



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Wilton Park

Programme

British German Forum

The future of Europe: relevance and effectiveness in the 21st century?

Sunday 14 – Thursday 18 July 2013 | WP1231

The 28th British German Forum will discuss the changing dynamics of British and German engagement in Europe. Participants will explore to what extent British and German citizens might view the European “project” differently and how they foresee its future.

The Forum will also examine how the EU’s growing inward focus may impact its capacity to act as a global leader in the international community, for instance leadership on economic stability, regional security and democratic development.

Topics of discussion will include the nature of European ‘identity’, the political impact of economic downturn (in the state, regional and international spheres) and the challenges that will face tomorrow’s economic, political and social leaders in Europe – many of whom will be attending the Forum.

The British-German Forum was established by Chancellor Kohl and Margaret Thatcher in 1985 and has occurred annually ever since. Organised by Wilton Park, the event convenes approximately 50 ‘high fliers’ from Germany and Britain, between the ages of 25 and 35. Participants are chosen from a wide range of professional sectors, including government, business, finance, media, academia and non-government organisations. Those selected represent future leaders in their respective fields. The Forum provides a neutral, 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:
British Embassy, Berlin
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Forum is funded with generous support from:
Robert Bosch Stiftung
PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

Sunday 14 July

1530 onwards Participants arrive and afternoon tea served

1630-1715 **Welcome and introductions**

Gary Wilton

Visiting Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning; The Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the European Union, Brussels

Andreas Klasen

Partner, Head of Economics and Policy, PricewaterhouseCoopers AG WPG, Hamburg

1715-1830

1. The European Project: is it still relevant?

To what extent has the vision of the European 'Project' been realised? How significant are the political and economic crises facing the EU? How might the Union's current inward focus damage its credibility and capacity in the international community? How is the original motor of German-French partnership likely to evolve in the future? Where does the UK fit in?

Simon McDonald

Ambassador, British Embassy, Berlin

Angelika Schlunck

Director, Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union, Brussels

1830

Drinks reception

1900

Dinner with speaker

Dominic Lawson

Columnist, The Sunday Times and The Independent, London

2200

An optional short service of night prayer (Compline)

Held in St Mary's Church (on the site of Wilton Park), part of the Church of England's Diocese of Chichester. The service will reflect the Christian tradition. Conference participants of all faith traditions and none are welcome to attend

Monday 15 July

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1100

2. Looking to the future: global trends and Europe

What are the most significant challenges facing the EU? What will the world look like by 2030? What are the main trends and drivers shaping change? How might state-citizen relationships change in the context of increasingly networked communities? How will this alter governance at the state and supra-state levels? What role will resources play in shaping the discussions on future policies? How far will such global trends affect Europe's internal and external relationships? What are the challenges and opportunities for Britain, Germany and the EU as a whole?

Participants to identify the five most significant challenges facing the EU in small groups, followed by feedback and plenary session.

Helen Campbell

Head of Division, Policy Coordination, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Governing 'Netizens'

Helen Margetts

Director; Professor of Society and the Internet, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford

Resources

Bernice Lee

Research Director, Energy, Environment and Resources, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London

1100-1130

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1130-1300

3. The EU in a changing global context: the rise of emerging powers

How should the EU position itself in its relations with emerging powers to ensure continued influence? In what ways do UK and German engagement with emerging powers differ? How can both bilateral and multilateral relations within the European context be managed to ensure mutual benefit arises through engagement between established and emerging powers? What about the ethics of such engagement – where are the checks and balances?

Thorsten Benner

Director, Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi), Berlin

Steve Tsang

Professor, Contemporary Chinese Studies; Director, China Policy Institute, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham

Denise Holt

Non Executive Director, HSBC Bank plc and Scottish Power Networks, London; Former British Ambassador to Spain and Mexico

1300-1430

Lunch

1500-1630

4. Europe's economic challenges and their political implications

What are the internal economic challenges faced by the EU and how can they be tackled? Is the concept of a 'reconfigured Europe' a viable response to the Eurozone crisis? What do the futures of the single currency and monetary union look like? Is further integration the solution? Are there alternatives available? Might reform of the internal structures of the EU make the Union more competitive? What would need to change?

Stefan Georg

Chairman, Delta Economics, London

Simon Nixon

Chief European Commentator, The Wall Street Journal, London

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

5. European security: threats and concepts

Introduction in plenary followed by smaller discussion groups.

What are the main internal and external security threats to states in Europe? How stable is the European neighbourhood – North Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, South Caucasus? How will the emerging European foreign service and security regime evolve? How far do concepts of security and 'threat' differ from those at the birth of the European Community? If they differ, does this alter the relevance of the EU as an institution designed to foster peace in Europe? What lessons can be learned from Afghanistan, Libya and Mali?

