

Launch of Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment

The German Government strives to create full employment and equal living conditions throughout Germany. To achieve this, it is necessary to actively and fully engage with the structural change taking place in many sectors and also in order to strengthen growth and employment, particularly in affected regions.

The German Government is committed to the 2050 climate targets set out at national level, European level and in the Paris Agreement. The Climate Action Plan of the German Government from 2016 outlines, step by step, the path towards extensive greenhouse gas neutrality of the economy and society in Germany by the middle of this century. The Plan also sets concrete reduction targets for the year 2030 for individual sectors (energy, industry, buildings, transport, agriculture) which are to be achieved by taking suitable measures. In doing so, we will be guided by the three objectives of supply security, reliable affordability and environmental protection.

Implementing the Climate Action Plan will accelerate the structural change in many regions and economic sectors, especially the energy generation sector. The accompanying changes should not unilaterally burden coal-based power producing regions; rather they should open up opportunities for a sustainable economic momentum with a highly skilled workforce. We want to actively use these changes and avoid structural breaks and restrictions in international competitiveness.

The German Government is therefore establishing a Commission on “Growth, Structural Change and Employment” that will prepare concrete proposals by the end of the year. The Commission mandate includes, in particular, the preparation of a programme of action that will focus on the following:

1. Creation of concrete prospects for new, future-proof jobs in the affected regions with collaboration between the German Government, Länder, municipalities and economic stakeholders (e.g. in the field of transport infrastructure, skilled worker development, entrepreneurial development, settlement of research institutions, long-term structural development).
2. Development of a mix of instruments that combines economic development, structural change, social compatibility, social cohesion and climate action and that also opens up prospects for durable energy regions in the context of the energy transition.
3. This also includes investments required in regions and economic sectors affected by the structural change. This will be achieved, firstly, by using existing funding instruments of the German Government and EU in an effective and targeted way in these regions and sectors as a

priority. Secondly, an additional fund will be set up for structural change, comprised of German Government funding in particular.

4. Measures that enable the 2030 target for the energy sector to be reached, including a comprehensive impact assessment. The Climate Action Plan lays down a target for the reduction of emissions in the energy sector by 61 to 62 percent by 2030 compared to 1990. For the share of coal-based power generation, the Commission will propose suitable measures to achieve the 2030 target in the energy sector. These measures will then be incorporated into the 2030 programme of measures for implementing the Climate Action Plan.
5. In addition, the Commission will develop a plan for the gradual reduction and phase-out of coal-based power generation, including a deadline and the necessary legal, economic, social, renaturalisation and structural support measures.
6. Likewise, measures for the energy sector contribution to closing the gap in achieving the 40% reduction target as much as possible. To this end, the German Government will publish a current estimate of the size of the expected gap in its 2017 Climate Action Report.

Below is a list of the appointed members of the Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment:

Chairs

Matthias Platzeck

Ronald Pofalla

Prof Dr Barbara Praetorius

Stanislaw Tillich

Members

Prof Dr h.c. Jutta Allmendinger

Antje Grothus

Gerda Hasselfeldt

Christine Herntier

Martin Kaiser

Steffen Kampeter

Stefan Kapferer

Prof Dieter Kempf

Stefan Körzell

Michael Kreuzberg

Dr Felix Matthes

Claudia Nemat

Prof Dr Kai Niebert

Prof Dr Annekatriin Niebuhr

Reiner Priggen

Katherina Reiche
Gunda Röstel
Andreas Scheidt
Prof Dr Hans Joachim Schellnhuber
Dr Eric Schweitzer
Michael Vassiliadis
Prof Dr Ralf Wehrspohn
Hubert Weiger
Hannelore Wodtke

The following three members of the German Bundestag will have speaking rights, but not voting rights, in the Commission:

Andreas G. Lämmel, (member of German Bundestag)
Dr Andreas Lenz, (member of German Bundestag)
Dr Matthias Miersch, (member of German Bundestag)

The Commission will submit its findings in the form of written reports to the State Secretaries Committee. By the end of October 2018, the Commission will present, in written form, its recommendations regarding measures for the social and structural development of brown coal (lignite) regions and for financial security. Ahead of the 24th UN Climate Change Conference (COP24) taking place from 3 to 14 December 2018, the Commission will present its written recommendations for measures to help the energy sector close the gap in achieving the 40% reduction target for 2020 as much as possible. The final report will be presented to the German Government at the end of 2018. The German Government will publish the Commission reports and members of the Commission will receive an allowance for expenses.

The German Government will fully support the work of the Commission. The Commission will be accompanied in its work by a State Secretaries Committee comprising representatives of the Federal Economic Affairs Ministry (BMW*i*), the Federal Environment Ministry (BMU), the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Other government departments relevant for structural change will be invited to participate in meetings where necessary. In addition to Commission discussions, there will be a regular exchange between minister-presidents of the affected Länder and the federal ministers of the steering group. Likewise, the heads of the State Chancelleries of the affected Länder will be regularly involved by the steering group. A Commission office will be set up at the Federal Economic Affairs Ministry (BMW*i*) to provide organisational support

and carry out secretariat functions. Steering group representatives of the BMWi, BMU, BMI and BMAS, and representatives of the Länder Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt will participate in Commission meetings. Representatives of the Federal Chancellery will have guest status.