



Programme

British German Forum

A smarter Europe: cooperation, competition and innovation in the 2020s

Sunday 13 – Thursday 17 July 2014 | WP1320

Europe has undergone a dramatic transition during the last one hundred years. It has been central to two global conflicts, become the interface between competing superpowers and witnessed a flourishing of democracy and prosperity. It has also played host to an unprecedented experiment in regional political and economic cooperation. Relations among states in Europe today are no longer primarily defined by military conflict and memories of past grievance. The future of Europe is about being smarter in the 2020s. Are competitiveness and innovation the main drivers of relations among states in Europe?

The 29th British German Forum will focus on Europe's transition from conflict to contemporary competition and cooperation. In so doing, it will discuss:

- Europe's economic prosperity: towards a smarter 2020s
- Europe's competitiveness and innovation (economic and political)
- Patterns of innovation and cooperation in Europe (economic and political)

Discussions will be set within the context of European Parliamentary elections, the Scottish referendum, and ongoing crisis in the Ukraine. Perspectives from British and German participants from a variety of backgrounds will ensure a rich and diverse discussion. Themes will be explored through a mixture of roundtable discussion in plenary and smaller breakout groups.

The British-German Forum was established by Chancellor Kohl and Margaret Thatcher in 1985 and has been an annual event ever since. The event convenes approximately 50 'high fliers' from Germany and Britain, aged between 25 and 35. Participants are chosen from a wide range of professional sectors and represent future leaders in their respective fields. The Forum provides a neutral, dynamic space in which participants 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:

Supported by:

British Embassy, Berlin

Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Sunday 13 July

1530 onwards

Participants arrive and afternoon tea served

1630-1715

Welcome and introductions

Gary Wilton

Visiting Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning; Canon Emeritus of Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity, Brussels; Vicar of All Saints Ecclesall, Sheffield

Philipp Rossberg

Director, Economics & Policy Department, PricewaterhouseCoopers AG WPG, Hamburg

1715-1830

1. Europe in the 21st century: a remarkable transition?

Interactive exercise: just how smart is Europe?

From conflict...

Comparing Europe in 1914 and 2014, how remarkable is Europe's transition away from conflict and towards peaceful competition and cooperation? What long term factors and drivers have influenced this transition? How stable is this situation – what are the risks?

Patricia Clavin

Professor of International History, Fellow and Tutor in History, Jesus College, University of Oxford, Oxford

...to cooperation and competitiveness

How significant is the variability in the approaches to cooperation and competitiveness across European Union member states? How far is this variability a source of tension among members? How competitive are economic relations between European members? How well do states in the EU cooperate to achieve global competitiveness in business and trade? Where are the tensions and sticking points? How to improve these?

Simon McDonald

Ambassador, British Embassy, Berlin; British-German Forum alumnus

Michael Hinterdobler

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

1830

Drinks reception

1900

Dinner

Monday 14 July

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1045

2. Economic competitiveness: challenges and opportunities for Europe

How competitive is the EU in the global marketplace? Is this competitiveness at risk and if so from where? What challenges for states in Europe to maintain prosperity in the light of global competition? What drives the competitiveness of individual states? Is intra-European competitiveness a more significant matter for firms and states than extra-European competitiveness? What opportunities for states in Europe arise from global economic competition and market entry?

Michael Wohlgemuth

Director, Open Europe, Berlin

1045-1130

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1130-1300

3. Competitiveness in the UK, Germany and Europe: breakout groups

A chance for smaller group discussions on themes arising on Monday. Participants to discuss how the UK, Germany and Europe as a whole can become more competitive. Ideas and policy themes from both countries to be discussed.

Group 1: Education

What can the UK and Germany learn from each other about the way education is delivered in each country? How about in other states? Should states seek improvement in education as a means to an end or an end in itself? What should be prioritised – primary and secondary education or tertiary education? What role for the EU institutions?

Group 2: Economic policy

What can the UK and Germany learn from each other about adapting economic policy to increase economic competitiveness? Is there a place for economic cooperation? Are these lessons relevant for the EU as a whole? What barriers to improving economic policy in this way? What are the limits to adapting policy?

Group 3: Entrepreneurship

What can the UK and Germany learn from each other about encouraging a business culture and market environment that rewards entrepreneurialism? What practical policy improvements might foster an enhanced culture of entrepreneurialism in both countries? What might EU institutions do to further this?

Group 4: Technology and innovation

What can the UK and Germany learn from each other about encouraging technological and organisational innovation? Can states realistically support this? Or is there a limit to how far the state can be involved? What role for EU institutions?

1300-1430

Lunch

1500-1630

4. Breakout groups: feedback and consolidation

An opportunity for breakout groups to feedback in plenary, followed by a discussion of similarities and differences arising among the groups.

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

5. Ideological and institutional cooperation and competitiveness: how can Europe become smarter?

In the wake of the financial crisis and in the context of ongoing politico-institutional challenges in Europe, how attractive is the European model (institutional, ideological) to peoples and states in the wider world? How far does this attractiveness (or lack of) drive Europe's diplomatic influence? Will states be more likely to act cooperatively or competitively with Europe? How can Europe be 'smarter' in terms of foreign policy?

