



EN DETAILED ANALYSIS

2024-07-10 Der Talk vom 10. Juli

Programme: Markus Lanz | 2024-07-10 | Analysed on: 2026-03-12 18:12

Version 2.1-detail | Konverter 3.3 (2026-05-14) | Masstab: §26 MStV

OVERALL SCORE

6.3/10

Serious deviation from the balance requirement. High degree of deviation

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly one-sided/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification according to Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

Party	Linke	Greens	SPD	BSW	CDU/CSU	FDP	Freie W.	AfD
CHES	1.23	2.28	3.41	3.78	6.23	6.54	6.77	9.10
Spectrum	Left	Left	Left	Left	Right	Right	Right	Right

The overall tendency is shown on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favouring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favouring). The calculation is based on the difference in the average favouring of left vs. right parties (grouping according to CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

6.4 / 10

Right-favouring

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Thresholds: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section serves for political classification and does not feed into the overall score.

PROGRAMME INFO AND THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Programme data

- Date: 10.07.2024
- Presenter: Markus Lanz
- Guests:



Schweizerischer Verein für ausgewogene Berichterstattung
Association suisse pour une information équilibrée
Associazione svizzera per un reporting equilibrato

Actors	Function	Party/Affiliation	Political spectrum
Lars Bökenkröger	Mayor of Bad Oeynhausen	CDU	Centre-right / conservative
Eva Quadbeck	Editor-in-chief, Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland (RND)	Journalist (non-partisan)	Liberal-bourgeois centre
Christian Dürr	FDP parliamentary group leader in the Bundestag	FDP	Liberal / centre-right
Thomas Walde	ZDF France correspondent (remote link)	ZDF journalist	Non-partisan

Main topic

The programme uses the violent death of school-leaver Philippos T. in Bad Oeynhausen at the hands of a Syrian suspect known to police as the starting point for a debate about migrant-influenced youth violence, the failure of the rule of law and migration policy — framed by an opening segment on the French election and a side glance at FDP tax policy for skilled workers.



CHAPTER 1 — DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Hard facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically robust

1. EXPERT SELECTION

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Expert 1: Lars Bökenkröger (CDU mayor)

Timestamp

throughout — Statement: "We need to become more consistent in all situations. We are too liberal, far too pedagogical in our approach far too often." — Classification: Bökenkröger is an important voice as someone directly affected, but represents a clearly conservative position focused on toughness and consistency. — Missing countervoice: No social worker, no youth welfare expert, no criminologist who could contextualise the effectiveness of prevention vs. punishment.

Expert 2: Eva Quadbeck (RND editor-in-chief)

Timestamp

throughout — Statement: "The only response there can be is tough punishment." / "That is the helplessness I mean." — Classification: Quadbeck is introduced as a journalistic observer, but consistently takes a position congruent with that of Bökenkröger and Dürr: more toughness, more consistency, criticism of Faeser/SPD. — Missing countervoice: No journalist or commentator representing a different perspective (e.g. focus on prevention, structural problems in the justice system, differentiation of crime statistics).

Expert 3: Christian Dürr (FDP parliamentary group leader)

Timestamp

throughout — Statement: "I expect my own federal government to make deportations to Afghanistan and Syria possible." — Classification: Dürr as a government politician plays a dual role — he criticises the migration policy for which he himself bears co-responsibility, while simultaneously positioning himself as a reformer. — Missing countervoice: No SPD or Greens representative to defend government policy or challenge the FDP position.

Expert 4: Thomas Walde (ZDF correspondent, remote link)

Timestamp

approx. 03:00–12:00 — Statement: Contextualisation of the French election — Classification: Journalistic contextualisation, largely factual. — Missing countervoice: Not required for journalistic contextualisation, however the assessment "I don't consider it entirely unproblematic" regarding the republican front is a personal value judgement.



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Missing expert groups:

- Criminologist/social scientist
- Representative of the judiciary (judge, public prosecutor)
- Police union
- Social worker/street worker
- Migrant representative
- SPD or Greens politician

Summary: The choice of guests creates a massive imbalance. All three studio guests fundamentally represent the same position: more toughness, more consistency, criticism of the previous (particularly SPD-shaped) migration policy. Any countervoice is absent — neither scientific, nor political (SPD/Greens), nor from practice (social work, justice). This is the most serious finding of the entire analysis.



2. SOURCE SELECTION

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Claims without primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Source 1: Timestamp: approx. 23:00 — Source: Clip of Nancy Faeser (SPD, Federal Interior Minister) — Classification: The only SPD voice in the programme, via clip, with no opportunity to respond to criticism. — Missing countersource: No SPD politician in the studio who could explain or defend Faeser's position.

Source 2: Timestamp: approx. 38:00 — Source: Clip of Armin Schuster (CDU, Interior Minister of Saxony) — Classification: Schuster represents a decidedly conservative, migration-critical position. His clip reinforces the programme's narrative. — Missing countersource: No clip of an interior minister representing a different perspective (e.g. Boris Pistorius's earlier position as Lower Saxony's interior minister, or a Greens interior minister).

Source 3: Timestamp: approx. 30:00 — Source: Christian Althoff, Westfalenblatt / Neue Westfälische — Classification: Journalistic research into the perpetrator's background. Factually correct, but the selection of this source (focus on judicial failure) reinforces the narrative. — Missing countersource: No source explaining the legal reasons for the discontinuation of proceedings.

