



Programme

British German Forum: common challenges, common goals, how to shape British German relations?

Wednesday 27 – Friday 29 October 2021 | WP1975

The aim of the Forum, throughout its 36-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 2021 British German Forum will look to the future, addressing the common challenges driving British Germany relations as well as common goals. It will do so in the context of German elections, which will see new personalities and potentially younger generations entering government.

The UK-Germany joint declaration, signed by Dominic Raab, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, UK and Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, in June this year, describes Germany and the United Kingdom as strong and like-minded global partners. It lists a number of issues on which UK and Germany could cooperate to fulfil a joint responsibility to provide global leadership. Taking a lead from the Declaration the Forum will focus on three: climate change, Russia and China, and inclusive resilience. This year's Forum will provide a space for participants to look at how to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by globalisation, and explore three critical questions:

- Climate ambitions – how do we work towards our shared goals / develop these further?
- Russia, China, and a changing security landscape – what are the key challenges and conflicts faced, and how can Germany and the UK continue to work together to mitigate and solve threats?
- Building resilience inclusively – how can we ensure that we are changing and adapting to reflect wider populations? What implications does doing so have for securing political continuity and stability?

With support from:



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.

In association with the British Embassy in Berlin, with support from Bayer AG and Bridge International Dialogue.

Wednesday 27 October

1130	Participants arrive
1215-1300	Welcome to participants in the Library, followed by reception drinks with participants from 'Germany and the UK – facing the future' event, sponsored by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in London.
1300-1500	Wilton Park 75th anniversary lunch Germany and the UK: facing the future together Lunch sponsored by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in London, together with participants from 'Germany and the UK: facing the future' event (who depart after lunch). Hosted by Tom Cargill Chief Executive Officer, Wilton Park Julia Gross Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, London
1500-1600	Check in and free time
1600-1630	Welcome and introductions Rich Roberts Programme Director, Wilton Park
1630-1730	1. UK-German relations and the joint challenges of the future: where are we now and where do we go next? In the joint declaration UK and Germany agreed a joint responsibility to provide global leadership, but what is the context for joint leadership, what does the future hold for both countries? What are Britain and Germany's ambitions for addressing climate change, a changing security landscape and increasing resilience while ensuring inclusivity? Where are the areas of common ground?
1730-1830	Paired walk
1915	Dinner
2030-2230	Bar open

Thursday 28 October

0700-0800

Hike to Chanctonbury Ring (optional and weather dependent).
(Please bring stout walking shoes.)

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1000

2. Climate ambitions – working towards shared goals?

The recent IPCC report has demonstrated the stark consequences of inaction on climate – an issue high on both nations' agendas. UK's 2021 COP 26 Presidency and G7 Presidency, and Germany's 2022 G7 Presidency have given both countries a significant responsibility to lead global action on climate change, and in the joint declaration UK and Germany agreed to work together to lead international efforts to tackle climate change and its implications. High climate ambition is not only important environmentally but essential in order to maintain internationally competitive as industries evolve. How can the UK and Germany best support industries to transition to a low carbon future, maintaining global competitiveness while leading in terms of climate ambition and avoiding disproportionate regional impact? How can they best collaborate in the international fight against climate change?

Plenary discussion.

1000-1045

Tea / coffee break and group photograph

1045-1145

3. Climate ambitions – working towards shared goals (breakout groups)

In breakout groups, participants will consider:

- How to most efficiently mitigate effects of climate change while supporting low carbon economies, employment and livelihoods for the future?
- What are the national, regional and sectoral areas where climate and economy come together to create particular opportunities?
- What approaches could be shared between Britain and Germany and are there areas where cooperation would be synergetic?

1145-1215

Free time

1215-1315

Lunch

1315-1345

4. Feedback from breakout groups

1345-1505

5. Russia, China and a changing security landscape – world café

In the Joint Declaration UK and Germany recognise Russia's destabilising behaviour poses a challenge to European security, but that a constructive and mutually benefitting relationship with Russia is possible and in UK and Germany's shared interest. The UK and Germany also agreed to work closely together on areas where China's role and influence matters, strengthening the rules-based international system and international governance. Economics and power politics drive relationships with nations whose values and approaches we may not share, necessitating compromise and bringing risk. What are the key challenges Britain and Germany face in their relationships with Russia and China? With different geopolitical perspectives and views of their roles in the world what common ground do Britain and Germany share on dealing with Russia and China?

Introductions in plenary followed by world café in the Great Hall

1505-1535	Tea / coffee break
1535-1605	6. Feedback from world cafe
1605-1705	<p>7. Building resilience inclusively</p> <p>The UK and Germany have committed to cooperating on strengthening collective resilience. This session will look at resilience through the lens of societal resilience and focus on how to increase societal resilience inclusively. Migration, the Covid pandemic and extreme weather events have tested societal resilience, as well as exacerbating existing inequalities in our societies. These and similar challenges demand we adapt, become more resilient, and that we do so inclusively.</p> <p>Plenary discussion.</p>
1705-1805	<p>8. Building resilience inclusively – breakout groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does inclusive resilience look like and how do you build it? • What benefits might there be by building inclusive resilience bilaterally? • What opportunities might there be for building inclusive resilience bilaterally?
1805-1830	Free time
1830-1930	Dinner
1930-2030	<p>Fireside conversation – social media and social change</p> <p>How will German and UK societies be affected and what can be done to harness the power of social media for a better future?</p>
2030-2230	Bar open

Friday 29 October

0800-0845	Breakfast and checkout
0900-0930	<p>9. Feedback from breakout groups on inclusive resilience</p> <p>Joined by Speakers from FCDO and FFO</p>
0930-1030	<p>10. Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and German Federal Foreign Office: perspectives on the UK-German relationship</p> <p>Speakers from FCDO and FFO and plenary give their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in UK-German relations, and on the breakout groups; what would they take to an annual Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue? How do they see the Forum fostering ties and cooperation between UK and German civil societies.</p>
1030-1100	Tea / coffee break
1100-1130	11. Conclusions
1130-1200	Introduction to the British German Forum Alumni Network
1200-1245	Lunch
1300	Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

Enquiries about participation to: Sandry Koo, Project Manager
T: +44 (0)1903 817 765 | E: BGF2021@wiltonpark.org.uk

Enquiries about the programme to: Rich Roberts, Programme Director
T: +44 (0)1903 817 706 | E: rich.roberts@wiltonpark.org.uk