



Position Paper

Germany's priorities in the transformative year of 2025:
Revitalizing economic competitiveness and
reinforcing the resilience of the transatlantic partnership

Transatlantic ideas in the election year of the 21st German Parliament

A contribution to the debate by the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V.
(Translation of the German-language position paper)
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Preamble

The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany (AmCham Germany) is the voice of transatlantic business – an association of large, medium-sized and small companies and individuals based in Germany, Europe and the United States who are active in the transatlantic economic area and foster transatlantic relationships. Companies involved in transatlantic business employ about 1.6 million people in both economic areas.

AmCham Germany advocates for transparent dialogue and is committed to transatlantic values. Central aspects of this are freedom, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, free trade and competition.

As defined in its bylaws, the Chamber's mission is to promote global trade and economic relationships that are based on the strong foundation of the American-German partnership. This partnership is built on long-standing social, cultural and economic interdependencies and the common interests of our two countries. For this purpose AmCham Germany supports intercultural understanding, international collaboration and new investments in free trade and in a competitive and open economic environment in Germany.

The values and interests of AmCham Germany and its member companies are impacted, both directly and indirectly, when a surging wave of populist and, in part, extremist stakeholders in Germany challenge the values and objectives anchored in the bylaws of AmCham Germany. Calls for Germany to withdraw from the EU, the union's common currency and its single market or to limit the immigration of foreign skilled workers do not reflect the interests of German companies involved in transatlantic business.

The principles of AmCham Germany form the framework for such economic policy activities as this position paper, which has been issued in the lead-up to Germany's early election this year and is addressed to the political decisionmakers who will serve in the 21st German Parliament and in the country's next government.

In this parliamentary election year of 2025, the Federal Republic of Germany and its economy are facing the biggest challenges ever in the country's history

The end of Germany's three-party coalition on November 6, 2024, was a historic event. The results of the early parliamentary election that will be held on February 23, 2025, will be historic as well. The transformative situation in which the Federal Republic of Germany currently finds itself will be shaped well beyond the election of the 21st German Parliament by a wide range of geopolitical processes and results. No one can predict for sure their magnitude, momentum and reciprocal impact. The highest-impact factors for Germany include:

- x the strategic objectives and activities of the U.S. administration in practically all political issues,
- x the work of the EU Parliament elected in 2024 and the new EU Commission as well as the ability of EU member countries to maintain the unity and competitiveness of the EU and, ideally, strengthen them,
- x the latest domestic political developments in such important partner countries as France, Great Britain, Canada, Austria and Poland,
- x the fate of Ukraine as it fights its nearly 8-year-old war of self-defense against Russia and the country's effective support by free democracies,
- x the reaction of the People's Republic of China to all of these developments.

In a position paper issued last June titled [GET START to Improve Germany's Competitiveness. Economic policy ideas for boldness, growth, and prosperity in the context of the transatlantic partnership](#), the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany made one clear point: To quickly and significantly improve the country's international competitiveness, Germany can and must take the highest-impact, most far-reaching and most efficient step by itself. The same can be said of the EU's competitiveness both domestically and internationally. The pressure of this need has continued to mount since then.

In light of the election results in the European Union and the United States last year and the German parliamentary elections this year, the transatlantic partnership will be put to the test over and over again. Shared values and objectives bind the partner countries together while the focus on internal challenges is impacted by the assertion of external interests.

In the process, proven market-economic mechanisms and the international communities in business, research, society, etc. are increasingly being shaped by political fields that extend beyond economic policy and are even partially restricted. The transatlantic partnership could suffer if this trend grows. Economic and trade policy based on common values and interests must be the objective of all partners – not simply because of their enormous importance to high standards of living, jobs and the improvement of all. In the process, it may be necessary for partner countries to increasingly accept that common values and objectives can be achieved by taking diverse approaches. No one can simply dismiss the economic-cultural differences of partners, and no one should ignore them.

The effectiveness and efficiency of government action are also being scrutinized in countries with a liberal democratic order. The Federal Republic of Germany is no exception. All democratic parties must place the long-term capacity of democratic structures to act above their short-term political gains in order to stabilize the foundation of these structures and successfully reinforce them.

Revitalizing the competitiveness of Germany and the EU

Above all, Germany and the EU must strengthen their competitiveness in order to maintain and regain their relevance and clout in geopolitical ma

EU. In order to improve Germany's competitiveness