Source 4: Timestamp: approx. 48:00 — Source: Harald Martenstein, Die Welt — Classification: Lanz quotes Martenstein's thought experiment ("One should imagine it were the other way around. Three right-wing radicals from Brandenburg kill a young refugee from Syria.") — Missing countersource: No counter-commentary pointing out that such cases (e.g. Hanau 2020) did indeed trigger massive social debates.

Summary: The source selection is one-sided. Clips and quotes come exclusively from people who support the programme's narrative (Faeser as a negative example, Schuster as confirmation, Martenstein as intellectual framing). Countervoices are entirely absent.



3. TIME DISTRIBUTION									6/10
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Estimated speaking time (based on transcript analysis):

- Thomas Walde (remote link France): (20%) — thematically separate block
- Christian Dürri (FDP): (30%) — dominant share of conversation in the main section
- Lars Bökenkröger (CDU): (24%) — second highest share
- Eva Quadbeck (RND): (12%) — significantly less speaking time
- Markus Lanz (moderation): (14%) — questions, transitions, contextualisation

Summary: Christian Dürri, as the only federal politician, receives the largest share of speaking time in the main section of the programme and thus the most opportunity to present his and the FDP's position. Eva Quadbeck, as the only journalist who occasionally raises critical objections, receives significantly less space. The absence of an SPD or Greens representative massively amplifies the asymmetry.



4. OMISSION (Selective Omission)

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Omission 1: Context: The Police Crime Statistics (PKS) 2023 show differentiated data on suspects with and without a migration background, including the fact that the increase is partly attributable to changed recording methods and the increased population size. — Relevant at: approx. 20:00–25:00, when "migrant-influenced youth violence" is discussed — Effect: Without this contextualisation, the impression is created that crime by migrants has risen uncontrollably, without contextual factors (age structure, socioeconomic status, recording changes) being named.

Omission 2: Context: The question of why the Pforzheim public prosecutor's office discontinued all proceedings may have legal reasons (juvenile criminal law, proportionality, state of evidence) that are not even remotely discussed in the programme. — Relevant at: approx. 30:00–32:00, when the perpetrator's background is listed — Effect: The listing of offences without any legal contextualisation creates the impression of pure arbitrariness or negligence on the part of the judiciary, even though there may be legal reasons for discontinuations (e.g. §§ 153, 153a StPO, § 45 JGG).

Omission 3: Context: The question of whether deportations to Syria and Afghanistan are legally and practically possible (Geneva Refugee Convention, ECHR Art. 3, absence of diplomatic relations) is demanded by Dürr but not contextualised. — Relevant at: approx. 47:00 — Effect: The demand stands as a simple solution without the considerable legal and practical hurdles being named.

Omission 4: Context: Successful prevention programmes (e.g. "Kurve kriegen" in NRW, youth court assistance, anti-violence training) are not mentioned. — Relevant at: entire programme — Effect: The impression is created that there is only the alternative between "too pedagogical" and "tough punishment", even though evidence-based prevention programmes exist and demonstrably work.

Summary: The programme systematically omits contextual information that would differentiate the narrative of "toothless state vs. migrant violence". In particular, legal contextualisation, criminological data and information about functioning prevention approaches are missing.

Missing voices

- Public prosecutor/judge/judicial representative: Could have explained why proceedings were discontinued, what legal hurdles exist in juvenile criminal law and what is structurally lacking.
- Police union representative (e.g. GdP, DPoIG): Could have brought in the perspective of officers on the ground — overload, lack of resources, frustration over discontinued proceedings.
- Criminologist/social scientist: Could have contextualised empirical data on youth violence, migration background and crime statistics, rather than leaving claims unchecked.
- Social worker/street worker/youth welfare: Could have reported from practice on what prevention can achieve and where it fails.
- Representatives of migrant associations (e.g. Turkish Community, Syrian Association): Could have brought in the internal perspective of integrated migrants and addressed the risk of stigmatisation.



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- SPD or Greens politician: Could have defended or explained government policy, rather than Nancy Faeser being only shown via clip and then criticised.
- Victim protection organisation (e.g. Weißer Ring): Could have systematically brought in the perspective of victims and their families.
- Teacher/headteacher from the affected region: Could have reported concretely on violence in schools, integration problems in the classroom and lack of resources.



5. MANIPULATION OF FIGURES

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Complete figures include: absolute value, share (%) and trend

Finding 1: Timestamp: approx. 16:00 — Figure Dürr: "In November 2023 we had just under 35,000 asylum applications in Germany [...] and now in June 2024 just over 16,000." — Missing context: November is traditionally a peak month for asylum applications, June a low month. The November–June comparison is methodologically questionable. A fair comparison would be June 2023 vs. June 2024. Furthermore, first applications and subsequent applications are not differentiated. — Effect: The figure suggests a halving of migration as a success of the coalition government's policy, without the seasonal distortion being named. Lanz does not question the figure.

Finding 2: Timestamp: approx. 38:00 — Quote Schuster (clip): "We clearly have too many perpetrators of asylum-migrant origin." — Missing context: No absolute figure, no comparison with the population share, no differentiation by type of offence, no contextualisation by age structure and socioeconomic status. — Effect: The statement stands as a fact without any statistical contextualisation.

