



The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung presents:

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**Germany Update**  
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I. **After the Election: CDU Convention in Hannover**

On November 11, the CDU held its first party convention after losing the federal election. To the delight of the delegates, both key speakers, CDU chairwoman **Angela Merkel** and CSU chairman **Edmund Stoiber**, used this platform to stress the new unity and strength of the party and to launch attacks against the Schroeder administration. Prior to the event, some CDU politicians had called for an open discussion about the reasons for the latest electoral defeat and the program and strategy of the party. [For details, see the October edition of this newsletter.] However, such a debate was adjourned to a "reform convention," which CDU secretary general **Laurenz Meyer** announced for the near future.

Both party leaders accused the Red-Green coalition of betraying the electorate. "This administration cheated and lied itself back to power," said the Governor of Bavaria and defeated CDU/CSU candidate, **Stoiber**. Especially with regard to the state of Germany's budgetary and economic situation, the administration has led a "dishonest campaign," **Merkel** said. In particular, finance minister **Hans Eichel** (SPD) is under fire; even members of the Green Party claim he has lied about the actual budget deficit during the campaign. The CDU/CSU parliamentary group has called for an investigating committee on this issue.

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**Stoiber** declared Chancellor Schroeder as "unfit to govern the country" and described the last few weeks as "a catastrophic false start" and "sheer chaos." **Merkel** criticized that Schroeder had failed to implement or even to suggest any sensible reforms in the weeks after his inauguration. Particularly concerning the job market and the economic situation, Germany needs fresh ideas. However, the chancellor gave "no reason for hope." His initiatives smacked of leftist "state economy" and weakened the middle class, families, and entrepreneurship. In the upcoming elections in the states of Hesse and Lower-Saxony in February, Red-Green would have to "pay the price for their unprincipled and disastrous policy," Merkel said. The Governor of Hesse, **Roland Koch**, announced he would turn the regional election into a "referendum against Red-Green in Berlin."

With an impressive 93% of the vote, delegates re-elected **Angela Merkel** as party chairwoman. The four vice chairpersons are the education minister of Baden-Württemberg, **Annette Schavan**, and the CDU-chairmen of, respectively, Lower-Saxony, Northrhine-Westphalia, and Rhineland-Palatinate: **Christian Wulff**, **Juergen Ruetters**, and **Christoph Boehr**. Boehr replaces **Volker Ruehe**, who did not run again. Other elected members of the CDU national party are **Friedrich Merz**, **Roland Koch**, **Dagmar Schipanski**, **Wolfgang Schaeuble**, **Hildegard Mueller**, **Joerg Schoenbohm**, and **Hermann-Josef Arentz**.

## II. Transatlantic Relations: Schroeder Administration Bows to U.S.

Since Schroeder's campaign, which heavily relied on anti-American sentiment, German-American relations have been strained. In the weeks since the election, however, **Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder** (SPD), foreign minister **Joschka Fischer** (Green Party), and minister of defense **Peter Struck** (SPD) undertook first steps to mend ties with the U.S. First, at the NATO summit in Warsaw, Struck declared the Germans willing and able to take over the command of ISAF in Afghanistan early next year, thus spawning a domestic controversy about the consistency of German military policy and the dire financial situation of the armed forces. [For details, see the October issue of this newsletter.] Then, ministers Fischer and Struck traveled to Washington to meet with their American counterparts. At a joint press conference with Struck, secretary of defense **Donald Rumsfeld** declared the German-American relations "unpoisoned," alluding to earlier remarks by National Security Adviser **Condoleezza Rice** and himself. In addition, Chancellor Schroeder telephoned with **President Bush** for the first time since the election. Although Bush is reported to be personally offended by Schroeder's anti-American campaign ploy, the conversation was described as "friendly."

