



British German Forum: working together at home and abroad post Covid (WP3147)

3 - 5 July 2023

Wilton Park, Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3DZ



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Mon
03
Jul

00:00

The aim of the Forum, throughout its 38-year history, has been to deepen bilateral relations between Britain and Germany, by inviting future leaders from both countries to engage in new dialogues and build partnerships.

The 2023 British German Forum will take place at a unique juncture characterised by geopolitical uncertainty and rising national economic challenges within both countries. Taking Russia's unjust invasion of Ukraine as a starting point, the dialogues will focus on three key areas: (i) future security strategies, (ii) energy security, and (iii) information environments and challenges.

The 2023 Forum will provide a space for participants to look at how to respond to these challenges and opportunities and explore the following critical questions:

1. How could Britain and Germany work together to respond to an increasingly unpredictable geopolitical arena in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and how can collaboration feed into each country's long-term security strategy?
2. What could Britain and Germany do to further cooperate around the present energy crisis, and how can strategies feed into wider climate goals?
3. What opportunities are there for Britain and Germany to work together to respond to current challenges within information environments, and what lessons and techniques can be shared to combat wider problems including rises in disinformation?

Successive crises have created an unprecedented storm of uncertainty and political instability. Wilton Park will convene young leaders from range of sectors to discuss these significant challenges to further define, outline and structure pathways for Britain and Germany's post-Brexit collaboration.

The British German Forum was established by Helmut Kohl and Margaret Thatcher in 1985 and has been an annual event ever since. The Forum provides a dynamic space in which participants can network and share ideas among their peers and gain insight and inspiration from experienced professionals. Through dialogue, it aims to facilitate both increased shared understanding and the building of strong relationships between influential young Britons and Germans.

00:00

In association with the British Embassy, Berlin and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, London

12:00 - 14:00

Reception hosted by the German Ambassador, London

Welcoming words by:

Miguel Berger

Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom

Susannah Simon

Director, Europe Group, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), London, United Kingdom

Gisela Stuart

Chair, Wilton Park, London, United Kingdom

Rich Roberts

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning, United Kingdom

Buffet lunch

14:00 - 16:00

Transport from 'German House' to Wiston House

16:00 - 16:30

Check in and tea/coffee

16:30 - 17:00

Welcome and introductions

Rich Roberts

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning, United Kingdom

17:00 - 18:00

1. Overview of British-German relations

The 2023 British German Forum takes place at a unique juncture characterised by geopolitical uncertainty and rising economic challenges within both countries. Taking Russia's unjust invasion of Ukraine as a starting point, this session will offer experts and participants the chance to reflect on the present-day British-German bilateral relationship in relation to three key areas: security cooperation, energy security, and cooperation on information.

Plenary discussion with speakers

Bernhard Blumenau

Lecturer, University of St Andrews

Sophie Westlake

Deputy Director, Head of FCDO-DESNZ Joint International Energy Unit, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom

Nicholas Yap

Director, Strategy and Operations, DFRLab , Atlantic Council, London, United Kingdom

18:00 - 18:45 Paired walk

18:45 - 19:15 Drinks reception

19:15 - 20:45 Dinner

20:30 - 22:30 Bar open

Tue

08:00 - 08:45 Breakfast

04

09:00 - 10:00

2. Security cooperation in an increasingly competitive world

How could Britain and Germany work together to respond to an increasingly unpredictable geopolitical arena in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other security challenges of the next decade? In the context of the German NaSiStra Strategy and the UK's Integrated Review refresh, how can collaboration feed into each country's long-term security strategy?

Plenary discussion with speakers

Ben Jones

Teaching Fellow in European Foreign Policy, Kings College London, London, United Kingdom

Paula Köhler

Policy Advisor, Munich Security Conference Foundation, Berlin, Germany

Lukas Fiala

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10:00 - 10:45 Photograph followed by tea/coffee

10:45 - 11:45 **3. Security cooperation in an increasingly competitive world – breakout groups**

Participants will consider in detail the issues raised in the previous session. Each group will consider the following questions and feedback in Session 4.

- What security challenges of the next decade should Britain and Germany prioritise?
 - How could Britain and Germany work together to respond to these security challenges?
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11:45 - 12:15 **4. Feedback from breakout groups**

Each group feeds back to the wider cohort before opening the floor for a brief discussion and questions about their findings.

12:15 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 - 14:00 Free time or croquet/boules game

14:00 - 15:00 **5. Achieving energy security: short- and long-term policy considerations**

What could Britain and Germany do to further cooperate around the present energy crisis and how can strategies feed into wider climate goals? How to balance short-term policy considerations (e.g., energy availability and propriety, austerity and cost of living challenges) with long-term considerations (national resilience, economic growth and addressing climate change)?

Plenary discussion with speakers

Dan Marks

Research Fellow, Energy Security, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), London, United Kingdom

Pippa Robertson

Head of Digital Performance, OFGEM, Lewes, United Kingdom

Jonny Peters

Senior Policy Advisor on Trade and Climate, Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G), United Kingdom

15:00 - 16:00

6. Achieving energy security: world café

Participants will consider in detail the issues raised in the previous session. Participants will circulate between tables in one of three groups. At each table they will briefly consider one of the following issues. In Session 7, facilitators staying at each table will feed back the conclusions of all groups for that topic.

16:00 - 16:30

Tea/coffee

16:30 - 17:00

7. Feedback from world café

17:00 - 18:00

8. Challenges and opportunities for cooperation in information environments

This session will explore the challenges and opportunities managing information in politics and competition, touching upon the following themes: populism, confirmation bias and combatting 'fake news'; countering misinformation; and opportunities and lessons such as from crowd-sourcing analysis of OSINT.

What opportunities are there for Britain and Germany to work together to respond to current challenges within information environments? What lessons and techniques can be shared to combat wider problems, including rises in disinformation and fake news?

Plenary discussion with speakers

Robert Black

Lecturer in Cyber Security and Information Operations, Cranfield University, Cranfield, United Kingdom

Ardi Janjeva

Research Associate at the Centre for Emerging Technology and Security, The Alan Turing Institute, London, United Kingdom

Stephan Mündges

Manager Institute for Journalism, TU Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany

18:00 - 18:30 Free time

18:30 - 19:00 Drinks reception

19:00 - 20:30 Dinner

20:30 - 21:15 **Fireside conversation**

Katja Hoyer

Visiting Research Fellow, King's College London, London, United Kingdom

20:30 - 22:30 Bar open

Wed

05

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06:30 - 08:00 Dawn walk (optional)

08:00 - 08:45 Breakfast and checkout

09:00 - 10:00 **9. Challenges and opportunities for cooperation in information environments: breakout groups**

Participants will consider in detail the issues raised in session 8. Each group will consider one of the following issues and feedback in Session 10.

10:00 - 10:30 **10. Feedback from breakout groups**

Each group feeds back to the wider cohort before opening the floor for a brief discussion and questions about their findings.

10:30 - 11:00 Tea/coffee

11:00 - 11:10 **11. Evaluation survey**

Completion of online survey

11:10 - 12:10

12. Key takeaways, looking forward and the role of BGF in fostering British-German relations

Plenary discussion with speakers

Rafe Courage

Lead - Europe Bilateral Mechanisms Review, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), London, United Kingdom

Clemens Kohnen

Head of Political Department, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, London, United Kingdom

12:10 - 12:40

13. Conclusions

12:40 - 13:00

Introduction to the British German Forum Alumni Network

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00

Participants depart