

Open Letter to Chancellor Friedrich Merz

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Dear Chancellor Merz,

You assumed office at a difficult moment for Germany.

The country has faced years of weak economic growth, rising energy costs, growing concerns about migration, increasing geopolitical uncertainty, and declining confidence in the ability of government institutions to solve long-standing problems.

From your first days in office, you made several priorities clear: restoring economic competitiveness, reducing irregular migration, strengthening Germany's armed forces, and increasing Germany's influence within Europe.

One of the strengths of your chancellorship has been clarity. Unlike many politicians who avoid difficult subjects, you have spoken openly about Germany's economic problems. You acknowledged that parts of the German economy are in a critical condition and that Germany faces serious challenges related to competitiveness, taxation, bureaucracy, labour costs and energy costs.

Your government has also moved to tighten migration policy. Border controls, restrictions on some migration pathways and efforts to reduce irregular migration have responded to concerns held by a significant portion of the German public. According to government data, Germany has seen a reduction in asylum applications relative to previous years.

You have also sought to strengthen Germany's role within Europe, advocating closer European cooperation, support for Ukraine, stronger defence capabilities and a more competitive European Union.

However, significant problems remain.

The most important is the economy.

Although your government has announced investment programmes, tax relief measures and reforms, many Germans still do not feel meaningful improvement in their daily lives. Economic confidence remains fragile, and Germany continues to struggle with slow growth and structural challenges affecting industry and competitiveness.

Your government has also faced criticism for creating expectations that may be difficult to fulfil. Statements regarding the large-scale return of Syrians to their homeland created controversy and raised questions about whether political messaging was running ahead of practical reality.

Public support for your government has also been weaker than many expected. Critics argue that despite numerous initiatives and legislative measures, public confidence has not recovered to the extent hoped for, and dissatisfaction remains high.

There have also been setbacks in foreign policy. Germany's failure to secure a seat on the United Nations Security Council was viewed by many observers as an unexpected diplomatic disappointment for a country that seeks a larger international role.

What I would like to see from your government in the future is not more

announcements but more measurable results.

Germany does not primarily need new diagnoses of its problems. The problems are already well known.

Germany needs:

faster economic growth;

lower bureaucratic burdens;

affordable energy;

more housing construction;

effective migration management;

greater confidence in public institutions.

The success of your chancellorship will ultimately not be measured by speeches, coalition agreements, or legislative statistics.

It will be measured by whether ordinary Germans feel that their country became more prosperous, more secure, and more confident during your time in office.

My overall assessment:

3 out of 5.

You have shown seriousness, competence, and a willingness to confront difficult issues. However, many of the promised improvements remain works in progress, and the most important test—producing visible results in the lives of ordinary citizens—has not yet been fully passed.

Respectfully,

A Citizen of the World

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