Summary: Figures are used selectively and without methodological contextualisation in the programme. Dürr's comparison of asylum figures is methodologically questionable but is not challenged. Schuster's sweeping statement remains without a statistical basis.



6. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

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Association 1: Timestamp: approx. 23:00–24:00 — Quote Faeser clip: "A young person who knows nothing else. And I believe that we need to talk much more about this form of failed social integration." — Technique: Faeser's statement is played immediately after the description of the act, making it appear as a trivialisation or excuse for the act. — Effect: Faeser is associatively linked to a position that excuses the perpetrator, even though she is speaking about structural problems.

Association 2: Timestamp: approx. 48:00 — Quote Dürr: "Always afraid that the right-wing radicals will use it to cook their soup. Only, if you don't verbalise it yourself [...] then, of course, the right-wing radicals have an easy game with it." — Technique: Implicit association: whoever does not speak as openly as the FDP is playing into the hands of the right-wing radicals. — Effect: Political opponents (SPD, Greens) who formulate more carefully are indirectly portrayed as enablers of the AfD.

Summary: Guilt by association is not the dominant technique of this programme, but the use of the clip with Faeser and the implicit attribution "whoever doesn't speak tough enough helps the right" are recognisable techniques.



7. TIMING

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Finding 1: Position: approx. 23:00–24:00 — Content: Faeser clip immediately after emotional description of the act — Timing effect: The clip is placed so that Faeser's words about "failed social integration" appear as an inadequate response to the act of violence just described. The emotional charge from the description of the act transfers to the assessment of Faeser's statement.

Finding 2: Position: approx. 47:00–48:00 — Content: Dürr's closing statement: "I expect my own federal government to make deportations to Afghanistan and Syria possible [...] the liberal society is being called into question." — Timing effect: The last word of the programme belongs to Dürr with a strong, emotional demand. The primacy-recency effect ensures that this message sticks particularly well. Lanz's closing sentence "Then we will have to measure you by your actions" reinforces Dürr's position as a man of action.

Finding 3: Position: approx. 00:00–12:00 — Content: France block — Timing effect: The France block serves as a warm-up phase and transition to the FDP. The transition "Slammed doors. People who suddenly don't want to. As if by coincidence, the FDP is sitting here today?" is humorous, but immediately positions Dürr as a relevant actor.

Summary: The timing of the programme favours the FDP position through the closing statement and disadvantages Faeser/SPD through the placement of the clip immediately after the emotional description of the act.



8. SELECTIVE OUTRAGE

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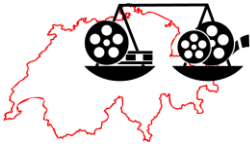
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Outrage = bias. Selective outrage reinforces the finding. Score = degree of outrage (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Finding 1: Timestamp: approx. 46:00–48:00 — Reaction Lanz: "What has shaken me is, so to speak, almost the indifference with which we move on to the order of the day after Bad Oeynhausen [...] Where is the Federal Chancellor who addresses this? Where is the Federal President?" — Comparable without outrage: The question of why the FDP as a governing party has not changed the conditions it itself criticises since 2021 is not posed with comparable outrage. Dürr's reference to state governments is accepted. — Asymmetry: The outrage is directed at the absence of reactions (implicitly: SPD chancellor, SPD-led government), not at the absence of action by the FDP in government.

Finding 2: Timestamp: approx. 47:00 — Reaction Lanz (Martenstein quote): "We spent weeks discussing Sylt, but at this point..." — Comparable without outrage: The comparison Sylt (racist chants) vs. Bad Oeynhausen (homicide) is a classic technique of selective outrage, suggesting that society is outraged about the wrong thing. — Asymmetry: The outrage about Sylt was justified; the outrage about Bad Oeynhausen is equally justified. However, the juxtaposition suggests that one outrage delegitimises the other.

Summary: The programme shows selective outrage directed primarily at the inaction of the SPD-led federal government, while the FDP's co-responsibility in the same government is barely addressed. The Sylt comparison is a rhetorical technique that plays different levels of outrage off against each other.



9. COMPLETENESS

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The programme operates in a field of tension between the population's legitimate need for security, the failure of state institutions in prosecuting prolific offenders and the question of whether migration policy in recent years is causally responsible for security problems. The social context is shaped by a series of high-profile acts of violence (Mannheim, Bad Oeynhausen), falling poll ratings for the coalition parties and growing support for the AfD. At the same time, there is a risk that a one-sided debate promotes blanket stigmatisation of migrants and obscures structural causes (judicial resources, municipal underfunding, education policy). The programme falls in a phase in which the coalition government is under massive pressure and the FDP is attempting to profile itself as a party of law and order.

Share of perspectives covered

Inverted: original value measures coverage (higher = better). Displayed as deviation (higher = greater gaps).

- [A] Perspective of the victim's family and victim protection organisations
- [B] Perspective of the municipal level (mayors, district administrators) on overload and limits of action
- [C] Perspective of law enforcement authorities (public prosecutor's office, judges, police union) on the question of why proceedings are discontinued
- [D] Perspective of migrant associations and well-integrated migrants
- [E] Perspective of social work, youth welfare and violence prevention
- [F] Perspective of criminology/science on the causes of youth violence and the effectiveness of measures
- [G] Perspective of the opposition (CDU/CSU at federal level, AfD, BSW, Linke) on the coalition's migration policy
- [H] Perspective of the governing coalition beyond the FDP (SPD, Greens) in defence/explanation of their policy
- [I] Perspective of data protection and civil liberties regarding video surveillance
- [J] Perspective of education policy and schools on the topic of violence and integration

[A] INDICATED

Timestamp: approx. 26:00–27:00 — Quote Bökenkröger: "On Monday I also spoke again with the mother of the victim on the phone. She described it to me again..." — Assessment: The victim's perspective is conveyed exclusively through the mayor; no victim protection association, no family lawyer, no independent voice of those affected.

