



Programme

British German Forum 2015

Strengthening resilience in a world of shocks and crises

Monday 13 – Thursday 16 July 2015 | WP1413

The world is arguably more dangerous and unstable than at any time since the end of the Cold War. Is this generation ready to respond? This year's British German Forum, the 30th, takes place in a context of unprecedented global change where the diverse physical security threats faced by the international community join ongoing challenges such as climate change and threats to global health. This year represents a critical point for Europe and for the Anglo-German relationship.

The British-German Forum was established by Chancellor 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.

With support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Bridge International Dialogue

Monday 13 July at Wiston House

1300-1400

Participants arrive - buffet lunch available

1400-1445

Welcome and participant introductions

Gary Wilton

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

1445-1515

1. How to strengthen resilience in a world of shocks and crises?

What are the greatest challenges facing Germany, the UK and Europe, and how to build resilience to counter these shocks and crises? What can the UK and Germany do together to strengthen resilience? What should roles and relationships be with other actors?

Simon McDonald

British Ambassador to Germany, British Embassy, Berlin

With support from:



Constanze Stelzenmüller

Robert Bosch Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Washington DC

1515-1545

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1545-1655

2. Crises and instability on Europe's borders

How to manage the instability on the southern and eastern borders of Europe? What tools and approaches will work best? How can Europe's political and security architecture keep pace with Russia's decision making strategy and tactics? How to counter the growing speed of influence by Islamic State and other actors? What is the impact of migration on European stability? What is the regional impact of these threats and how does this cascade down to domestic security concerns?

Jan Techau

Director, Carnegie Europe, Brussels

Bridget Kendall

Diplomatic Correspondent, BBC, London

Daniel Keohane

Research Director, Foundation for International Relations (FRIDE), Brussels

1700-1810

3. Climate change, extreme weather, and the impact: how to respond and adapt?

In the face of growing incidence of extreme weather, disease outbreaks, water and, potentially, food shortages, how to respond? How to strengthen civil-military cooperation in crisis response? What prioritisation can and should take place in crisis response? How should coordination take place by way of bi-lateral and regional alliances?

Simon Maxwell

Executive Chair, Climate and Development Knowledge Network, London

Christiane Gerstetter

Senior Fellow, Ecologic Institute, Berlin

1815-1900

4. Breakout group exercise

Working in smaller groups to identify the key challenges facing the UK and Germany.

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Tuesday 14 July in London

0700-0800

Breakfast

0800

Depart by coach from Wiston House to London

1045

Arrival at Houses of Parliament (Committee Room 8)

1100-1200

5. What shape for democracy and governance to respond to shocks and crises in the 21st century: parliamentary perspectives

A 'question-time' style debate with invited parliamentarians representing the major political parties debating questions posed by the Forum participants.

What are the constitutional challenges faced by the UK and Germany? How do changes and fragmentation of the political landscape affect how governments respond to crises? Are the current democratic systems 'fit for purpose' in building resilience?

Chair: Paul Farrelly

Labour Party Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme, House of Commons, London

Gisela Stuart

Labour Party Member of Parliament for Birmingham, Edgbaston, House of Commons, London

1200-1230

Tour of the House of Lords

1230

Depart by coach to German Embassy, 34 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB

1300-1500

6. Lunch and discussion: a world of shocks and crises: what are our options?

Hosted by **Dr Peter Ammon**, German Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, London

1500

Travel by coach to Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, SW1A 2AH

1600-1730

7. Responding to growing international shocks and crises: how?

Europe is faced with myriad crises on and within its borders, including migration in the Mediterranean, a marked step change in relations with Russia, and the amorphous ISIL threat in Iraq and Syria. From soft power and diplomacy to deterrence and military intervention, what does the toolbox look like for governments to respond to such crises? How can Europe create a collective response, and what balance is to be struck between national and regional initiatives? How to increase effectiveness internationally in the context of constrained resources? How and where to work and build alliances with other actors? How to 'do' diplomacy in the age of borderless social media?

Chair: Gary Wilton

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

Carl Newns

Deputy Director, Communication Strategy, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Vijay Rangarajan

Director, European Union, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1745

Depart by coach for Wiston House

2000

Dinner

Wednesday 15 July at Wiston House

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-0945

8. Europe's economic future: what future for the Euro and what impact on European economies?

Henning Meyer

Senior Associate, ATRx GmbH; Director, New Global Strategy Ltd; Editor in Chief, Social Europe Journal; Research Associate, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London

0945-1100

9. Europe's economic future: how to chart a path through uncertainty?

Discussion in smaller groups.

Sub themes may include:

- What future for the Euro?
- What are the prospects for European economies? How can resilience be built in European economies in the midst of sustained uncertainty?
- How can Europe keep the lights on and ensure energy supplies? What energy mix is best?
- How does Europe build competitiveness and ensure a skilled workforce?

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1300

10. European Union in crisis: can it survive?

How can the European Union manage the various crises such as the future of the Euro, immigration and challenges on its borders? How can the European Union move forward? Is there a serious prospect of the European Union and/or the Eurozone losing one or more of its members, and if so how to manage this? What is the impact of crises on member states?

Quentin Peel

Mercator Senior Fellow for Europe, Chatham House, London

Almut Möller

Head, Alfred von Oppenheim Centre for European Policy Studies, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin

1300-1445

Lunch

1445-1545

11. Strengthening resilience: how does this generation manage these challenges?

In what ways can the current generation effectively respond to the challenges? How to build resilience nationally and internationally? How to build resilience from community level to national level and beyond? What do citizens need or expect from their governments?

Paul Schulte

Honorary Professor, Birmingham University Institute of Conflict, Cooperation and Security, London

Michael Scharfschwerdt

Head of EU Affairs, Joschka Fischer & Company, Berlin

1545-1700

12. Discussion groups: how does this generation build greater resilience?

Reflecting on the discussions throughout the Forum, what proposals can groups suggest for strengthening the resilience of citizens, communities and countries? How can the UK and Germany collaborate to ensure greater resilience?

1700-1730

Tea/coffee

1730-1830

13. Discussion group feedback and concluding remarks

Feedback and conclusions including time to complete the eQuestionnaire which can be found at: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WP1413/>

1900

Conference dinner hosted by **Richard Burge**, Chief Executive, Wilton Park

Thursday 16 July at Wiston House

0800-0915

Breakfast

