

# Germany's key election issues

Left

Centre-left

✖ Pro-Angela Merkel's CDU/CSU policies  
⚠ Alternative or anti-CDU/CSU policies

Existing centre-right coalition



**DIE LINKE.**

Left Party



Greens



Social Democratic Party



Free Democratic Party



Christian Democratic Union-Christiansocial Union coalition

## EUROPEAN REFORMS

⚠ **Gregor Gysi** supports sovereign debt-pooling via **eurobonds** or **debt redemption fund**

✖ Favours proposed **financial transaction tax (FTT)** to regulate financial sector

⚠ Introduction of EU **wealth tax** to pay for bank bailouts and reduce public debt

⚠ Co-leaders **Jürgen Trittin** (above) and **Katrin Göring-Eckardt** endorse debt redemption fund

✖ Supports FTT and strict government supervision of banks and markets

⚠ Tackle eurozone crisis with financial regulation, green-based economy and poverty eradication

✖ **Peer Steinbrück** previously supported debt redemption fund but now likely to back CDU on eurobonds

✖ FTT will be "**high priority**" if so-called **grand coalition** with CDU/CSU emerges

✖ Merkel's current strategy is starting to bear fruit and should be pursued further

✖ **Philipp Rösler**-led FDP backs Merkel's opposition to cross-border liabilities and eurobonds

⚠ Opposes financial transaction tax on markets – would push for exemptions

✖ Backs Merkel's strict implementation of fiscal rules and austerity measures across eurozone

✖ Chancellor **Angela Merkel** rules out eurobonds or jointly guaranteed eurozone debt fund

✖ Taxation on stock, bond and derivatives trades to curb market speculation

✖ Fiscal control over national budgets with sanctions for breaching EU debt and deficit levels

## DOMESTIC TAX POLICY

⚠ Impose so-called **millionaire tax** of **75%** on income over €1 million. Raise top tax rate to **53%**. Corporate tax increase to **25%** from **15%**

⚠ Raise top tax rate to **49%** and introduce **15% wealth tax** on assets over €1 million. Revenues to pay for education and switch to green energy

⚠ Raise top rate of tax from **42%** to **49%** and impose **wealth tax** to pay for higher education benefits. Some fiscal expansion overall

⚠ Oppose **income splitting** for being expensive and unfair to unmarried couples, same-sex couples, and those on lower incomes

✖ Cut entry level tax rate to **12%** from **15%**, top rate to **39%** from **42%**. Keep **income splitting** – tax levied on married couples' average income

## ENERGY REFORMS

⚠ Opposes offshore wind farms. Focus on development of energy storage to decrease necessity of grid expansion

✖ Connect windfarms to energy grid. Cut **€200** surcharge per consumer which subsidises renewable power operators

⚠ Create new **Energy Ministry** to control all aspects of energy policy. Maintain **coal** as key component of energy mix

✖ Cut authorisation process for grid-expansion projects. Simplify development of short-time power storage facilities

✖ Install **smart grids** to cut energy costs. Reduce subsidies used to shield energy intensive firms from increased costs

## PENSIONS AND MINIMUM WAGE

⚠ Increase average pension from **€1,062** per month in West Germany and **€1,047** in East. Minimum wage of **€10/hour**

⚠ Subsidise low pensions. National minimal wage of at least **€8.50**

⚠ Delay raising **retirement age** to 67 from 65 by 2029 to cut pension costs. Advocate minimum wage of **€8.50**

⚠ Apply **principle of equivalence** to match pensions with contributions. Opposes minimum wage, but would compromise

✖ Retain so-called **eco tax** on fuel to subsidise pensions. Support minimum wage by region and economic sector