



Deutscher Bundestag

**Programme**  
**Festival of Democracy –**  
**75 years of the Basic Law**  
24 – 26 May 2024

# GRUNDGESETZ FÜR DIE BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

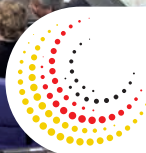
## Artikel 1

(1) Die Würde des Menschen ist unantastbar. Sie zu achten und zu schützen ist Verpflichtung aller staatlichen Gewalt.

(2) Das Deutsche Volk bekennt sich darum zu unverletzlichen und unveräußerlichen Menschenrechten als Grundlage jeder menschlichen Gemeinschaft, des Friedens und der Gerechtigkeit in der Welt.

## Artikel 2

(1) Jeder hat das Recht auf die freie Entfaltung seiner Persönlichkeit, soweit er nicht die Rechte anderer verletzt und nicht gegen die verfassungsmäßige Ordnung oder das allgemeine Wohlbefinden der Gemeinschaft verstößt.



**75 Jahre**  
**Demokratie**  
**lebendig**

## Dear citizens,

Welcome to the Festival of Democracy, celebrating 75 years of Germany's constitution, the Basic Law! And that's not all – this year we are also celebrating 35 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall!

Today, we are united and connected throughout Germany by the rights and freedoms provided by the Basic Law. Many people nowadays envy us our democracy, our freedoms and our basic rights, which play a major role in our everyday lives – though we are not always aware of it.

Everyone is able to choose their vocation freely – Article 2, the right to free development of one's personality. A woman can do anything a man can, and vice versa – Article 3. We can read, hear and see on a daily basis that freedom of the press and freedom of opinion are alive and well – Articles 5 and 11. These are just a few examples, that are joined by freedom of association, freedom of religion and the inviolability of the home.



Our Basic Law also provided a beacon to the many people who courageously demonstrated against the SED dictatorship. They wanted to live in a democracy. The Peaceful Revolution was a high point in the history of German freedom and democracy.

The Basic Law is a living piece of legislation which has been further developed in many key aspects by the German Bundestag, such as the sentence: "The state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist."

Dear guests,  
I am delighted to welcome you to the German Bundestag to take part in the "Plenary Chamber Forum" role-playing game, the Bundestag Quiz or in engaging discussions! And I am especially pleased that we are able to present the original document of the Basic Law to you in the Reichstag Building.

Germany is fortunate to have the Basic Law, and yet our democracy cannot be taken for granted. That is why it is encouraging to see so many people take to the streets for our democracy. Let us celebrate our democracy!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "B-Bas".

Bärbel Bas  
President of the German Bundestag

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## Opening hours

### Reichstag Building:

**24 and 25 May 2024**, 11:00 – 20:00 hrs,  
last admission 19:00 hrs

**26 May 2024**, 11:00 – 18:00 hrs,  
last admission 17:00 hrs

### Paul Löbe Building:

**24 and 25 May 2024**, 11:00 – 22:00 hrs,  
last admission 21:00 hrs

**26 May 2024**, 11:00 – 18:00 hrs,  
last admission 17:00 hrs

## Admission free of charge

Welcome to the  
German Bundestag's Festival  
of Democracy, celebrating  
the 75th anniversary of the  
Basic Law



## Information

### Additional needs

The Reichstag Building and the Paul Löbe Building are all accessible and suitable for wheelchair users.

In order to ensure that the day is accessible to as many people as possible, interpretation into sign language will be offered for selected programme points. Interpretation into English is also offered for some parts of the programme.



