

Linking business and politics

The Wirtschaftsrat der CDU e.V. (CDU Council of Economic Advisers) is a professional registered association of entrepreneurs and is politically independent. It conducts a dialogue with all political parties, with the trade unions and with the churches. It endeavours to create a climate of trust.

The Wirtschaftsrat sees its role as advocate of the Social Market Economy and of free, socially responsible enterprise, in relation to all governments and parties. Thus it sees itself as the "political conscience of the free market economic order". A particular accent in the work of the Wirtschaftsrat is placed on bringing its constitutional goals more closely to the attention of the government, the parliament and all the other democratic political parties.

What is the Wirtschaftsrat?

The Wirtschaftsrat is a nationally-organised professional association of entrepreneurs. It was founded in 1963 with the objective of working with others for the realisation and further development of the economic and social order, the Social Market Economy. The Wirtschaftsrat represents the interests of its members towards politicians, the administration and the public. It is funded exclusively through the contributions of its members.

Entrepreneurs cannot leave the formation of economic and social policy to others alone. Precisely because this is an area in which scarcely any decision is taken which does not have an impact on businesses and entrepreneurs, they must ensure that their timely and expert advice is made available. The Wirtschaftsrat offers the platform from which this can be done.

Exercising responsibility

Entrepreneurs must make the strongest efforts to ensure that their advice is listened to, and that they are accepted as active participants in the political process. The social market order is unthinkable without the formative power of dynamic entrepreneurs. Business and politics are more than ever interdependent.

The fundamental change that has taken place in the East and the dynamic developments in Europe open up new chances and perspectives for freedom, prosperity and social justice. Survival in the face of international competition can only be achieved through ensuring and constantly developing new, future-oriented work opportunities.

Politics affects all aspects of life. Democracy and the Social Market Economy demand bold democrats and entrepreneurs who are prepared to play an active role in politics, willing to work as much for the general good as for their own interests. Political commitment on the part of entrepreneurs is essential, if business expertise is to be successfully translated into public policy. More than ever before, parliaments and administrations depend on the advice of active entrepreneurs that is recognisable and representatively expressed on time.

Entrepreneurs themselves must exert their influence on economic and social policy decision-making. They must make themselves available as advisors and must express their interests and convictions in a credible way. Those who offer timely advice draw early attention to new developments, suggest proposals or offer alternatives for the solution of detailed problems and also have a claim to be listened to and to participate in decisions. The social market economic order is undergoing a process of change and competition. The Wirtschaftsrat offers, for those with such a commitment, the chance to participate in and help to shape this process. It is the advocate of the Social Market Economy. It is committed to the responsibility of entrepreneurs and to free and socially responsible order of society.

What are the main objectives of the Wirtschaftsrat?

The Wirtschaftsrat, because of the particular character of its activities, offers special opportunities for drawing attention to its interests. It concentrates its efforts especially on the maintenance and further development of the Social Market Economy as an order based on freedom and responsibility. Its partners are those who wish to actively represent the significance of enterprise in economic and social policy and who seek the same objectives. The commitment of the Wirtschaftsrat serves to secure the long-term basis for entrepreneurial activity and thus for economic and social success.

Who are the members of the Wirtschaftsrat?

Every independent entrepreneur or businessman, every enterprise and every business association may become a member of the Wirtschaftsrat. The same applies to independent members of the professions. To a limited extent, salaried employees or members of other economic categories can also be admitted. Membership is independent of the size or type of undertaking or the industry in which it operates.

Young Members' Circles offer younger members an ideal framework for their personal involvement in economic or social policy. These are mainly aimed at the under-35 age group.

Members are drawn from practically all sectors of the German business world. The Wirtschaftsrat is represented throughout Germany. In the Free State of Bavaria it works together with the Wirtschaftsbeirat der Union e.V. (the Economic Advisory Council of the Union).

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