[B] ADDRESSED

Timestamp: throughout approx. 20:00–50:00 — Quote Bökenkröger: "We municipalities have to take in refugees. We have reached capacity limits." — Assessment: Central perspective of the programme, extensively represented by the mayor.

[C] OMITTED

Timestamp: — — Quote: — — Assessment: Although the discontinuation of all proceedings by the Karlsruhe/Pforzheim public prosecutor's office is a core problem of the programme, no representative of the judiciary, no judge, no public prosecutor, no police union is heard. The question of why proceedings were discontinued remains unanswered.

[D] INDICATED

Timestamp: approx. 42:00 — Quote Bökenkröger: "And there are an enormous number of migrants here in this country who feel exactly the same way about it." — Assessment: Mentioned as a subordinate clause, but no representative of migrant associations or integrated migrants speaks for themselves.

[E] OMITTED



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Timestamp: — — Quote: — — Assessment: No social worker, no representative of youth welfare, no violence prevention expert is invited or quoted, even though the question of prevention and dealing with violence-prone young people is central.

[F] OMITTED

Timestamp: — — Quote: — — Assessment: No criminologist, no social scientist is heard. The question of whether there is a statistically demonstrable connection between migration and youth violence is asserted but not scientifically contextualised.

[G] INDICATED

Timestamp: approx. 38:00 — Clip Armin Schuster (CDU, Interior Minister of Saxony): "We clearly have too many perpetrators of asylum-migrant origin." — Assessment: The CDU position is introduced via clip but not discussed. AfD, BSW, Linke are entirely absent.

[H] OMITTED

Timestamp: — — Quote: — — Assessment: Neither an SPD nor a Greens representative is present. Nancy Faeser is only shown via clip and then criticised, with no opportunity to respond.

[I] INDICATED

Timestamp: approx. 34:00–37:00 — Quote Dürr: "You don't find the needle in the haystack better by making the haystack bigger." — Assessment: The data protection perspective is only briefly touched on as an FDP position; no data protection commissioner, no civil rights advocate speaks.

[J] INDICATED

Timestamp: approx. 43:00 — Quote Bökenkröger: "The development in schools, we notice that..." — Assessment: Mentioned as a concern, but no teacher, no headteacher, no education researcher speaks.

Completeness score: 3/10

Justification: Of ten relevant perspectives, only one (municipal level) is truly addressed in depth. Four are indicated but not substantively explored. Five central perspectives — justice/law enforcement, social work/prevention, criminology/science, SPD/Greens as governing partners, migrant associations — are entirely absent. For a programme that claims to address the Bad Oeynhausen case and the migration debate in a differentiated manner, this is a serious deficit.



Soft facts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. FRAMING (setting the frame)

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Finding 1: Timestamp: 00:00–01:30 — Quote Lanz: "Whether Germany possibly has a problem with migrant-influenced youth violence [...] why does the rule of law appear so alarmingly weak and toothless in such cases so frequently?" — Manipulation: The introduction sets the frame "migrant youth violence + toothless rule of law" as an established premise, not as an open question. The word "possibly" is immediately cancelled out by "so frequently" and "alarmingly weak and toothless". — Why problematic: The viewer is led from the outset into a narrative in which the answer is already fixed. Alternative framings (e.g. "individual case vs. structural problem", "What do crime statistics really say?", "Which prevention measures work?") are not offered.

Finding 2: Timestamp: 01:30–02:00 — Quote Lanz: "The debates after such crimes are always so incredibly helpless. And in the end the interior minister, Nancy Faeser, then talks about failed integration." — Manipulation: Framing of Faeser's position as "helpless" and inadequate before she has even had a chance to speak. The editor-in-chief of RND is introduced with a quote that delegitimises government policy. — Why problematic: The interior minister is pre-framed as part of the problem, not part of the solution. Her position is caricatured before the clip is shown.

Finding 3: Timestamp: 02:00–02:30 — Quote Lanz about Dürr: "Who in one interview says, a hell of a lot has gone wrong in migration policy in recent years. And who in another says, we need more migration into the labour market." — Manipulation: This framing presents Dürr as someone who has a "dilemma" — which makes him appear differentiated and thoughtful, not as someone who is contradictory. — Why problematic: While Faeser is framed as "helpless", Dürr is framed as "in a dilemma" — a considerably more benevolent classification for a comparable tension.

Summary: The programme is set in a frame from the outset that treats "migrant youth violence" and "toothless rule of law" as established facts and presupposes government policy (particularly SPD/Faeser) as having failed, while the FDP position is framed as a differentiated dilemma.



11. CHOICE OF WORDS AND TERMS

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Finding 1: Timestamp: 00:30 — Quote Lanz: "was beaten and mistreated so severely that he died shortly afterwards" — Manipulation: The choice of words "beaten and mistreated" is drastic and emotionally charged. Legally correct would be "fatally injured" or "beaten so severely that he died from the consequences". — Why problematic: The choice of words creates maximum emotional impact and sets the tone for the entire programme. It is not wrong, but deliberately aimed at outrage.

