

## Motion

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

**Appointment of a Citizens' Assembly on nutrition in transition: between a private matter and governmental responsibilities**

The Bundestag is requested to adopt the following motion:

The German Bundestag will appoint a Citizens' Assembly on nutrition in transition: between a private matter and governmental responsibilities.

### I. Mission

Our dietary habits influence us as individuals and as a society but are also subject to constant change. They impact on our health and the environment. At the same time, they are part of our culture and our social interaction. For these reasons, nutrition issues have been the subject of lively discussion in the public domain and the political sphere for many years.

The purpose of the Citizens' Assembly of the Bundestag is to focus on the changes in dietary practices that are already occurring in our everyday lives and to bring the perspective of the general public into the political debate. It is to devote special attention to the role of the state in the conflict of interests between individual freedom and responsibility for society.

The Citizens' Assembly will benefit the Bundestag by providing it with a precise picture of citizens' wishes in terms of measures for the promotion of healthier and more sustainable nutrition or of the contribution that people themselves are prepared to make to that end.

The following specific key questions should constitute the framework for the deliberations of the Citizens' Assembly:

- What do the public expect in terms of governmental nutrition policy? Where should the state intervene, and where should it not? In what areas should the state act as an enabler or facilitator?
- What do consumers want to know about food products and their origins? What should transparent labelling tell them about working and living conditions, environmental and climate impact and animal welfare standards? For such information to be useful and not confusing, how detailed should it be?
- What do people regard as essential tools for providing society in general with authoritative knowledge about the connection between diet and health? What role devolves on schools, for example? What measures should be taken to protect particularly vulnerable consumers?
- How can better support be provided to help people in their purchasing decisions so as to ensure healthy eating?
- What tax rate or rates should the state apply to food products?
- What can be done to curb food wastage, and what can the state do in that respect?

These questions relate to a number of instruments of nutrition policy, such as voluntary undertakings, statutory minimum standards, regulatory measures, support measures, labelling requirements and

quality symbols as well as information campaigns and education measures. The main focus should be on measures that the Bundestag can influence nationwide.

The Citizens' Assembly will discuss the suitability and proportionality of these instruments in the context of the private consumption of particular food products and their production and of menus in canteens or other communal catering facilities.

## II. Composition and working methods

### 1. Participation criteria and random selection

The Citizens' Assembly is to comprise 160 persons selected at random from the entire population over the age of 16 years whose main residence is in Germany.

The random selection will be based on a staged, stratified procedure. In that way, a balanced distribution by socio-demographic background, age group, gender, regional origin, municipality size and educational attainment level is to be achieved. In addition, the percentages of the population who are vegetarians and vegans should be reflected in the Citizens' Assembly.

### 2. Moderation and expert involvement

The deliberations of the Citizens' Assembly will be moderated by an impartial individual, who will ensure a balanced range of input from the participants. To provide the necessary knowledge and specialised support, the Citizens' Assembly will be assisted by expert scientists and practitioners. The aim is to provide the widest possible objective overview of the state and breadth of the debate on the issue under discussion. Individual positions will be presented and classified as such.

### 3. Public accessibility

The proceedings of the Citizens' Assembly will be made accessible to the public in an appropriate form. Consideration must be given to the fact that the participants' deliberations are to take place within a protected space. Discussions in small groups will not be held in public.

Depending on the available capacity, individual Members of parliament and press representatives may be granted access to meetings of the Citizens' Assembly. Reporting on the content of non-public parts of meetings is not permitted until after the final vote has been taken on recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly.

Information, documents and other material will be made available through a website and other suitable digital channels. Presentations and opinions delivered by experts will be documented on the Citizens' Assembly website.

### 4. Expenses allowance

Participants will receive a lump-sum daily expenses allowance of €100 for attendance at an in-person meeting and €50 for participation in an online meeting.

### 5. Organisational support

The Citizens' Assembly will be assisted by the Citizens' Assemblies unit of the Bundestag Administration, which will direct the external service providers charged with delivery. In the delivery strategy, care must be taken to ensure that participants are able to exert sufficient influence on the substantive priorities of the agenda within the framework of the assembly's mission. The Citizens' Assemblies unit will liaise with the Citizens' Assembly Rapporteurs' Group formed by the Council of Elders on this strategy and on other matters of fundamental importance arising in the delivery of the assembly.

### III. Scientific advisory board and stakeholder involvement

A scientific advisory board will be formed for the Citizens' Assembly. It will comprise twelve scientists from recognised universities and research establishments, who will be appointed by the parliamentary groups through the Citizens' Assembly Rapporteurs' Group, if possible by consensus. If agreement cannot be reached, the parliamentary groups of the SPD and the CDU/CSU will be entitled to appoint three members each. The groups of Alliance 90/The Greens and the FDP will each be entitled to appoint two members, and the groups of the AfD and The Left Party will be entitled to appoint one member each. The scientific advisory board will advise the service provider on the composition of the pool of experts and on process design (the structuring of questions and the way in which they are to be presented and addressed).

Representatives of the relevant associations and institutions from the realms of business and civil society will be invited before the start of the Citizens' Assembly deliberations to take part in an open consultation procedure. The subjects of the consultation will be the approach proposed by the service provider to the presentation and addressing of questions as well as the process design and the composition of the pool of experts.

### IV. Timetable

The Citizens' Assembly will submit its recommendations for action to the Bundestag in the form of a citizens' report by 29 February 2024.

A debate on the report will be held at first reading. It is intended to refer the report to the Committee on Food and Agriculture as the lead committee. It will also be referred for an opinion to the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community, the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs, the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Committee on Health, the Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development, the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs, the Committee on Housing, Urban Development, Building and Local Government and the Committee on Climate Action and Energy. More committees may be consulted if necessary.

Berlin, 9 May 2023

**Dr Rolf Mützenich and the parliamentary group of the SPD**

**Katharina Dröge, Britta Hasselmann and the parliamentary group of Alliance 90/The Greens**

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**Amira Mohamed Ali, Dr Dietmar Bartsch and the parliamentary group of The Left Party**