



Staatsministerium
Baden-Württemberg

E-READER

The Guiding Principles on Europe



The guiding principles are the result of the European Dialogue on the future of the European Union (EU). Last year the State Government hold meetings to discuss with citizens, experts and stakeholders within a broad-based participation process in the State in various formats (Citizens' Forums, Specialist Forums, Expert Forums) at various places. The European Dialogue made it possible for us to engage the whole society in the debate on the future of the European Union. The encounters showed the high expertise and interest in the European Union in our State.

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Dear Sir / Madam, fellow Europeans, In Baden-Württemberg we have truly embraced the maxim, “Europe is our future”. In fact, our State Constitution requires us to shape our State within a united Europe and to actively participate in a “Europe of regions”. And there are good reasons for this. For centuries, our location at the heart of the continent brought us endless wars. impact on our State. Digitalisation of the economy Since the founding of the EU, Europe has enjoyed and society, climate change and international ter- the longest period of peace, freedom, stability and rorism do not respect borders. They demonstra- prosperity that there has ever been in European te today, more than ever, how vital it is to have a history. Today, our position in the centre of Europe strong and effective EU. is a blessing. There is scarcely another state that owes more to European integration than ours. What should the EU of the future look like? Our We are the most innovative and export-oriented Guiding Principles on Europe provide the answer region in Europe. The EU has played a major role to this question from the point of view of our Sta- in this. However, the EU is not just an economic te. “We will take the lead”– that is the mission community. For us, the EU is above all a commu- statement of our Dialogue on Europe. We see nity of shared values. ourselves as a driving force behind European inte- gration, not one of those set on hindering it. With This is not guaranteed to last forever. The rule of our Dialogue on Europe, we had one main goal: to law, freedom of expression and the separation of engage the citizens of our State in conversation. powers are being undermined in individual Mem- Only by winning over our fellow citizens on the ber

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