion. At the same time, the EU must substantially improve and expand its competences as a political institution. This means that Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) with respect to the European Defense Union and the prospect of a European army is as much a focus as expanding EU civil structures for crisis prevention and conflict resolution. In parallel, the federal government will actively support further expansion of European development cooperation through a coherent Africa strategy. Working with its neighbors, Germany will take on more responsibility in the future, including within the context of its United Nations, EU, G7 and NATO partnerships and alliances. The foreign policy of its coalition partners demands arms prevention, humanitarian and development cooperation as important as a capable and well-equipped Bundeswehr. The federal government will therefore allocate appropriate instruments to both the security and civil-sector policy areas.

Moreover, for the first time in the history of the Federal Republic, the coalition partners have agreed that additional funds in these two areas will be given investment priority in equal proportion. With this approach, the new government will try to harmonize the political course set under Chancellor Angela Merkel by the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights (NAP) will be consistently implemented in its entirety. If formed as expected, the new federal government will live up to and embrace its international responsibility.

SECURITY STRATEGY

Only together, the European Union’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains a goal of German foreign policy. In order to foster a just and sustainable world society, the Grand Coalition will further expand development cooperation particularly in Africa, with the aim of overcoming poverty and hunger and supporting the emergence of new opportunities. Furthermore, Germany will advocate binding standards for social issues, human rights and the environment in all EU trade, investment and economic-partnership agreements. In so doing, Germany will assume a leading role in establishing a fair EU trade policy. At the same time, the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights (NAP) will be consistently implemented in its entirety.

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