To the German administration these developments are reason enough to celebrate the "stable German-American friendship" (**Fischer**). According to minister **Struck**, "the ice is broken." These and similar remarks are met with ridicule and protest from the CDU/CSU opposition. The CDU/CSU parliamentary group's spokesman on defense, **Christian Schmidt**, countered: "The ice between Germany and the U.S. will not be broken for a long time. The Americans will force the administration to pay the price for Schroeder's irresponsible anti-American campaign." Indeed, in the course of the NATO summit in Prague, the Schroeder administration made more and more concessions to American demands, thus retreating from previous positions. First and foremost, the administration finally gave up resisting the creation of a NATO response force, although this will endanger capacities for a similar European project. Also, with regard to the controversial German stance on a possible war against Iraq, **Chancellor Schroeder** agreed to a somewhat "passive" support, fulfilling all American demands: the fly-over rights over German territory are granted as well as the unconditional use of American military bases in Germany. In addition, the *Fuchs* detection tanks will remain in Kuwait—most likely, their number will even be increased. Also, *Patriot* rocket systems will be delivered to Israel. Last but not least, Schroeder refused to take a clear stance on whether Germany would actively and financially take part in a possible re-building of Iraq after a war.

This impressive list of concessions led CDU chairwoman **Angela Merkel** to point out that "the administration will withdraw from initial positions millimeter by millimeter, in order to avoid embarrassment. And they would be embarrassed if they did not fulfill the American desire. Schroeder gives a pathetic image, standing in a corner, hoping not to be asked for too much." The leading CDU expert on foreign policy, **Wolfgang Schaeuble**, remarked that Schroeder's "ridiculous wavering" was the direct consequence of his "irresponsible campaign...damaging the reliability of German foreign policy and limiting Germany's influence on the international scene." Nonetheless, Mr. Schaeuble welcomes the latest developments in substance, exactly because they are blatantly inconsistent with Schroeder's promises and earlier policy: "Finally, this administration stops clinging to illusions and evading its responsibility. Schroeder and Fischer are about to stumble over their promises, but at least they are falling in the right direction."

### III. The New *Bundestag*: CDU/CSU Members of the Committees

With the constitution of the new *Bundestag*, the parliamentary committees have been newly established as well. This chapter lists in alphabetical order the CDU/CSU members (the so called "Working Groups") of the three main committees: the committees on foreign relations, economy and employment, and defense.

## Foreign Relations

Chairman of the Working Group:

Dr. Friedbert **Pflueger**

Dr. Wolfgang **Boetsch**  
Anke **Eymer**  
Erich G. **Fritz**  
Karl-Theodor Freiherr von  
**Gutenberg**  
Klaus-Jürgen **Hedrich**  
Joachim **Hoerster**  
Claudia **Nolte**  
Ruprecht **Polenz**  
Dr. Klaus **Rose**  
Volker **Ruehe**  
Bernd **Schmidbauer**  
Dr. Andreas **Schockenhoff**  
Dr. Hans-Peter **Uhl**  
Willy **Wimmer**

## Defense

Chairman of the Working Group:

Christian **Schmidt**

Ulrich **Adam**  
Juergen **Herrmann**  
Thomas **Kossendey**  
Dr. Karl A. **Lamers**  
Ursula **Lietz**  
Bernward **Mueller**  
Dr. Gerd **Mueller**  
Hans **Raidel**  
Helmut **Rauber**  
Anita **Schaefer**  
Bernd **Siebert**

## Economy and Employment

Chairman of the Working Group:

Karl-Josef **Laumann**

Wolfgang **Boernsen**  
Alexander **Dobrindt**  
Dr. Reinhard **Goehner**  
Robert **Hochbaum**  
Dr. Martina **Krogmann**  
Dr. Hermann **Kues**  
Wolfgang **Meckelburg**  
Laurenz **Meyer**  
Dr. Joachim **Pfeiffer**  
Hans-Peter **Repnik**  
Dr. Heinz **Riesenhuber**  
Franz **Romer**  
Hartmut **Schauerte**  
Johannes **Singhammer**  
Max **Straubinger**  
Dagmar **Woehr**

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