



Germany:

The Muslim Brotherhood and other groups of political Islam topic in the German Bundestag

"The spread of legalistic Islamism in Germany and its financing from abroad" is the title of a question from the conservative CDU/CSU parliamentary group. As the



parliamentary group explains - MENA Research Center has already reported on the case -, the "Europe Trust"

foundation, a financial vehicle that is attributed to the Muslim Brotherhood from Great Britain, has made it possible to set up a hotspot for the Islamist scene in Germany in the Berlin district of Wedding. To this end, it is said to have purchased a 5,665 square meter plot of land with a five-storey administration wing years ago.

"In the meantime, several clubs and groups are said to have moved into the building, which, according to security offices in Germany, belong to the spectrum of legalistic Islamism and are being observed," the deputies continue. They want to know what the German government's findings on the "Europe Trust" are. They also ask, among other things, which properties the "Europe Trust" in Germany has acquired at what prices.

The CDU/CSU parliamentary group also addresses why the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution is prohibited from conducting financial investigations in the area of political Islam.

Turkish Mosque Association in Germany successful in court

The Turkish mosque association DITIB has asserted itself in the legal dispute over cooperation in Islam school lessons. As announced by the Hessian Administrative Court, it has rejected an appeal by the state against a judgment by the Wiesbaden Administrative Court. The Court thus confirmed that the Ministry of Education should not have suspended cooperation with the DITIB in denominational religious instruction.

In the German state of Hessen, Islamic religious education was first introduced in elementary schools in the 2013/14 school year and expanded in the years after. DITIB acted as the most important partner.

However, due to the proximity of the mosque association to the Turkish state, the country ended the cooperation in 2020 and continued teaching without a partner.



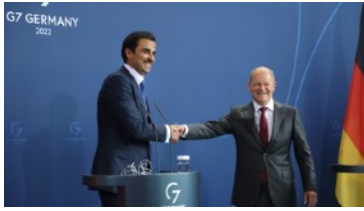
DITIB took legal action against this. The decision of the Administrative Court is not contestable.

After the end of the cooperation with DITIB, the country took the Islamic religious education into its own hands. To this end, it introduced the subject of Islam instruction, which - unlike denominational religious instruction - is without an explicit commitment to the faith. According to the Ministry of Education, Islam classes under the sole responsibility of the state are now aimed at students in grades one to nine. However, there is still denomination-

oriented Islamic religious instruction at Hessian schools, which is taught by the religious community Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Germany.

Visit of the Emir of Qatar in Berlin

Qatar wants to deliver gas to Germany as soon as possible. However, during a visit by the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Al Thani, to



Berlin, different dates were given. In a joint appearance with Chancellor Olaf Scholz (SPD), the Emir

referred to an expansion in gas production, which could lead to deliveries in 2026/27.

He had previously told the press: "The expansion of production in our North Dome gas field will not be completed until 2026, maybe even as early as 2025." However, he also held out the prospect of earlier delivery to Germany. "We want our US liquid gas plant Golden Pass in Texas, in which Qatar Energy holds 70 percent, to be ready by 2024 so that we can deliver to Germany."

According to Scholz, Qatar should play a central role in the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for Germany. After the meeting with the Emir, Scholz said that the aim was also to expand relations in the field of high technology. He also met Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Scholz referred to the expansion of the LNG infrastructure in Germany. The Chancellor described relations with the Gulf State as "very good" and they are continuing to develop. Because of the Russian war against Ukraine, Germany is trying to reduce its dependence on Russian gas by buying Qatari gas.

The Emir said he was looking forward to hosting the World Cup in Qatar later this year. There is a great enthusiasm for sport in

his country. 600,000 tickets have already been ordered from the German side. In the press conference with Scholz, he was asked whether homosexual guests were also welcome in Qatar. Al Thani said everyone is welcome and no one will be prevented from watching the football matches. However, he wants Qatar's culture to be respected.

Turkey

Well-known politician convicted

A court ruling threatens to weaken Turkey's main opposition party. The Supreme Court of Appeals has now upheld a number of previous sentences against Canan Kaftancıoğlu, the head of the Istanbul section of the

CHP. The social-democratic CHP is Turkey's most important opposition group, and Kaftancıoğlu himself is one of the party's shooting stars.



Now she has been banned from politics, facing almost five years in prison for "insulting the head of state" and "insulting the Republic".

Kaftancıoğlu organized the 2019 election campaign in which the CHP conquered Istanbul and ousted the AKP, the party of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

At that time, the CHP politician Ekrem İmamoğlu was appointed mayor. There is speculation in the Turkish media that İmamoğlu himself could now be attacked by the courts and eliminated from politics under a legal pretext. The post of Istanbul mayor is seen as a stepping stone to the presidency, and İmamoğlu is popular as a

possible candidate against Erdoğan in next year's presidential elections. Insult proceedings against state representatives are also ongoing against Imamoğlu.

Doubts about the political independence of the judiciary are now a necessity for any serious assessment of current Turkish politics. The judgment of the Court of Cassation also comes at a time when the re-election of Erdoğan and his AKP in the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2023 is in question. The miserable economic situation with inflation of more than 70 percent and a decline in the national currency, the lira, is increasingly costing the head of state his support.

In recent polls, the gap between his AKP at 30.5 percent and the CHP at 29.5 percent continues to shrink. The opposition alliance of the CHP with several other parties has already outperformed the alliance of the AKP and the right-wing nationalist MHP in some polls. However, the opposition alliance does not seem stable. So far it has not been able to agree on a common presidential candidate and has also not managed to integrate the Kurdish party HDP, which is popular with both the Kurdish electorate and left-liberal city dwellers, into its alliance.

After the verdict was announced, Kaftancıoğlu tweeted: "We will continue to work until we restore the rule of law, not just for me, but for 84 million citizens." Criticism came from all opposition parties. Opposition leader and CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu called on all members of his party to go to the party headquarters in Istanbul to protest. Erdoğan is "a hypocrite, an opportunist, a tyrant and a manipulator". The President should not forget that the people stand behind Kaftancıoğlu.

Erdoğan is sticking to his "No" to Finland and Sweden joining NATO

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan maneuvers himself further into a corner with every new statement he makes about Sweden's and Finland's NATO membership applications. On his return flight from Baku to Ankara last Sunday, he said that as long as he is President of the Republic of Turkey, Ankara will not allow countries that support terrorism to join NATO. After all, NATO is a security organization. He commented disparagingly on the inconclusive talks that delegations from Sweden and Finland had held in Ankara in the days before.



Furthermore, Erdoğan claimed on the plane that the US not only supplied the YPG with weapons, but also provided military training to the PKK - a claim that is not supported by any facts.

Ankara wants to test the attitude of the accession candidates and NATO with a new military operation in northern Syria that was announced last week. The National Security Council meeting under Erdoğan last Thursday approved the planned fourth invasion of the Turkish army in northern Syria since 2016. "We will put an end to terrorism and terrorists," Erdoğan said on the flight home from Baku. He had previously stated that the goal was to create a 30-kilometer-deep "security zone" along the border on Syrian territory in order to settle a million Syrian refugees there.