

## FRFG Newsletter October 2024

Dear readers,

**Pension Policy:** The Bundestag is threatening to cancel the intergenerational contract in its current form. The sustainability factor, which is used to distribute the financial burden of demographic change between those paying contributions and those receiving pensions, [will lose effect](#). Instead of this gerontocratic policy, the FRFG wishes to see two birds killed with one stone: The gradual introduction of a contributory pension scheme for all those employed would mean a smaller increase in contribution rates and therefore less intergenerational inequality. At the same time, such a state pension scheme ('Erbwerbstätigenversicherung') would create more solidarity and social justice. The FRFG suggests that the first step towards this dual objective is the inclusion of members of parliament in the state pension scheme, [starting with the newly elected members of the Saxony state parliament](#).

**Conference:** A two-day conference (Thu 21.11.24 and Fri 22.11.24) in Tutzing, Germany by the beautiful Lake Starnberg will also focus on the urgently needed pension reforms. Very high-calibre experts have already confirmed their attendance. You can still register until 12 November at: <https://www.apb-tutzing.de/programm/tagung/47-1-24>.

**Climate:** Do older people in Germany contribute more CO2 emissions to the climate crisis as young people? A [new FRFG study](#) has answers.

**Intergenerational Justice Prize (10.000€):** The winners have been announced! Many academic articles in English and German were submitted on the topic of "Long-Term Peacekeeping for Future Generations". The jury has awarded six essays with a prize. Read the prize description [here](#) for more details on the theme.

The UN Summit of the Future took place from 22 – 23.9.2024 in New York. In the run-up to this event, the FRFG tried to bring about the implementation of an official UN holiday for intergenerational justice (Intergenerational Fairness Day). Although we were not able to achieve this at this stage, many new opportunities to engage for future generations have been opened up by the "Pact for the Future" and the "Declaration for Future Generations". A more detailed analysis of the summit can be found [here](#).

**IFD Podcast:** The fifth episode entitled "The Future of Intelligence: AI and the Survival of Humanity" was released on 19 September and can be found [online](#).

**Temporary storage of nuclear waste:** A new position paper on the topic of storage and disposal of nuclear waste has been produced in anticipation of an event on 29 October in Berlin, organised by the [Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung](#) ('Federal Company for Radioactive Waste Disposal'). The position paper will be released soon.

Curiosity piqued? Then enjoy reading the more detailed reports on the following pages of this newsletter! In addition, there are always new updates on the foundation's websites ([German / English](#)), on [Instagram](#) and on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#).

Your FRFG

## Pension package in the Bundestag: FRFG offers opposition and alternatives



The German parliament is currently debating a legislative package that would abolish the sustainability factor, which distributes the financial burden of demographic change between young and old.

**This is nothing other than the cancellation of the intergenerational contract in its current form.** The sustainability factor was introduced to share the demographic burden of the pay-as-you-go pension system ('das Umlagesystem') between contributors and pensioners. However, the Pension Package II ('Rentenpaket II') only stipulates that the pension level may not fall below 48 percent - there is no longer a stop line for the

contribution rate. If this package were to be passed, the financial burden of the pension system would no longer be shared between the generations.

[You can find a more detailed commentary about this gerontocratic policy from the FRFG here.](#)

The FRFG has made clear that the implementation of a state pension system for all those employed, if time to coincide with the Baby-Boomer generation beginning to draw a pension, would kill two birds with one stone (see our German-language policy paper here "[Mit der Erwerbstätigenversicherung jetzt beginnen: mehr Solidarität und weniger Generationen-Ungerechtigkeit](#)"). The gradual introduction of a state pension scheme for the entire working population (as opposed to the current system which separates the work force from public officials and civil servants, and giving the latter category different rights) would mean a smaller increase in contribution rates and therefore less intergenerational inequality. At the same time, this would create more solidarity and social justice. The FRFG suggests that the first step towards this dual objective is the inclusion of members of parliament in the state pension scheme, starting with the newly elected members of the Saxon state parliament. In Saxony, it is possible for members of the state parliament to pay into the state pension scheme on a voluntary basis. The prerequisite is that they decide in favour of the personal pension contribution at the beginning of the legislative period. The FRFG has asked all newly elected members of the 8th Saxon State Parliament to let us know whether they wish to do so. [Here](#) are the results so far.

The FRFG has launched a petition on Change.org for the abolition of the private pension for MPs, so that not only Saxon MPs, but also members of the federal government ultimately pay into the state pension scheme. Sign the petition [here](#) - like around 170,000 people before you.

