

Motion

tabled by the CDU/CSU and SPD parliamentary groups

Strengthening international cooperation on migration policy and regulating and controlling migration better with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The German Bundestag is requested to adopt the following motion:

I. The German Bundestag notes:

The German Bundestag welcomes the fact that the international community has developed the “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration“ (GCM), which addresses one of the core challenges of the 21st century. For the first time in the history of the United Nations, the overwhelming majority of states have agreed on common objectives for structuring migration. The international cooperation, agreement on common objectives and willingness to share responsibility internationally are of great significance here.

The GCM is designed to contribute to ordering, controlling and limiting migration to a greater degree whilst at the same time protecting the rights of migrants. Germany, too, can only achieve this in concert with its partners and with an international approach.

Germany assumes considerably more responsibility for migration than other countries, including in the European Union. We want to change this – *inter alia* through a fairer distribution of migrants. In spite of great efforts on the part of our society and the impressive commitment displayed by citizens, the limits of our country’s integration capacities are becoming visible. Our migration policy at national level also clearly takes these limits into account. The current conditions are presenting our migration policy with major challenges and influencing our scope of action. The GCM is therefore in Germany’s interests.

The basic individual right to asylum remains inviolate. Germany continues to provide protection to people seeking refuge from war, terror and persecution, also in light of its historical and humanitarian responsibility.

Germany’s national sovereignty is non-negotiable. In step with this, the guiding principles of the GCM expressly reaffirm the “sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law”. Against this backdrop, the German Bundestag notes that the Bundestag takes

decisions on migration which modify or establish the law. The GCM does not give rise to any enforceable rights and duties and does not modify or establish any laws whatsoever. This means that our laws – for instance in the area of the laws governing foreigners and social and citizenship laws – as well as the decisions of our authorities and courts continue to apply and be enforced in full.

A clear distinction must be drawn between legal and illegal migration as well as between labour migration and asylum. Germany is a country which needs the immigration of skilled workers. Well-managed, orderly legal migration is good for our country. Germany has also benefited to date from well-educated migrants who have contributed to our society's prosperity. Furthermore, immigrants have helped move our country forward. Demographic change means we are facing major challenges. In addition to activating the workforce in our country, we continue to need the support of qualified labour from abroad to counteract the shortage of skilled labour and to continue to secure Germany's economic growth and our social security system. This requires understandable legal immigration possibilities. That is why we will soon be introducing the Skilled Labour Immigration Act.

In addition to this, we have clear rules and requirements for a successful integration policy: we require all people in Germany to comply with our constitution and our laws and to internalize and live by the set of values these give rise to. Our language and integration courses for migrants also serve this purpose. We expect all migrants who come or have come to Germany legally to learn the German language sufficiently for them to be able to participate in life in society and to understand our rules. We promote integration, but also demand it. This is also in line with the objectives of the GCM.

Its most important objectives are:

- Mitigating structural factors which compel people to leave their countries of origin – for instance through programmes to create prospects in their countries of origin.
- Strengthening the response to human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants and better coordination of border controls.
- Better enforcement of the obligation enshrined in international law of states to readmit their own citizens.
- Providing reliable access to basic services to migrants in all countries. Germany already fully meets these standards. They should also have the opportunity to participate in life in society.

Our objectives also include making migration, in particular to Europe and Germany, orderly and managed, resolutely de-incentivising illegal migration and working towards greater commitment from our international partners. We need a fair division of the burden and cooperation. As a country with high standards for the protection of human rights, it is in Germany's interests for other countries to meet these standards, too, in order to lower the migration pressure towards Germany. Currently, we are seeing situations in a series of countries where labour migrants are being forced to live without rights and in some cases in degrading conditions. The fact that the international community is not closing its eyes to this and is calling for standards for dealing with legal migration through the GCM is not just an important humanitarian step, it also lowers the migration pressure in the direction of the European and North

American countries. For this reason, too, the GCM is in Germany's national interests.

Germany will honour its humanitarian responsibility. But our capacities are limited and that is why European and international cooperation is urgently needed.

This is why during this electoral term, too, we have taken or initiated a series of important national measures. We note that the GCM is without prejudice to these national measures, serves as an international complement to them and makes an important contribution to ordering, controlling and limiting migration.

II. The German Bundestag calls on the Federal Government

1. to continue to ensure that Germany's national sovereignty and right to determine its migration policy itself not be impaired by the GCM and that no national sovereign rights be transferred as a result of the GCM. This includes ensuring that the GCM does not lead to any German rules whatsoever being restricted or expanded;
2. in the international community, to advocate and work towards other countries – in particular those from which a special migration pressure towards Europe and Germany arises – establishing and ensuring minimum standards for migrants, in order to thereby lower the migration pressure towards Europe and Germany and in turn for them to assume more responsibility;
3. to continue to clearly and rigorously distinguish between legal and illegal migration and prevent illegal migration to Germany and Europe with national and European resources as well;
4. with the Skilled Labour Immigration Act, to swiftly improve the conditions for orderly, legal immigration, in order to thereby counter the shortage of skilled labour and offer migrants prospects on the German labour market and in our society;
5. at international level, in its dealings with partner countries, to emphatically demand they honour their obligation under international law to readmit their own citizens;
6. for this reason, in its dealings with all countries, to emphatically advocate and work towards all migrants having identity papers and travel documents in line with the provisions of the GCM because never does repatriation of persons required to leave the country fail more frequently than due to the lack of willingness to cooperate in determining identity and issuing passports;
7. in concert with its international partners, to promote and improve the protection of European external borders;
8. to step up joint efforts to combat people smuggling and human trafficking;
9. at European and international level, to continue to emphatically advocate and work towards the living conditions in the countries and

regions of origin being significantly improved so that people see a life with prospects in their home country and are not forced to migrate as a result of negative circumstances;

10. in this vein, to continue to engage in building efficient institutions based on the rule of law, in economic and infrastructure development and in combating poverty;
11. to continue to champion the protection of universal human rights; like the respect of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and rule of law, they are part of the values that our country and the European Union are built on;
12. to inform the German Bundestag on the future progress of the GCM;
13. to inform the public and the German Bundestag about the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

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