Available  
in sign  
language

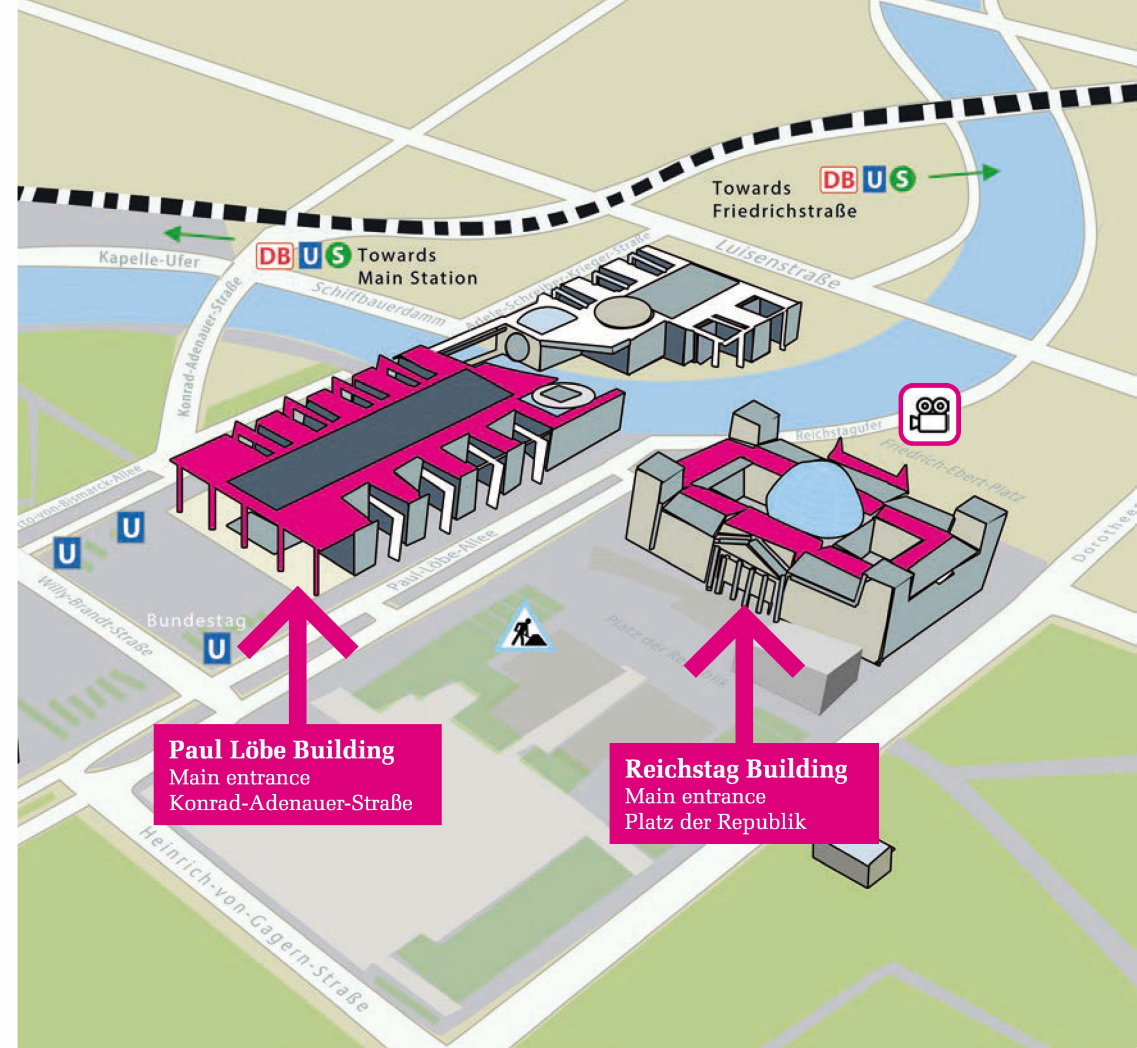


English  
interpretation  
available

### Security

Your safety is important to us.

- Any items you bring with you (bags, jackets, etc.) will be scanned at the entrances.
- Avoid bringing larger pieces of luggage.
- Larger bags (bigger than an A4 sheet of paper) must be handed in at the baggage check.
- You may have to undergo another security check when you move from one building to another.
- You are not permitted to carry any dangerous items.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the buildings.
- Please carry an ID card or another form of photo identification with you.



## Map

A set circular route leads through the Reichstag Building. There is no access from the Reichstag Building to the Paul Löbe Building.

We recommend starting your tour in the Paul Löbe Building and using the underground walkway to reach the Reichstag Building to take a look at the plenary chamber.