Anthony Glees

Professor, Politics; Director, Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies, University of Buckingham

Jeroen Gunning

Reader in Middle East Politics and Conflict Studies, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University

1845 Bar open for pre-barbeque drinks

1915 Barbeque to be hosted by:
Richard Burge
Chief Executive, Wilton Park, Steyning
and Karen Burge

Tuesday 16 July DAY IN LONDON

0700-0730 Breakfast

0740 Coach departs for London

1030-1130 **The future of Europe: the view from Westminster**

Location: House of Commons, Committee Room 6

Chair: Paul Farrelly

All-Party Parliamentary British-German Group; Labour Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme, House of Commons, London

Stephen Gilbert

Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for St Austell and Newquay, House of Commons, London

Angus Robertson

Scottish National Party Member of Parliament for Moray, House of Commons, London; British-German Forum alumnus

Gisela Stuart

Labour Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston and Member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, House of Commons, London

Robert Buckland

Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary European Union Group; Conservative Member of Parliament for South Swindon, House of Commons, London

1130-1230 Tour of the House of Lords

1300-1445 **Lunch at the German Embassy (Ambassador's Residence)**

Location: 22 Belgrave Square

Hosted by Rudolf Adam

Chargé d'Affaires ai, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, London

1530-1600 **The EU and the UK's external relations: reflections**

Location: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Locarno Conference Room

How does the UK benefit from its membership of the EU – politically, diplomatically and economically – and how might the UK suffer/benefit from a change of relationship with the EU? How is the UK perceived abroad, outside Europe, in the context of cultural diversity

and immigration? Are these assets or liabilities in the UK's external relations?

Chair: Vijay Rangarajan

Europe Director, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Malcolm Rifkind

Chairman, Intelligence and Security Committee, House of Commons, London

1600-1700

The EU and the UK's external relations: the view from Whitehall

Location: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Locarno Conference Room

Chair: Vijay Rangarajan

Europe Director, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

David Frost

Director, Europe, Trade and International Affairs, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), London

Hugo Shorter

European Correspondent; Head of Europe Directorate – External, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1730

Coach departs for Wiston House

1930

Coach arrives at Wiston House

C1930

Buffet dinner

Wednesday 17 July

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1015

6. External perceptions of the EU

Stepping away from the internal dialogue, how is the EU generally viewed externally: what is the perspective of non-member states? How can these views be used to influence discussions on the future of Europe and what is necessary in terms of rendering it effective and relevant?

Irina Demchenko

Independent Consultant, London

Fernando Duarte

Journalist, Writer and Media Consultant, Haywards Heath

Lothar Müller

Foreign Policy Adviser, Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU) Faction, German Parliament, Berlin

1015-1045

Tea/coffee

1045-1245

7. European identity: what does this involve?

Introduction in plenary followed by smaller discussion groups

How successfully has the European project succeeded in creating a collective 'European identity'? Has the Schengen agreement helped to promote European cosmopolitanism? How is the regime of free movement affecting bilateral relations within the EU? What are the perceived economic and social impacts of migration within the EU on a domestic level? How might these in turn affect bilateral and multilateral relationships?

Nazia Hussain

Programme Director, At Home in Europe, Open Society Foundations, London

Robert Miller

Professor of Sociology, School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen’s University Belfast

Katrin Hatzinger

Senior Church Counsel; Director of the Brussels Office, Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), Brussels

Group A: Discussing European identity

What does it mean to be European? Do British and German participants agree on this? Is ‘European-ness’ a more or less significant source of identity than British/German-ness? How might patterns emerging from the first two questions shift in the future, and what factors might drive such a shift?

Group B: Perspectives on migration

How do the UK and German experiences with migration differ? How far has ‘multiculturalism’ in the UK and Germany failed as a political project? How far is so-called ‘Euro-sceptic’ thought driven by concerns about migration?

Group C: Nationalism in Britain and Germany

In what ways, if any, have the dynamics of political nationalism changed in the last thirty years in Britain and Germany? What have been the positive/negative outcomes from this process? How might such changes impact bilateral relations between member states of the EU?

Group D: Religion in public life – comparing the UK and Germany

How have patterns of religiosity/secularism changed in UK and German public life over the last thirty years? Have these changes been desirable and, if so, in what ways? To what extent are the decisions made by politicians in the UK and Germany a function of religious belief?

1245-1345	Lunch
1345-1445	Football match (optional)
1515-1630	<p>8. What does it mean to be a member state of the EU?</p> <p>What are the values and principles that bind EU members together? How valid are they for the future of the EU, for both existing and potential member states? How do domestic politics effect EU membership? To what extent are the concepts of unity and closer integration among member states critical to the success of the EU? How might the UK renegotiating its terms of membership affect the credibility and authority of the EU? Would this set a dangerous precedent? Alternatively, might the EU ‘disqualify’ members?</p> <p>Almut Möller Head, Alfred von Oppenheim Centre for European Policy Studies, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin</p>
1630-1700	Tea/coffee
1700-1830	<p>9. The future of Europe: relevance and effectiveness in the 21st century?</p> <p>Final session to pull together the main messages arising from the Forum and to forecast what the future of Europe may look like. Discussion in working groups followed by report back in plenary.</p>
1900	Drinks reception

1930 Forum dinner

Thursday 18 July

0800-0900 Breakfast and check out

0915 Participants depart