Finding 2: Timestamp: 00:50 — Quote Lanz: "alarming weak and toothless" — Manipulation: Evaluative adjectives that present an assessment of the rule of law as fact. — Why problematic: A presenter of public broadcasting should leave assessments to guests or identify them as personal opinion.

Finding 3: Timestamp: approx. 25:00 — Quote Quadbeck: "If it then doesn't work out, I don't think that's down to society. Then you have to look at this young person and say, something has obviously gone wrong there. And the only response there can be is tough punishment." — Manipulation: The formulation "the only response there can be is tough punishment" narrows the options for action to a single one (punishment) and excludes prevention, therapy, probation assistance etc. — Why problematic: As editor-in-chief of a major media organisation, this statement carries weight; Lanz lets it stand unchallenged.

Finding 4: Timestamp: approx. 44:00 — Quote Bökenkröger: "We are too liberal, far too pedagogical in our approach far too often." — Manipulation: "Liberal" and "pedagogical" are used as negative terms, as a weakness of the rule of law. — Why problematic: This reinterpretation of fundamental values (liberality, pedagogy) as weaknesses goes unchallenged and uncontextualised.

Summary: The choice of words throughout the programme is emotionally charged and evaluative. Terms such as "toothless", "helpless", "too liberal, too pedagogical" set an interpretation that marks the rule of law as weak and previous policy as having failed, without alternative assessments being offered.



12. MODERATION BEHAVIOUR

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Lanz is known for provocative follow-up questions — the asymmetric challenge is particularly striking here.

Finding 1: Timestamp: approx. 14:00–16:00 — Quote Lanz to Dürr: "A hell of a lot has gone wrong in migration policy. Your quote [...] What have you been doing better since 2021?" — Analysis: The question is justified, but Lanz lets Dürr answer at length and does not interrupt when he responds with figures (35,000 to 16,000 asylum applications) without questioning or contextualising these figures. By comparison: Nancy Faeser is presented via clip and then criticised by all guests, with no opportunity to respond.

Finding 2: Timestamp: approx. 32:00–34:00 — Quote Lanz to Quadbeck, who criticises Dürr: "Yes, Ms Quadbeck..." — Analysis: When Quadbeck directly attacks Dürr ("it's a bit cute that you're now presenting yourself here as the one who wants a strong state"), Lanz immediately lets Dürr respond at length and then steers the conversation towards video surveillance — a topic on which Dürr can profile himself. The criticism of the FDP is not pursued further.

Finding 3: Timestamp: approx. 22:00–24:00 — Quote Lanz: "How did you find the statements of Federal Interior Minister Nancy Faeser in that context?" — Analysis: Lanz poses a question that invites Bökenkröger to criticise Faeser. The question is not neutrally formulated ("How did you find" already implies that there is something to object to). Comparable critical questions to Dürr about FDP responsibility in the coalition are largely absent.

Finding 4: Timestamp: approx. 48:00 — Quote Lanz: "Then we will have to measure you by your actions, Mr Dürr." — Analysis: This closing sentence sounds like a critical announcement, but is in reality a friendly farewell that positions Dürr as a man of action who has announced deeds. It is not a genuine follow-up question, but a rhetorical conclusion.

Summary: Lanz moderates asymmetrically. Nancy Faeser (SPD) is presented via clip and criticised by all guests, with no opportunity to respond. Christian Dürr (FDP) is given ample space to present his position, is only superficially challenged and is allowed to position himself as a reformer. The few critical follow-up questions to Dürr are not pursued further.



13. QUESTION ASYMMETRY

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Asymmetry 1: To Bökenkröger, approx. 22:00: "How did you find the statements of Federal Interior Minister Nancy Faeser in that context?" [invitingly critical towards Faeser] — To Dürr, approx. 14:00: "What have you been doing better since 2021?" [factual, open, enables self-presentation]

Asymmetry 2: To Dürr, approx. 17:00: "Again the question to you, Mr Dürr. Why does this rule of law appear so incredibly toothless at that point?" [harshly formulated, but Dürr can refer to state governments] — To Faeser (via clip, no follow-up possible): clip is shown, then criticised by three guests.

Asymmetry 3: To Quadbeck, approx. 32:00: Quadbeck criticises Dürr directly ("a bit cute") — Lanz does not pursue this criticism further, but redirects to video surveillance, where Dürr can profile himself.

Asymmetry 4: To Dürr, approx. 47:00: "I expect my own federal government to make deportations to Afghanistan and Syria possible." — Lanz does not follow up: "Why has your government then not implemented that? What specifically prevents you?" Instead: "Then we will have to measure you by your actions" — a friendly conclusion.

Summary: The questions to Dürr are predominantly open and enable self-presentation. Critical follow-up questions are not pursued. Faeser is presented via clip and cannot defend herself. The question asymmetry systematically favours the FDP position and disadvantages the SPD position.



14. FALSE BALANCE

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Finding 1: In this programme the problem does not lie with false balance (artificial equalisation of unequal positions), but with the opposite: there is no balance at all. All guests fundamentally represent the same position. A false balance situation would arise if, for example, a representative of the position "migration is not a problem" were placed on an equal footing alongside the majority position. This does not happen here, because the opposing position is simply absent.

