



Germany Position Paper

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I/ Background Information on Germany

Germany, the Federal Republic of Germany, is a country located in north-central Europe. It is a landlocked country bordering the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, between the Netherlands and Poland, south of Denmark. At the spiritual heart of the country is the magnificent east-central city of Berlin, which rose phoenixlike from the ashes of World War II. It is an ancient nation immersed by the European power struggles started with two devastating world wars in the first half of the 20th century and left the country occupied by the victorious Allied powers of the US, UK, France, and the Soviet Union in 1945. With the advent of the Cold War, the victorious powers divided Germany into four zones of occupation and later into two countries in 1949: the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)(FRG) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany)(GDR), separated for more than 40 years by a long boundary. The democratic FRG embedded itself in key Western economic and security organizations, the EC (now the EU) and NATO; while the communist GDR was on the front line of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. The decline of the USSR and the end of the Cold War allowed for German reunification in 1990 (German Unity Day, 3 October). Since then, Germany has expended considerable funds to bring Eastern productivity and wages up to western standards. In January 1999, Germany and 10 other EU countries introduced a common European exchange currency, the euro. Nowadays, as Europe's largest economy and second most populous nation (after Russia); Germany is a key member of the continent's economic, political, and defense organizations.

II/ Past Achievements and Attempts of Germany on the Issues

- A. **The Question of the Caucasus:** Germany is one of the countries that are not directly involved but had some past attempts in the issue of Caucasus. The German people started migrating to Georgia from 1820. They created two German villages near Tbilisi. By 1918 over 6,000 Germans had moved into eight colonies created in the region. Today, no more Germans live in those territories. However the bilateral relations between Germany and Georgia are much stronger and a deep-rooted history that can be traced back more than 200 years to 1817, when Swabian immigrants first arrived in Georgia. Germany actively supported the inclusion of Georgia in the Eastern Partnership and, together with France, pushed for the signing of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, which incorporates a free trade area and has been in force in its entirety since 1 July 2016. Germany



supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity without reservation and is actively involved in the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM). Even in 2018, trade between Germany and Georgia was worth some 417 million euros. Georgian imports from Germany – mainly cars and car parts, machinery and chemical products – amounted to 300 million euros. Georgia's main exports to Germany were food (in particular nuts) and textiles. However, considering the other countries of the South Caucasus – Armenia, Azerbaijan, are considered to be among the most conflict-ridden regions in the European periphery for already fairly long time. Germany and Azerbaijan have enjoyed good bilateral relations since 1992. Azerbaijan is Germany's principal economic partner in the Caucasus. Germany's only Chamber of Commerce Abroad in the region is based in Baku. Azerbaijan is one of Germany's ten most important suppliers of crude oil. The key exports are machinery, motor vehicles and components, iron and steel products, and production facilities. Speaking of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as a member of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Minsk Group, Germany supports the Minsk Group Co-Chairs' efforts to negotiate in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, calling for de-escalation and urging both sides to show greater willingness to compromise. Germany is encouraging Armenia and Turkey to continue the process of rapprochement that began in 2009 but has now stalled. Germany supports this process at the civil-society level by funding cross-border reconciliation projects. However, in general, wars and civil wars of the late eighties and nineties that are linked to the process of acquiring independence, led to significant international engagement in the region: political mediations, supervisory missions, Peace Corps, humanitarian programmes and a broad variety of consulting and assistance programmes for the implementation of rule of law and democratisation of both states and breakaway entities. However, none of the above could bring final political solutions to bellicose conflicts in the region. With regard to political development in the region, observers talk about a "failed or stuck transformation". The European Union (and Germany in particular), after the USA, is the most important investor in consultancy and assistance programs in the region. The German government and of the OSCE Field presences facilitated a peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and monitored the Georgian-Russian border (OSCE Mission to Georgia) as well as facilitating negotiations on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (Minsk Group and the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Karabakh conflict). In connection with the opening of its new South Caucasian Regional Office in Tbilisi/Georgia, the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation intended to promote such discussion by organizing this conference in Berlin. The main purpose of doing this was to bring experts together on Caucasian issues with invited guests from German ministries, European institutions, members of parliaments, staff members from development agencies and journalists in order to facilitate a discussion among them about prospects and priorities of German and EU-policies towards especially the South



Caucasus on governmental as well as on non-governmental levels. Western experts and guests from the region were invited to analyze developments in the South Caucasus, assess the approaches of different external actors and discuss the modalities for the formulation of a German policy approach towards the South Caucasus on the governmental and non-governmental level. Furthermore, concepts occasionally brought up for a South Caucasian stability pact or different regional security systems were presented and discussed.

- B. The Question of the Caspian Sea:** Germany is not one of the littoral countries. Therefore, it doesn't have much significance in the action taken to solve the issue. The only connection of Germany with the Caspian Sea is its economic relations with Azerbaijan. Even if Germany is not directly concerned with this issue, together with Azerbaijan, Germany is cooperating in the energy sector by contributing to the development of Azerbaijan with its development cooperation of more than EUR 600 million since Azerbaijan gained independence. Recent developments in the legal status of the Caspian Sea are also essential in the context of European energy policy as well.
- C. The Question of the Shift of Trade Routes in Eurasia:** The only major connection of Germany with the trade routes in Eurasia is the silk road economic belt located throughout Central Asia, West Asia, the Middle East, and Europe; and the new Eurasian Land Bridge that runs from Western China to Western Russia through Kazakhstan including the Silk Road Railway through China's Xinjiang Autonomous Region, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland and Germany (Duisberg). However, the cooperation between China and Germany can't be underestimated upon this issue because China is a significant market for the German economy and its corporations. In order to highlight the importance of China for Europe's largest economy; unfortunately, China topped Germany's foreign trade rankings with a total trading value of EUR 186.6bn (according to the official data from the Federal Statistics Office), highlighting the importance of China for Europe's largest economy in 2017. However, Germany managed to put its name at the top of the list, leaving China behind with a much higher total trading value and became Europe's largest economy in 2019.

III/ Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Armenia on the Issues

- A. The Question of the Caucasus:** For Germany to be able to act on this issue, members should coordinate expanded security cooperation with the countries of the former Soviet Union in order to avoid the recurrence of the current Caucasus war and considering our good relations with Georgia, Russian Federation should withdraw all their troops from all the territory of Georgia and recognize Georgia's territorial integrity.
- B. The Question of the Caspian Sea:** This question is mostly concerning the littoral countries and so the negotiations and meeting between them would be the inevitable part of the solution. However,



as an alternative; a conference where -at least- the countries in the region could join, can be beneficial to tackle the issue. The concerned nations could demand some reports on Caspian environmental and industrial data & information service yearly or establish a new NGO which will be in charge of trade regulations would be an effective solution. The current definition of the words “lake” and “sea” could also be discussed and may be slightly changed in order to fit the current situation.

- C. **The Question of the Shift of Trade Routes in Eurasia:** Germany will be encouraging all members to cooperate with the new silk road project of China that will increase Eurasian trade in general and all nations on the path will be benefited as most of the European nations are concerned about what they view as unfair trade practices by China that make it difficult for foreign enterprises to compete fairly.



IV/ Bibliography

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