



Development of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development

As at: 13 May 2015

Sustainability has played a prominent role in Parliament for over 10 years now: The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development evaluates the German Federal Government's sustainability policy. It is involved in the legislative process by way of providing expert opinions. It issues opinions on current and longer-term sustainable development topics. It pushes for change and progress and makes concrete proposals. It maintains contact to the relevant institutions on a federal, *Länder* and European level, and conducts dialogue with civil society. In short: its work serves to firmly anchor the idea of sustainability in politics and society.

<p>18th electoral term (2013 onwards)</p>	<p>Chairman: Andreas Jung (CDU/CSU) Deputy Chairman: Dr Lars Castellucci (SPD) 17 full members and 17 substitute members The decision to establish the Advisory Council is in Bundestag printed paper <u>18/559</u>, 19 February 2014</p>
<p>17th electoral term (2009 – 2013)</p>	<p>Chairman: Andreas Jung (CDU/CSU) Deputy Chairwoman: Gabriele Lösekrug-Möller (SPD) 22 full members and 22 substitute members The decision to establish the Advisory Council is in Bundestag printed paper <u>17/245</u>, 16 December 2009 Report by the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (Work report in the 17th electoral term) Bundestag printed paper <u>17/13064</u>, 15 April 2013</p>



16th electoral term (2005 – 2009)	Chairman: Dr Günter Krings (CDU/CSU) Deputy Chairwoman: Ingrid Arndt-Brauer (SPD) 20 full members and 20 substitute members The decision to establish the Advisory Council is in Bundestag printed paper <u>16/1131</u> , 6 April 2006 Report by the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (Reporting period: 6 April 2006 to 25 March 2009), Bundestag printed paper <u>16/12560</u> , 30 March 2009
15th electoral term (2004 – 2005)	Chairwoman: Astrid Klug (SPD) Deputy Chairman: Dr Ralf Brauksiepe (CDU/CSU) 9 full members and 9 substitute members The decision to establish the Advisory Council is in Bundestag printed paper <u>15/2441</u> , 9 January 2004 Report by the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (Reporting period: 11 March 2004 to 29 June 2005), Bundestag printed paper <u>15/5942</u> , 7 September 2005

The creation of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Sustainable Development in the 15th electoral term stems from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. There, for the first time, a declaration was made anchoring the global right to sustainable development. Around 180 signatory states to the action plan, known as Agenda 21, committed to the implementation of sustainable development at national level. This finally resulted in the Federal Government's National Sustainability Strategy "Perspectives for Germany" being adopted in 2002. The German Bundestag, which prior to this had investigated various aspects of sustainable development via several study commissions, decided in 2004 to monitor the Federal Government's National Sustainability Strategy and provide its own impetus with the establishment of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Sustainable Development.

The Advisory Council was re-established in the subsequent electoral terms. Its range of responsibilities has continually expanded, as reflected in its establishing decisions and work reports. Whereas the focus of its work was initially on monitoring the National Sustainability Strategy, for example, the Advisory Council is now also responsible for monitoring the Federal Government's international sustainability policy in Europe and at the United Nations. Likewise, the Council's supervisory role towards the Federal Government, the core function of Parliament, has grown steadily. Even though the Council does not have any legislative powers, unlike the permanent committees, from the beginning it was given the option of contributing its specialist knowledge to debates of government proposals. Carrying out this function has now become one of the focal points of the Council's work and part of the normal legislative process in Parliament.