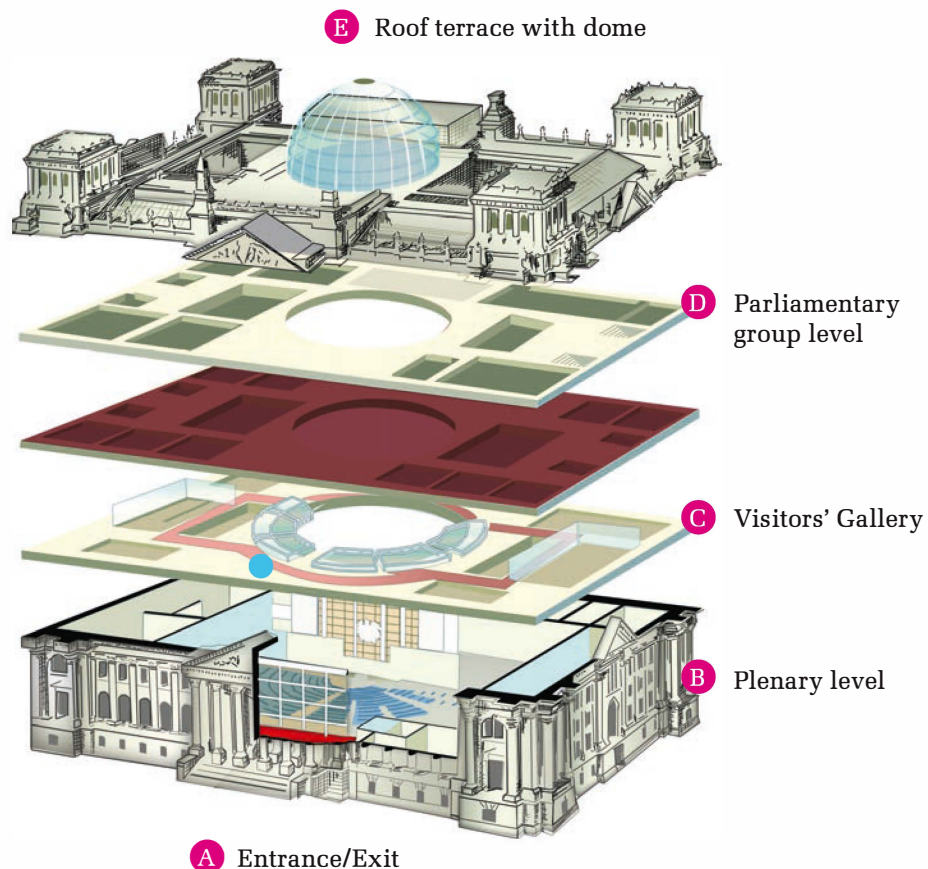
### Film and light show at the Reichstagsufer

At dusk each evening, starting from 22:00 hrs, the German Bundestag presents a 30-minute installation entitled "People and Parliament – 75 years. Living democracy." Experience a unique journey through 75 years of democracy in Germany, on the banks of the River Spree.






## Map



## The Reichstag Building The seat of Parliament

**A** Entrance

**B** Plenary level

**Opening by the President of the German Bundestag, Bärbel Bas**   
24 May in front of the Members' Lobby at 11:00 hrs

**Plenary chamber**  
Take a look into the plenary chamber – the heart of Parliament!

**Federal Parliamentary Commissioner for the Victims of the SED Dictatorship Evelyn Zupke: A bridge between SED victims and policymakers**  
Information stand, discussion and exhibition “...denen mitzuwirken versagt war.” (“...who were unable to contribute”) East German democrats in the early post-war period

**Book presentation “Der nächste Redner ist eine Dame. Die Frauen im ersten Deutschen Bundestag”**  
 (“The next speaker is a lady. The women in the first German Bundestag”)

Engaging biographies of female parliamentary pioneers – as told by notable female writers. Discussion with co-author Shelly Kupferberg. 26 May 2024, 16:00 hrs in the Club Room next to the Members' Lobby

**Reflection and Prayer Room**

**The Basic Law – the original document**

Presentation in the reference library  
Get your own personal copy of the Basic Law and take a look at press reports from 75 years ago.


**Cafeteria**

**Cyrillic graffiti**

## Programme in the Reichstag Building



## C Visitors' Gallery

**Short talks by members of the Presidium and other Members of the German Bundestag** 

**Short talks on the German Bundestag** 

## D Parliamentary group level

### Public relations

Everything you want to know about Parliament – get information from our publications and services.

### Plenary Chamber model

### Making democracy possible - Working in the German Bundestag

Our colleagues from the administration are on hand to answer your questions on jobs, training, studies and internships at the German Bundestag.

### The German Bundestag's travelling exhibition

#### Stage programme

Put your knowledge to the test in the Bundestag quiz and get talking with Members of the German Bundestag!

Music by *Lennard Bertzbach*

## E Roof terrace with dome and photo point

See detailed programme overview on pages 9 and 10.

