

| 21. April 2021

# Annalena Baerbock: The Change Candidate

## Three Observations on her Candidacy

For the first time, the Greens are nominating a candidate for chancellor. In doing so, the party is underscoring its newfound sense of power. Annalena Baerbock, a member of the Bundestag from Brandenburg, is the only candidate without a government post in the race for the chancellorship, but she is uniting many hopes among the population for a change in content and political style. She already made an effort to reinterpret her lack of government experience on paper as an advantage for a new political start for the German government.

### Ambitious Climate Policy is Mainstream

Annalena Baerbock is the first candidate to have a chance at the chancellorship who places an ambitious climate policy at the center of her program. This underscores the shift in discourse in recent years, which all players in business and society must face up to. For many people, an ambitious climate policy with higher CO2 prices and investments in the sustainable transformation of the economy is no longer a spectre, but on the contrary a reason for their own election decision. Baerbock also wants to build climate driven alliances in foreign and trade policy. Ambitious climate policy will thus become mainstream.

### The Economy as Part of the Solution

In the past, Annalena Baerbock has taken a demanding but pragmatic stance toward the economy. In the Greens' increasingly moderate orientation, the economy is part of the solution to societal challenges such as climate change or social issues rather than an opponent.

The digital and sustainable transformation of the economy as well as the modernization of infrastructure would be one of the key investment and regulatory issues under a Green-led federal government.

### Will her Party's Discipline Hold under Baerbock?

Many observers are surprised at how united and cohesive the Greens, once known for their culture of dispute, have been for months. In order to win the chancellorship, Baerbock must be electable to a broad population and will avoid taking positions that are seen as too radical (domestic flight bans, discussion about too many single-family homes, opposing positioning on the Bundeswehr). Whether the discipline holds will be decisive for the Greens.

The further debate on the Green Party's program, which is to be finally adopted in June, will be revealing in this regard.