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## Joint conference of FRFG and the Academy for Political Education in Tutzing (21-22 November 2014)



A two-day German-language conference (Thu 21.11.24 and Fri 22.11.24) in Tutzing by the beautiful Lake Starnberg will also focus on the urgently needed pension reforms (both of the state pension system and the separate civil servant pension). The FRFG and the Academy for Political Education warmly invite you to take part in the event. Very high-calibre experts have already confirmed their attendance. Prof. Dr. Martin Werding from the German Council of Economic Experts will hold the introductory

speech. Prof. Dr. Felix Welti will discuss the parallel systems for the work force, for members of parliament, for civil servants and for the self-employed. Sven Schumann (Deutsche Börse, 'German stock exchange') will explain the model of capital-market financed pensions and Dr. Dina Frommert from the German Pension Fund ('Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund') will address the topic of the working lifetime. We are particularly excited to be employing the podcast-hike format on a mini-'walkshop', before everyone returns inside to fortify themselves with coffee and cake.

Registration is still possible until the 12 November: <https://www.apb-tutzing.de/programm/tagung/47-1-24>.

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### The CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions of the young and old



A [new mini study by the FRFG](#) examines the correlation between age and the carbon footprint that one produces in a year. The data used comes from the [CO<sub>2</sub> calculator created by Germany's federal environment agency](#), which can be filled out of one's own accord. The agency supplied the FRFG with all of the profiles from the years 2022 and 2023. The quality of the data is poor for many reasons, for example, because a certain number of the entries lie above or below a realistic range. In addition, the age groups are not split up in ten-year-blocks, but rather in the

ranges "0-17 years", "18-29 years", "30-59 years" and "60+ years". Nevertheless, one can observe from the data that an increasing carbon footprint correlates with increased age. The average emissions for 18-29-year olds weigh 7701kg of carbon; for 30-59-year olds the average is 8692kg; for the group "60 years or more" the average is 9156kg. Older people thus produce, on average, more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than younger people.

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### Generationengerechtigkeits-Preis 2024



The winners of the Intergenerational Justice Prize, endowed with 10,000€, have been announced! Many academic articles in English and German were submitted on the topic of "Long-Term Peacekeeping for Future Generations". The jury has awarded six essays with a prize (one first place, five runners-up). The authors of the winning articles came from Germany, Austria, the USA, Poland, and Palestine. The most interesting articles will be published in a double special issue of our academic journal "[Intergenerational Justice Review](#)".

Background information: The biennial Intergenerational Justice Prize is endowed with 10,000€, and takes a different theme every cycle. More information can be found here ([German](#) / [English](#)).

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## Results from the UN Summit of the Future



The UN Summit of the Future took place from 22 – 23.9.2024 in New York City. [In the run-up to this event, the FRFG tried to bring about the implementation of an official day for intergenerational justice \(Intergenerational Fairness Day\) as a UN holiday.](#) Although we were not able to achieve this at this stage, many new opportunities to engage for future generations have been opened up by the “Pact for the Future” and the “Declaration for Future Generations”.

A particular highlight of the summit was the adoption of three important and related documents: [the “Pact for the Future”, “Global Digital Compact” and the “Declaration on Future Generations”.](#) Among other things, the UN pledged to appoint a UN Special Envoy for Future Generations. Read our full analysis of the UN summit here ([German](#) / [English](#)).

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## New episode of the English-language FRFG Podcast



Since the first [Intergenerational Fairness Day](#) on 16 November 2023 our moderator and project manager Lena Winzer has released a new episode of our English podcast every three months.

The fifth episode entitled “The Future of Intelligence: AI and the Survival of Humanity” was released on 19 September 2024 and can be found [online](#).

In this most recent episode Lena Winzer speaks with Otto Barten, the founder and director of the [Existential Risk Observatory](#). The episode highlights the potential dangers of so-called General Artificial Intelligence and discusses what measures can be taken to minimise its risks. In doing so, this podcast episode raises awareness of the existential risks that future generations will face if we do not change our actions today. The previous episode focussed on the risk of humanity wiping itself out through nuclear weapons, while the next episode will focus on the climate crisis. All episodes can be found [online](#).

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## Preview: A new position paper on temporary storage of nuclear waste

The FRFG will shortly be publishing a new position paper (PP) entitled: “Nach dem Atomausstieg: Wie geht es weiter mit der Lagerung des deutschen Atommülls?” (“After the nuclear phase-out: What’s next for the storage of German nuclear waste?”). The paper focuses on the question of how Germany should deal with the remaining (highly) radioactive waste after the end of electricity generation from nuclear power plants. The PP will focus in particular on the current situation, i.e. interim

storage at the former nuclear power plant sites, as well as the challenges of the planned search for a final repository. While a permanently safe repository is essential, this must not be used to justify delaying the search for a repository until well into the second half of this century. Such a delay would mean that the interim storage facilities would have to remain in operation for much longer than originally planned and that the solution to the problem of final disposal would be passed on to future generations. The draft of the PP will be presented at an event organised by the *Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung* on 29 October in Berlin, [which is still open for registration](#).

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## Media Response

FRFG has once again featured prominently in the media in recent months. You can find the complete media coverage of FRFG [here](#).



Check in regularly on our website ([German / English](#)), follow us on [Instagram](#) or [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#). We would also be very happy to receive a [donation](#)!