Friday, 24.05.2024

## C Visitors' gallery programme on the Visitors' Level

11:00-11:30	Short talk by <b>Dr Ralf Stegner</b> , Member of the Bundestag and Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry on Afghanistan
11:30-12:00	<b>Short talks</b> on the German Bundestag
12:00-12:30	Short talk by <b>Bärbel Bas</b> , President of the German Bundestag, on: "How the German Bundestag works"
12:30-14:00	<b>Short talks</b> on the German Bundestag
14:00-14:30	Short talk by <b>Tobias Matthias Peterka</b> , Member of the AfD parliamentary group
14:30-15:00	<b>Short talks</b> on the German Bundestag
15:00-15:30	Short talk by <b>Michael Müller</b> , Member of the Bundestag and Chairman of the Study Commission on "Lessons from Afghanistan for Germany's future networked commitment"
15:30-16:00	<b>Short talks</b> on the German Bundestag
16:00-16:30	Short talk by <b>Renate Künast</b> , Member of the Alliance 90 / The Greens parliamentary group, on: "What does the Basic Law tell us in 2024 about dignity, freedom and organization for the future?"
16:30-20:00	<b>Short talks</b> on the German Bundestag

## D Stage programme on the Parliamentary Group Level

11:00-16:00	<b>Bundestag Quiz</b> alternating with <b>music</b> by Lennard Bertzbach
16:00-16:30	Discussion with <b>Mathias Papendieck</b> , Member of the SPD parliamentary group
16:30-20:00	<b>Bundestag Quiz</b> alternating with <b>music</b> by Lennard Bertzbach



Saturday, 25.05.2024

### C Visitors' gallery programme on the Visitors' Level

- 11:00-13:00 **Short talks** on the German Bundestag
- 13:00-13:30 Short talk by a Member of the **FDP parliamentary group**
- 13:30-20:00 **Short talks** on the German Bundestag

### D Stage programme on the Parliamentary Group Level

- 11:00-11:30 **Bundestag Quiz** alternating with **music** by Lennard Bertzbach
- 11:30-12:00 Discussion with **Susanne Menge**, Member of the Alliance 90 / The Greens parliamentary group, on: "Do we have a right to an intact planet/environment?"
- 12:00-15:00 **Bundestag Quiz** alternating with **music** by Lennard Bertzbach
- 15:00-15:30 Discussion with a Member of the **FDP parliamentary group**
- 15:30-20:00 **Bundestag Quiz** alternating with **music** by Lennard Bertzbach

