

## Motion

**tabled by the parliamentary groups of the CDU/CSU, SPD, the Left Party and Alliance 90/The Greens**

### **Establishment of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development**

The Bundestag is requested to adopt the following motion:

1. The German Bundestag hereby establishes the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (PACSD) to continue to monitor and assist the sustainability policy of the Federal Government at parliamentary level in a suitable and multidisciplinary way.
2. The PACSD shall have seventeen regular and seventeen substitute members, which the parliamentary groups shall appoint from their own ranks as follows: the CDU/CSU parliamentary group shall appoint eight members and eight substitute members, the SPD parliamentary group five members and five substitute members, the Left Party parliamentary group two members and two substitute members and the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group two members and two substitute members.
3. The rules of procedure for Committees, which form part of the Bundestag's Rules of Procedure, shall apply for the PACSD's procedures. Given the provision contained in Article 43 of the German Basic Law, the German Bundestag assumes that one member of the Federal Government shall attend the consultations at the request of the PACSD in each case.
4. The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development shall be entrusted with the following tasks:
  - parliamentary monitoring and support of the Federal Government's National Sustainability Strategy, in particular in relation to continuing to develop the indicators and objectives, setting and specification of measures and instruments to implement the sustainability strategy and dovetailing important policy approaches of relevance to sustainability;
  - parliamentary monitoring and support of the Federal Government's sustainability policy at European level, in particular of the European Strategy for Sustainability;

- parliamentary monitoring and support of the Federal Government's sustainability policy at the level of the United Nations, in particular the activities and measures as part of the Rio follow-up process.

In connection with this:

- monitoring and supporting consultations and discussions in other bodies of the German Bundestag related to sustainable development by being able to present opinions and recommendations to the lead committee in question for consideration in the discussions;
  - examining other priority issues which affect sustainable development and are suited to promoting the process of sustainable development and if necessary submitting recommendations to the Bundestag or the Federal Government accordingly;
  - evaluating the Federal Government's sustainability impact assessment. The PACSD shall present the lead committee in each case with the result of its evaluation as an opinion, which must be discussed by the lead committee and appraised in writing;
  - parliamentary monitoring and support of the activities of the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development at the Federal Chancellery and other institutions created at the level of the Federal Government on sustainable development, in particular the Council for Sustainable Development;
  - staying in contact with and consulting other institutions to promote sustainable development, in particular with other national parliaments, the *Länder* and the institutions of the European Union.
5. The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development shall inform the German Bundestag of its activities in the form of communications.

Berlin, 18 February 2014

**Volker Kauder, Gerda Hasselfeldt and the CDU/CSU parliamentary group**  
**Thomas Oppermann and the SPD parliamentary group**  
**Dr Gregor Gysi and the Left Party parliamentary group**  
**Katrin Göring-Eckardt, Dr Anton Hofreiter and the Alliance 90/The Greens**  
**parliamentary group**

## **Explanatory memorandum**

Since it was established for the first time in 2004, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development has monitored and supported the National Sustainability Strategy very closely and helped to further develop it. It also monitors and supports the Federal Government's sustainability policy at European as well as international level. Sustainable development concerns economic, social and ecological development in equal measure, which makes a multidisciplinary body necessary in order to do justice to the challenging nature of this complex issue and to provide innovative input to policies which will shape the future. Sustainability policy goes far beyond the usual timeframe of legislative periods and therefore demands a far-reaching *modus operandi* based on consensus.

It was on the initiative of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development during the 16th electoral term of the German Bundestag that the Federal Government added a sustainability impact assessment to the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries for legislation impact assessment. The PACSD has been monitoring these at parliamentary level and reported back to the German Bundestag on this in printed paper 17/6680. The aim should be for all motions, regulations and draft legislation to comply with the principles of sustainable development. In order to achieve this aim there will have to be successive steps to further develop the sustainability impact assessment and to adjust the PACSD's remit accordingly.

The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development conducts the dialogue with institutions in the area of sustainable development at all political levels and with civil society to promote the cause of sustainable development.