Summary: False balance is not a relevant problem of this programme. The problem is the absence of any balance — a one-sided choice of guests that does not enable a controversial debate but reinforces a shared narrative.



15. AGENDA-SETTING

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Finding 1: Agenda item set: "The rule of law is failing in the face of migrant youth violence" — Timestamp: 00:00–01:30 (introduction) — Evidence: "Why does the rule of law appear so frequently alarmingly weak and toothless in such cases?" — Alternative: The agenda could also have been: "What do we know about the causes of youth violence and which measures demonstrably work?" or "How must the judiciary be equipped to reach decisions more quickly?"

Finding 2: Agenda item set: "Deportations to Syria and Afghanistan as a solution" — Timestamp: approx. 47:00 — Evidence: Dürr: "I expect my own federal government to make deportations to Afghanistan and Syria possible." — Alternative: The legal and practical hurdles of this demand could have been addressed. Instead it stands unchallenged.

Finding 3: Agenda item set: "Faeser/SPD as a symbol of failure" — Timestamp: approx. 23:00–25:00 — Evidence: clip + criticism from all guests — Alternative: The agenda could also have included the question of what the FDP as a governing party has specifically blocked or enabled.

Summary: The programme sets a clear agenda: migrant violence + state failure + Faeser/SPD as the culprits + FDP as a reforming force. Alternative agendas (prevention, judicial resources, scientific contextualisation) are not set.



CHAPTER 2 — OVERALL EVALUATION

Results

Dominant techniques

- 1. Expert selection (score 8):** The most serious manipulation of this programme is the choice of guests. All three studio guests (CDU mayor, RND editor-in-chief, FDP parliamentary group leader) fundamentally represent the same position — more toughness, more consistency, criticism of SPD/Faeser. Any countervoice is absent: no scientist, no judicial representative, no SPD/Greens politician, no social worker, no migrant representative.
- 2. Omission / Selective Omission (score 8):** Information that would differentiate the narrative is systematically omitted — legal reasons for discontinuation of proceedings, criminological data, prevention successes, legal hurdles for deportations. The result is a debate that knows only one course of action: more toughness.
- 3. Framing + Agenda-Setting (score 7/7):** From the introduction to the closing statement, a closed narrative is constructed: migrant violence → toothless state → Faeser/SPD fails → FDP demands consequences. Alternative framings are not offered.

Justification: The programme shows a clear one-sidedness that stems primarily from the choice of guests and the systematic omission of opposing perspectives. This is not a "systematic bias" in the sense of deliberate disinformation — the facts presented are largely correct, and the outrage over the Bad Oeynhausen case is justified. However, the programme violates the principle of balance under §26 MStV by narrowing a complex social debate to a single narrative and allowing no voice to be heard that substantively challenges this narrative. The FDP, as a governing party that bears co-responsibility for the conditions being criticised, is conspicuously spared.

CONCLUSION

The programme from approximately 8–10 July 2024 addresses the Bad Oeynhausen case, a topic of high social relevance that deserves intensive public debate. However, the journalistic treatment suffers from a serious structural one-sidedness: all studio guests fundamentally represent the same position, central opposing perspectives (science, judiciary, social work, SPD/Greens, migrant associations) are entirely absent, and the moderation reinforces this imbalance through asymmetric questioning technique and selective outrage. Particularly problematic is the fact that the FDP, as a governing party that has co-borne responsibility for the conditions being criticised since 2021, is given a platform for self-presentation as a reforming force, while the SPD interior minister is only presented via clip and then criticised by all guests, with no opportunity to respond. This contradicts the requirement of balance and diversity of opinion under §26 MStV and the public service mandate of ZDF, which requires comprehensive, fair reporting that takes into account all essential perspectives.

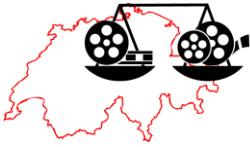


CHAPTER 3 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

Party	Score (-5..+5)	Concrete evidence
CDU/CSU	+2	approx. 38:00 Schuster clip confirms narrative; Bökenkröger (CDU) as sympathetic, concerned mayor; approx. 39:00 "Yes, explicitly." — CDU position is presented as reasonable and practical.
SPD	-4	approx. 23:00 Faeser clip as negative example; approx. 24:00 Bökenkröger: "Has already caused considerable irritation"; approx. 46:00 Lanz: "Where is the Federal Chancellor?"; approx. 13:00 reference to Esken as an example of denial of reality. No SPD representative in the studio.
Greens	-2	approx. 16:00 Dürr: "also painfully supported by SPD and Greens"; implicitly portrayed as a brake on security policy; no Greens representative in the studio.
FDP	+4	approx. 14:00–17:00 Dürr is allowed to present achievements at length; approx. 17:00 payment card as FDP success; approx. 33:00 Dürr as advocate of video surveillance at hotspots; approx. 47:00 closing statement with demand for deportations; Lanz: "Then we will measure you by your actions" — friendly conclusion.
AfD	-1	approx. 42:00 Bökenkröger: "voting AfD in some cases" — mentioned as a warning signal; approx. 48:00 Dürr: "right-wing radicals" as beneficiaries — AfD is named as a danger but not invited as a discussion partner. Neither positively nor substantively negatively treated.
BSW	0	Not mentioned.
Linke	0	Not mentioned.
Freie Wähler	0	Not mentioned.

