

**3<sup>rd</sup> International Automotive Workers' Conference,  
November 20–24, 2025, in Pune, India**

**Country Report: Germany**

**Text for the PowerPoint presentation**

**(Slide 1: Country Report: Germany)**

Germany is located in the heart of Europe, has a population of 83 million, and a gross domestic product of 4.3 trillion euros. The government is a coalition of the conservative CDU/CSU and the social democratic SPD, led by Chancellor Friedrich Merz. Germany is highly industrialized, and automotive production is its most important industrial sector. There are 40 automobile plants.

**(Slide 2: Production sites in Germany – shown)**

In 2024, they produced approximately 4 million cars. In addition, there are globally active supplier groups such as Bosch, ZF, Continental, and many medium-sized companies. 773,000 people work in the automotive and supplier industries. Including trade, services, etc., a total of 2.2 million jobs depend on this industry. **(Slide: 3 Photo Wolfsburg – previous),**

The workforce is internationally diverse and well-organized within IG Metall. It has 2.1 million members and is a non-partisan, unified trade union. This is an important lesson drawn from the bitter defeat of the divided German labor movement, which facilitated the rise of Hitler's fascism.

German auto companies have fallen far behind in international competition, particularly against Chinese and Indian firms. **(Slide 4: Global Market Shares – Current).**

That is why German companies are particularly aggressive toward their workforces in order to maximize profits and increase global market share. Last year, they eliminated over 50,000 jobs.

The intensification of imperialist competition heightens the danger of a world war. Governments are pushing for a shift to a war economy, arguing that the defense of their own country is necessary.

But this is not about defense; rather, it is about the ruthless interests of German imperialism in expanding its spheres of power and influence. We advocate for the labor movement to take the lead in the struggle against the threat of war, environmental catastrophe, and fascism. To fund rearmament, they are cutting back on social gains and intensifying the exploitation of workers and the masses. This particularly affects temporary workers, who are barely able to support a family on their wages.

In the factories of auto and supplier companies, workers' resistance to mass job cuts is growing. **(Slide 5: Strike at Ford).**

The corporations are accelerating the relocation of production to Eastern Europe, Asia, and now America. This poses a challenge to us workers and our families. The willingness to strike and engage in militant actions has increased; the path the German labor movement takes is a daily, intense struggle over ideology.

There are two paths: class collaboration and co-management with the motto "my country, my company first." This path divides us workers and serves the capitalists. Militant colleagues advocate the path of turning our union into a fighting organization. We are a defining factor in union struggles and strengthen the anti-capitalist direction.

We are glad that there is a Marxist-Leninist party in Germany, the MLPD, which fights for a way out of capitalism and supports us in our struggles with all its expertise. We criticize the fact that Marxist-Leninists can be expelled from IG Metall because of their worldview and

defend the anti-fascist foundation of the united trade union. We hereby strongly protest the fact that the chairwoman of the MLPD, Gabi Fechtner, was denied a visa for India for what appear to be anti-communist motives. We organize solidarity groups with colleagues against increasing repression, political dismissals of militant colleagues, and union busting. We advocate for the unity of the struggle for jobs and environmental protection and collaborate with environmentalists. **(Slide 6: Button “30-hour workweek, against temporary workers” – planned)**

We have learned from the 10-year struggle of our Opel colleagues for the Bochum plant that it is crucial to build international solidarity and to strike independently and decisively at the right moment.

The government is moving further and further to the right on behalf of the monopolies, like many governments worldwide. The real danger of a fascist government is also growing in Germany. The AfD party, which supports Trump, is paving the way for fascism and has gained influence among workers. These are modern fascists who want to smash the unions and strive for a fascist dictatorship. There have been millions of protests against this, with participation from workplaces. **(Slide 7: Antifa protests)**

The struggle against the government’s right-ward development and against fascism is becoming a central focus of our work. The struggle for solidarity with Gaza has politicized us.

We come from the country of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. In their most famous work, \*The Communist Manifesto\*, they wrote: “Workers of the world, unite!”

In this spirit, here’s to a successful conference