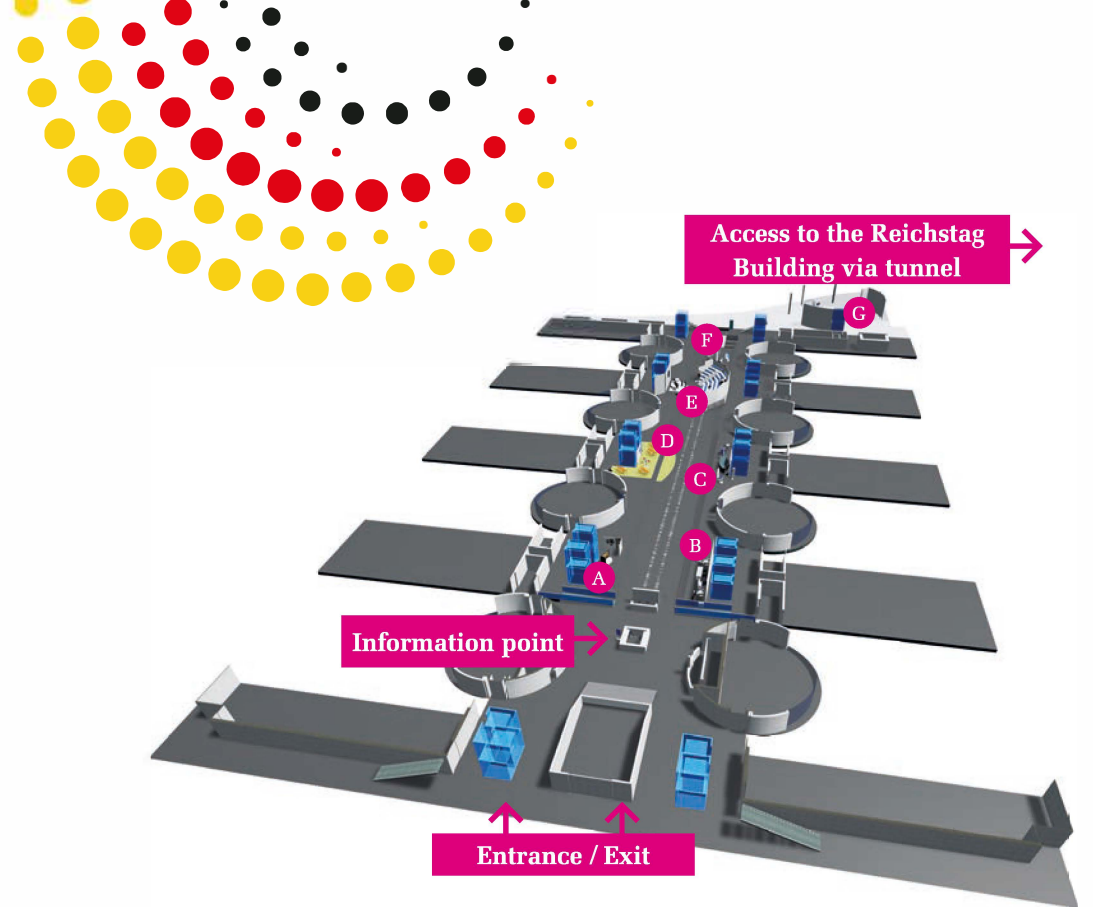
Sunday, 26.05.2024

### C Visitors' gallery programme on the Visitors' Level

- 11:00-12:00 **Short talks** on the German Bundestag
- 12:00-12:30 Short talk by **Leni Breymaier**, Member of the SPD parliamentary group, on a variety of topics: "Basic child security benefit, paragraph 218 of the Criminal Code, promoting democracy, old-age poverty, prostitution, women's health"
- 12:30-13:00 **Short talks** on the German Bundestag
- 13:00-13:30 Short talk by **Petra Pau**, Vice-President of the German Bundestag
- 13:30-14:00 **Short talks** on the German Bundestag
- 14:00-14:30 Short talk by **Tabea Rößner**, Member of the Bundestag and Chairwoman of the Committee on Digital Affairs
- 14:30-15:00 **Short talks** on the German Bundestag
- 15:00-15:30 Short talk by **Helmut Kleebank**, Member of the Bundestag and Chairman of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, on: "Sustainability in the Basic Law?"
- 15:30-18:00 **Short talks** on the German Bundestag

### D Stage programme on the Parliamentary Group Level

- 11:00-18:00 **Bundestag Quiz** alternating with **music** by Lennard Bertzbach



Map

## The Paul Löbe Building Home to the committees

- A** "Odyssey of a document" – The Frankfurt Constitution of 28 March 1849 exhibition
- B** "Aktion © for Chemnitz, Peace and Tolerance" citizens' initiative
- C** Public relations – Useful information about Parliament
- D** Children's area
- E** Plenary Chamber Forum – role-playing game, discussions, improvisational theatre
- F** Parliamentary history – a hands-on look
- G** "Lampenladen" Cafeteria with music



#### D Children's area

Meet Karlchen Adler and his friend Karla and join in with our programme for children.

- Arts and crafts and other activities
- Play area
- Face-painting and temporary tattoos
- Karla and Karlchen Adler live
- Clowns



#### E Plenary Chamber Forum

##### Role-playing game

Take a seat in the “plenary chamber” and join a Bundestag debate! In the Plenary Chamber Forum you become part of the political action, participating in the discussion in the role of a fictitious elected Member and voting on an amendment to the Basic Law. Experience live and in an entertaining way how our parliamentary processes work and what role is played in them by the President of the Bundestag, the parliamentary groups, the government and the opposition.

#### A “Odyssey of a document” – The Frankfurt Constitution of 28 March 1849 exhibition

Travelling exhibition by the German Bundestag on the extraordinary history of the first all-German constitution

#### B “Aktion © for Chemnitz, Peace and Tolerance” citizens' initiative

Since 2011, the citizen's initiative has been carrying out sustainable educational work for children and young people in Chemnitz and Central Saxony on a voluntary basis with workshops on designing peace banners and art projects.

#### C Public relations

Useful information about Parliament – find out about our publications and services.

## Programme in the Paul Löbe Building

#### Discussions

Join in discussions with the President of the Bundestag, other members of the Presidium and Members of the Bundestag!

#### “Theatersport Berlin” Improvisational theatre

For over 30 years, the Berlin's first improvisational theatre troupe has been enchanting audiences. The cast appears in two teams competing against each other for the audience's favour. Join in and help crown the ultimate winner!

#### F Parliamentary history

##### A hands-on look at media history!

Visit one of the last remaining high-speed printing presses, used to print the Imperial Law Gazette during the revolution of 1848-49.