Party bias summary

- Most favoured: FDP, score +4 — Christian Dürr is given a platform for self-presentation as a reformer and law-and-order politician, is barely critically challenged and is allowed to deliver the closing statement.
- Most disadvantaged: SPD, score -4 — Nancy Faeser is presented via clip and criticised by all guests, with no opportunity to respond. The Federal Chancellor is criticised for his silence. Saskia Esken is cited as a negative example of denial of reality. No SPD representative in the studio.
- Conclusion: The programme shows a considerable party-political bias in favour of the FDP and at the expense of the SPD. This is particularly problematic because both parties belong to the same governing coalition and bear co-responsibility for the same policy. The FDP is positioned as a reforming force within a failing coalition, while the SPD is portrayed as the main party responsible for the failure. The CDU benefits as an opposition party from the criticism of the coalition without itself being critically challenged (e.g. regarding the Merkel era, which Dürr himself names as a cause).



CHAPTER 4 — LEGAL CLASSIFICATION (§26 MStV / ZDF State Treaty)

Assessment under §26 MStV

Violation 1: Insufficient diversity of opinion in the choice of guests

Norm: §26 para. 1 MStV in conjunction with §5 para. 1 ZDF State Treaty — Facts: The programme addresses a highly political, socially controversial topic (migration policy, internal security, rule of law) with a choice of guests that contains no substantive opposing perspective. All three studio guests fundamentally represent the same position. The SPD as the largest governing party and the Greens as coalition partners are not represented. Scientific, legal and civil society perspectives are absent. — Evidence: Entire programme; in particular the absence of any countervoice to the positions of Dürr, Bökenkröger and Quadbeck. — Assessment: This constitutes a violation of the requirement of diversity of opinion. §26 para. 1 MStV requires that the significant political, ideological and social forces and groups are given adequate opportunity to speak. A programme in which all guests represent the same position does not fulfil this requirement.

Violation 2: Asymmetric treatment of political actors

Norm: §26 para. 1 MStV, §5 para. 1 ZDF State Treaty (requirement of impartiality) — Facts: The SPD Federal Interior Minister is shown via clip and subsequently criticised by all guests, with no opportunity to respond. The FDP parliamentary group leader is given a platform for self-presentation and is only superficially challenged. — Evidence: approx. 23:00–25:00 (Faeser clip + criticism) vs. approx. 14:00–17:00 and 47:00–48:00 (Dürr self-presentation + friendly conclusion) — Assessment: The asymmetric treatment of representatives of two governing parties in the same programme violates the requirement of impartiality. If a party is criticised, it must be given the opportunity to respond — either through a representative in the studio or through fair contextualisation by the presenter.

Violation 3: Incomplete presentation of a complex matter

Norm: §5 para. 1 ZDF State Treaty (duty of comprehensive information) — Facts: The programme addresses the question of why the alleged perpetrator was not convicted despite numerous offences, without legal contextualisation (juvenile criminal law, discontinuation of proceedings under §§ 153, 153a StPO, § 45 JGG). The demand for deportations to Syria and Afghanistan is made without presenting the legal hurdles (GRC, ECHR Art. 3). — Evidence: approx. 28:00–32:00 (catalogue of offences without legal contextualisation); approx. 47:00 (deportation demand without legal contextualisation) — Assessment: The duty of comprehensive information requires that complex matters be presented in such a way that viewers can form their own judgement. The systematic omission of contextual information prevents this.

Overall assessment §26 MStV

The programme shows violations of the requirements of §26 MStV and the ZDF State Treaty in three areas: insufficient diversity of opinion in the choice of guests, asymmetric treatment of political actors and incomplete presentation of complex matters. §26 MStV obliges public broadcasting to observe the principles of objectivity and impartiality in reporting, diversity of opinion and balance of content. The ZDF State Treaty specifies this in §5 para. 1 through the duty to provide a comprehensive overview of international, European, national and regional events in all essential areas of life and thereby to promote cohesion in unified Germany and to respect the free democratic basic order. The present programme does not fulfil these requirements to a sufficient degree. It is the task of the ZDF Television Council as the competent supervisory body to monitor compliance with these programme principles and, where necessary, to work towards a more balanced design of comparable programmes. It should be noted that balance need not be achieved in every individual programme but can be established across the overall programme — however, this presupposes that comparable programmes with complementary perspectives are broadcast in a timely manner.



OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual scores — All 15 criteria

No.	Criterion	Score	Classification
1	EXPERT SELECTION	8	••••
2	SOURCE SELECTION	7	••••
3	TIME DISTRIBUTION	6	•••
4	OMISSION (Selective Omission)	8	••••
5	MANIPULATION OF FIGURES	5	•••
6	GUILT BY ASSOCIATION	4	••
7	TIMING	5	•••
8	SELECTIVE OUTRAGE	7	••••
9	COMPLETENESS	7	••••
10	FRAMING (setting the frame)	7	••••
11	CHOICE OF WORDS AND TERMS	6	•••
12	MODERATION BEHAVIOUR	7	••••
13	QUESTION ASYMMETRY	7	••••
14	FALSE BALANCE	3	••
15	AGENDA-SETTING	7	••••

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

6.3/10

Serious deviation from the balance requirement. High degree of deviation

SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

6.2/10

Serious deviation from the balance requirement. High degree of deviation

OVERALL SCORE

6.3/10

Serious deviation from the balance requirement. High degree of deviation

Averaged from hard facts and soft facts



KEY — Meaning of scores

Individual scores per criterion (0–10)

0	No finding	No relevant irregularity identified.
1–2	Weak finding	Minor irregularity without material impairment of balance.
3–4	Slight to moderate finding	Recognisable tendency; relevance of impact low to moderate.
5	Moderate finding with relevance of impact	Relevant imbalance that influences the opinion-forming potential of the audience.
6	Considerable finding (threshold)	Scores from 6 onwards are reported as "considerable findings".
7	Considerable finding	Clear, well-documented imbalance with marked relevance of impact.
8–9	Serious finding	Pronounced imbalance; several documented individual findings in this criterion.
10	Maximum expression	Systematic, pervasive imbalance in this criterion.

