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## **Proposal for the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (PACSD) to be anchored in the Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag**

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The German Bundestag established the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (PACSD) for the first time during its 15th electoral term (15/2441) to monitor the implementation and further development of the German Federal Government's National Sustainability Strategy at the parliamentary level. Since that time, the PACSD has been established by decisions of parliament in each electoral term, but often with a considerable delay. As a result, there has been a failure to guarantee the Advisory Council can fulfil its mandate by carrying out ongoing monitoring of sustainability policy, conceived as it is for the long term. This is apparent especially when it comes to the evaluation of the sustainability impact assessments conducted when the regulatory impacts of proposed legislation are assessed. In view of this and against the background of the PACSD's complex functions across various areas of policy, there is a need for this body to be anchored formally in the Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag (GO-BT).

A new Rule 56 b could be added to the GO-BT with the following wording:

'The functions of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development shall in particular be the parliamentary monitoring of the German Federal Government's sustainability policy at the national, European and international levels, and the evaluation of the sustainability impact assessments conducted by the Federal Government when the regulatory impacts of proposed legislation are assessed.'

### Explanatory remarks

To date, the PACSD's functions have been determined by the decisions with which it has been established in each electoral term (most recently Bundestag Printed Paper [18/559](#)). They are oriented towards the parliamentary monitoring of the German Federal Government's sustainability policy at the national, European and international levels. In addition to this, since the 17th electoral term the PACSD has evaluated the sustainability impact assessments conducted when the regulatory impacts of proposed legislation are assessed pursuant to Rule 44(1) of the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries.

Sustainable development is regarded by all the parliamentary groups as a long-term, cross-party concern that cuts across different areas of policy with a time horizon that extends beyond any single electoral term. In consequence, the PACSD's work is geared towards consensual, cross-party decision-making. The form of a permanent committee would not do justice to this way of working. Rather, the aim is to anchor the PACSD, as currently constituted, on a permanent basis in the German Bundestag's Rules of Procedure so that the Advisory Council is able to continue its work without disruption when elections are held. It could therefore be



established at the same time as the permanent committees at the beginning of each electoral term. In our opinion, this would be a both important and desirable expression of the German Bundestag's commitment to policies that further sustainable development.