What is the impact of crisis in Ukraine on the European model? Will it lead to more cooperation or more competition among member states? What will this mean for the Eastern borders of the EU and for relations with Russia?

Roderick Parkes

Head, European Union Programme, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw

Başak Türkoğlu

Deputy Director General, European Union Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ankara

1845

Bar open for pre-barbeque drinks

1930

Barbeque

Tuesday 15 July DAY IN LONDON

0700-0745

Breakfast

0800

Coach departs for London

1100-1200

Is the UK competitive enough? The view from Westminster

Location: House of Commons Committee Rooms

Chaired by: Gary Wilton

Canon Emeritus of Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity, Brussels; Vicar of All Saints Ecclesall, Sheffield

Angus Robertson

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

Gareth Thomas

Shadow Minister for Europe; Labour Co-operative Member of Parliament for Harrow West, House of Commons, London

Emma Nicholson

Member, House of Lords, London

Andrea Leadsom

Economic Secretary, HM Treasury; Conservative Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire, House of Commons, London

William Cash

Chair, European Scrutiny Committee; Conservative Member of Parliament for Stone, House of Commons, London

1300-1430

Visit to German Embassy

Location: The German House, 34 Belgrave Square

Buffet lunch hosted by **Norman Walter**

Minister, Head of Press Section, Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, London

1430

Depart German Embassy

1515-1600

Free time in Westminster

1600

Arrival at Foreign and Commonwealth Office - tea and coffee available in Locarno Room

1615-1745

A smarter FCO: innovation in policy, people and practice

Location: Locarno Room, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Interactive discussion concerning innovative practices in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Overview: making the FCO smarter

Vijay Rangarajan

Director, European Union, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Innovation insights: digital transformation

Adam Bye

Digital Transformation Leader, Digital Transformation Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Innovation insights: first class foreign policy

Anthony Stanley

Policy Excellence Programme Manager, Policy Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Innovation insights: the Diplomatic Academy

Jon Goddard

Learning and Development Academy Manager, Diplomatic Academy, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1815 Coach departs for Wiston House

2000 Coach arrives at Wiston House

2000 onwards Dinner served

Wednesday 16 July

0800-0900 Breakfast

0915-1045 **6. Innovation: private sector, third sector and public sector**

How good are organisations in the private, public and third (charitable organisations and NGOs) sectors in the UK and Germany at innovating their service delivery? What lessons can each sector learn from each other?

Birgitte Andersen

Director, Big Innovation Centre, London

Matt Beard

International Director of Fundraising and Communications, ActionAid International, London

Lisa Zoth

Co-Founder and Innovation Consultant, Dark Horse GmbH, Berlin; British-German Forum alumna

Private sector

How well do states in Europe interact and cooperate on matters of trade and business? Could this cooperation be improved? Is this desirable or possible? What lessons from elsewhere in the world might be useful for European cooperation on business? How can lessons learned regarding innovation in the private sector be communicated for best effect for the third and public sectors? Is such transfer useful or desirable?

Third sector

How good are third sector organisations in the UK and Germany at innovating the way they do business? How well have such organisations reacted to recent economic volatility? Are there interesting organisational/financial/partnership models in existence in the UK and Germany that are particularly good at adapting to change? How can lessons learned regarding innovation in the third sector be communicated for best effect for the private and public sectors? Is such transfer useful or desirable?

Public sector

How adaptive and innovative are public sector organisations in the UK and Germany? Are the institutions of one state better at this than the other? How have different parts of the public sector in both countries adapted in the context of recent economic volatility? How is learning passed on and how are key messages retained across the public sectors of both countries? How can lessons learned regarding innovation in the public sector be communicated for best effect for the private and third sectors? Is such transfer useful or desirable?

1045-1115 Tea/coffee

1115-1215 **7. Innovation in private sector, third sector, public sector: breakout groups**

A further opportunity for participants to discuss innovation across the private, third and public sectors in the UK and Germany.

Group 1: Private sector

Group 2: Third sector

Group 3: Public sector

Group 4: Synthesis – how to communicate lessons across sectors?

1215-1245

8. Breakout groups: feedback and consolidation

A short opportunity for breakout groups to feed back in plenary.

1245-1345

Lunch

1345-1445

Football match (optional)

1515-1630

9. What is needed for a smarter Europe? Breakout groups

Final set of breakout groups to discuss how to make the UK, Germany and the Europe Union smarter in the 2020s.

Group 1: How to make the UK smarter?

Group 2: How to make Germany smarter?

Group 3: How to make the EU smarter?

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1745

10. Feedback from breakout groups

1745-1830

11. Final thoughts and wrap up

A final opportunity to reflect on learning from across the Forum.

1900

Bar open for pre-dinner drinks

1930

Forum dinner with dinner speakers

Fritz Lustig

Former 'secret listener' during World War II, London

and **Robin Lustig**

Broadcaster and Journalist, London

Thursday 17 July

0800-0845

Breakfast and check out

0900

Participants and coach depart