Aggregated deviation index — interpretation ranges

0.0 – 2.5	Unremarkable	No material patterns discernible; programme meets the factual accuracy requirement.
2.6 – 4.0	Slight imbalance	Isolated irregularities; statistically visible but still within the tolerance range.
4.1 – 6.0	Considerable imbalance	Several considerable findings; relevant impairment of diversity of perspectives.
6.1 – 8.0	Serious deviation from the balance requirement. High degree of deviation	Pronounced, programme-wide patterns; high relevance of impact.
8.1 – 10	Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high degree of bias	Maximum expression across almost all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting.

Party-political bias (-5 to +5)

-5 to -3	Strongly disadvantaged	Party is clearly treated worse in presentation, speaking time or framing.
-2 to -1	Slightly disadvantaged	Recognisable but weak disadvantage.
0	Neutral	No discernible preference or disadvantage.
+1 to +2	Slightly favoured	Recognisable but weak preference.
+3 to +5	Strongly favoured	Party is clearly preferred in presentation, speaking time or framing.



Legal and methodological classification

No finding of fact	The results presented do not constitute findings of fact about individual persons, editorial teams or programmes. They are to be understood as the result of a standardised operationalisation, not as a determination of individual responsibility.
No legal ruling	The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment within the meaning of §26 MStV. The determination of whether a specific programme violates statutory requirements is the exclusive responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular media regulators).
No proof of causality	Statistical correlations are not to be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intentions. Deviation values may be influenced by topic selection, news situation, political controversy or format logic.
No judgement of intent	The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of programmes. A score of 7 means that a considerable imbalance has been identified — not that the editorial team intended this. The methodology makes no statements about motives or strategic objectives.
Heuristic comparison instrument	The index serves for comparative pattern recognition across thousands of programmes, not for the precise metric measurement of individual contributions. Threshold values serve as heuristic orientation, not as sharp legal qualification.



APPENDIX: CANTONAL LEGISLATION

Legal basis Germany — ARD, ZDF

Law

Media State Treaty (MStV, 2020)

Relevant articles

- §26 para. 1 MStV: Public broadcasting institutions shall provide in their content a comprehensive overview of international, European, national and regional events in all essential areas of life. They shall thereby promote international understanding, European integration and social cohesion in the Federation and the Länder. Their content shall serve education, information, advice and entertainment. They shall offer contributions in particular to culture. Entertainment shall correspond to a public broadcasting content profile.
- §5 para. 1 ZDF State Treaty: Obligation to objectivity and impartiality in reporting, consideration of diversity of opinion.
- ARD State Treaty: Public service mandate with objectivity and impartiality.

Core duties

- 1. Diversity of opinion (internal pluralism):** All relevant perspectives must be represented in the overall programme
- 2. Objectivity and balance:** Presenters must treat guests to the same standards
- 3. Contribution to opinion formation:** Audience must receive sufficient information for independent opinion formation

Supervisory authority

- Broadcasting councils of the state broadcasting institutions: supervision of ARD institutions (BR, WDR, NDR, etc.)
- ZDF Television Council (§19 ZDF State Treaty): supervision of ZDF programme
- Legal supervision: respective federal state (ZDF: Rhineland-Palatinate)

Complaints procedure

1. Programme complaint to the competent broadcasting council or ZDF Television Council
2. Administrative court action



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS

Literature

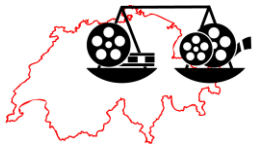
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You think you see the world. In reality you see the frame that someone has placed around it. Framing is the oldest and most elegant manipulation technique in the world. It does not change the facts — it changes what we make of the facts. How we feel. What we believe. How we decide. And it works — because we all participate. Daily. Unconsciously. You too. This book is not a dry textbook. It is a workbook — playful, direct, full of examples from real life. You learn not only how others frame you. You learn how you yourself frame — and how you can use it consciously and fairly.

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With many exercises and concrete examples from politics, media and everyday life — and the occasional smile.

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Only: it is not independent. It has no sanctioning powers. And in 99.6% of all cases it decides: nothing.

This analysis lays bare the system — factually, precisely, without polemic. Procedures, personnel, powers, costs, statistics, legal recourse. And the constitutional law review that shows: the IGAC system meets none of the three fundamental criteria — it is not adequate, not based on separation of powers, not market-based. The authority that is supposed to protect citizens primarily protects the system it was supposed to control.

Essential reading for everyone considering a complaint — and for everyone who wants to understand why genuine media regulation in Switzerland is still outstanding.