#### 48/49: Two years, two eras, two constitutions – one country

A multimedia exhibition in the show window looking out on to the River Spree on the continuities and fractures in German constitutional history – from the revolution of 1848-49 to the founding of the Federal Republic in 1948-49.

#### Book presentation “*Der nächste Redner ist eine Dame. Die Frauen im ersten Deutschen Bundestag*” (“The next speaker is a lady. The women in the first German Bundestag”)

Engaging biographies of female parliamentary pioneers – as told by notable female writers.

#### Call for contributions:

##### Your Parliament. Your memories

Join in and make the Bundestag's anniversary all the richer with your recollections of 75 years of parliamentary history. In cooperation with the Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Foundation.

#### G “Lampenladen” Cafeteria with music

24/26 May Dew's Brew

25 May Viola Manigk and the Oberbaumtrio

Friday, 24.05.2024

## E Plenary Chamber Forum Programme

11:00-11:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
12:00-12:45	Discussion with <b>Renate Künast</b> , Member of the Bundestag, and former members of the citizen’s assembly on: “nutrition in transition”
13:00-13:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
14:00-14:45	Discussion with <b>Dr Gesine Löttsch</b> , Member of The Left Party parliamentary grouping, on: “What does the Bundestag do with your money?”
15:00-15:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
16:00-16:45	Discussion with <b>Markus Kurth</b> , Member of the Alliance 90/ The Greens parliamentary group, on: “Human dignity and the principle of the social state: The social foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany”
17:00-17:45	<b>“Theatersport Berlin”</b> improvisational theatre
18:00-18:45	Discussion with <b>Dr Nina Scheer</b> , Member of the Bundestag, on: “Experiencing democracy up close – a dialogue with the spokeswoman on climate action and energy policy for the SPD parliamentary group”
19:00-19:45	Discussion with <b>Uli Grötsch</b> , Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities
20:00-20:45	<b>“Theatersport Berlin”</b> improvisational theatre
21:00-21:45	<b>“Theatersport Berlin”</b> improvisational theatre



Saturday, 25.05.2024

## E Plenary Chamber Forum Programme

11:00-11:45	<b>Evelyn Zupke</b> , Federal Parliamentary Commissioner for the Victims of the SED Dictatorship, in conversation with contemporary witness <b>Carla Ottmann</b> : “From political prisoner in the GDR Hoheneck women’s prison to honorary judge”
12:00-12:45	Discussion with <b>Friedrich Merz</b> , Member of the Bundestag and Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group
13:00-13:45	Discussion with <b>Bärbel Bas</b> , President of the German Bundestag, on: “Promoting democracy in Germany”
14:00-14:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
15:00-15:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
16:00-16:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
17:00-17:45	<b>“Theatersport Berlin”</b> improvisational theatre
18:00-18:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
19:00-19:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
20:00-20:45	<b>“Theatersport Berlin”</b> improvisational theatre
21:00-21:45	<b>“Theatersport Berlin”</b> improvisational theatre

Sunday, 26.05.2024

## E Plenary Chamber Forum Programme

11:00-11:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
12:00-12:45	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
13:00-13:45	<b>“Theatersport Berlin”</b> improvisational theatre
14:00-14:45	Discussion with a Member of the <b>FDP parliamentary group</b>
15:00-16:00	Panel discussion on “East German perspectives on 75 years of the Basic Law” with Bundestag Vice-President <b>Petra Pau</b> , <b>Dr h.c. Wolfgang Thierse</b> , former President of the Bundestag, <b>Dr Sabine Bergmann-Pohl</b> , the last Chairwoman of the Presidium of the People’s Chamber and <b>Marianne Birthler</b> , former Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former German Democratic Republic
16:15-17:00	<b>“Plenary Sitting”</b> role-playing game
17:15-18:00	<b>“Theatersport Berlin”</b> improvisational theatre



Further information on the  
Festival of Democracy:



More information on the 75th  
anniversary of the German Bundestag:



More information about the book  
“The next speaker is a lady”:



How to get here:  
Friedrichstraße, Hauptbahnhof,  
Brandenburger Tor, Bundestag,  
Reichstag/Bundestag



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Deutscher Bundestag / compactteam

Visit us in Berlin for our **Open Day and citizens' festival** on 6 and 7 September and in  
Schwerin to celebrate the **Day of German Unity**  
from 2 – 4 October 2024.



**VEREINT  
SEGEL SETZEN**

Tag der Deutschen Einheit  
Schwerin 02.-04.10.2024