



Provisional programme

Germany and the UK: facing the future

Tuesday 26 - Wednesday 27 October 2021 |
WP1985

At a time of enormous change across Europe and globally, Germany and the UK have much to discuss of shared interest, if at times they may have diverging perspectives on some strategic issues.

The **Wilton Park German-UK Dialogues** are planned as a series of sessions, over the next five years, to sow the seeds that would enable thicker relationships between the two countries. What might those 'seeds' look like? How can they be planted and nurtured to benefit the long-term interest of both countries?

This initial in-person dialogue will be part of Wilton Park's 75th Anniversary. Wilton Park was founded in 1946 by Sir Heinz Koeppler, to support Germany in rethinking its future.

This dialogue will include an anniversary lunch on the second day, joined by some of the next generation of UK-German leaders who will be gathering for the 2021 British German Forum immediately afterwards. (The Forum, in its 36th year, brings together younger leaders (aged 25-35) from both countries).

Goals and objectives

- To explore ways in which the UK and Germany might develop more strategic relationships with each other in the coming decade on issues of mutual strategic interests including business, politics and culture;
- Encourage new networks of influence in both countries, including national understanding beyond the usual 'beltway' actors in London & Berlin;
- Using Wilton Park's style of conversation create a space for dialogue insulated from headline political developments;
- For the series as a whole, be outcome orientated, with a longer-term focus on creating openings and opportunities for engagement as and when the political space is conducive.

In association with:



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
London

In association with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the British Embassy in Berlin, and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in London

Tuesday 26 October

1630-1700

Participants arrive and check in. Tea available.

1700-1730

1. Welcome and introductions

Tom Cargill

Chief Executive Officer, Wilton Park

Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Including introductions around the table – why am I here?

UK-German strategic dialogues – the vision behind this series

Andreas Busch

Professor of Political Science, Institute of Political Science, Goettingen University

Ed Turner

Reader in Politics, Politics and International Relations, and Co-Director, Aston Centre for Europe, Aston University

1730-1900

2. State of play: resetting UK-German strategic relations and possible futures

Discussion about the past, present and future of the strategic relationships between the two countries. Where can UK-German relations go from here? What potential opportunities might there be for building connections and collaboration when facing shared or differing domestic and international challenges which both countries face?

Round-table discussion, sparked by brief introductions (5 minutes each) about the current state of play and opportunity for future relationships.

Chair

Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

A diplomatic perspective:

Jill Gallard

British Ambassador to Germany, Berlin

An academic's historical perspective:

Holger Nehring

Chair, Contemporary European History, University of Stirling

A business perspective:

Bobby Vedral

Partner, MacroEagle, London

A perspective from post-election Germany:

Thomas Fehrmann

Permanent Deputy Head, Strategic Communications and Speeches, Office of the Federal President, Berlin

Geo-strategic relationships:

Nicolai von Ondarza

Head, Europe Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

1900-1930

Pre-dinner drinks in the Library
Hosted by Gisela Stuart
Chair, Wilton Park

1930-2130

Dinner with discussions on shared political interests

Hosted by
Tom Cargill
Chief Executive Officer, Wilton Park

Both the UK and Germany face a range of political challenges and constitutional questions. For Germany, the immediate aftermath of the 2021 election, and state of politics, questions of federalism highlighted by responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the UK, matters of devolution have arisen in both national and international conversation regarding the Scottish referendum, the NI Protocol, and the northern former 'red wall' constituencies. What insights and lessons to share?

Table discussions over dinner (including a table host):

Round 1

1. What are the consequences and shifts in Germany following the elections? What insights does it highlight about the 'state of democracy' and what shared experiences with the UK?
2. For the UK, what does 'devolution' look like in practice? Lessons from Germany?

Round 2

1. Regional 'levelling up' in the aftermath of Covid – what are the drivers and solutions in both countries? Including reflection on the
2. Generational divides – and the futures of those born after 1989 versus their parents/grandparents?

2130-2230

Informal discussions - coffee available and bar open (optional)

Wednesday 27 October

0800-0845

Breakfast and check out

0900-1030

3. Shared economic interests

How will and should our economies develop, in a climate constrained world? What is the scope for maintaining or expanding bilateral trade?

Chair: Robin Hart

Shanker Singham

Chief Executive Officer, Competere Ltd; Member, Wilton Park's Advisory Board

Ulrich Hoppe

Director General, German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, London

1030-1100

Tea, coffee and group photograph

1100-1230

4. UK-Germany: building the bridge to future relationships

What practical connections can be built in the coming years between the UK and Germany? How can collaboration between German and UK regions promote greater economic and trading relationships? What can be done together through local, regional and diplomatic partnerships?

What needs to be put in place now and in the coming decade?

Brief introductions by speakers followed by round-table conversation

Option for additional participants to join virtually

Chair: Tom Cargill

Chief Executive Officer, Wilton Park

A personal reflection:

Stefanie Bolzen

UK correspondent, Die Welt, London

New partnerships in practice: Greater Manchester and North Rhine Westphalia/Ruhr

Introduced by

Peter Barnes

Chairman, British-German Association, London

Jürgen Hein

Director, Ruhr Conference, State Chancellery, North-Rhine Westphalian Parliament

Open discussion

Closing remarks

Jill Gallard

British Ambassador to Germany, Berlin

1230-1300

Reception drinks with participants from the British German Forum 2021, 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 of the British German Forum 2021 (who will then continue until Friday).

Hosted by

Tom Cargill

Chief Executive Officer, Wilton Park

Julia Gross

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, London

1515

Participants depart

1600

The British German Forum 2021 begins

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

This is an invitation only conference.

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