



Provisional programme

British German Forum Europe's place in a challenging world

Sunday 15 – Thursday 19 July 2012 | WP1155

The 27th British German Forum will consider how Europe can retain influence in a rapidly changing, and challenging, world, shaped by the rise of 'emerging powers,' economic crises and political uncertainties. Topics of discussion will include: Europe's internal political and economic challenges; the shifting world power balance; and external threats such as terrorism and resource scarcity. In the context of these recent changes, how can Europe remain competitive and influential?

A common strand linking these themes will be the issue of British and German perceptions of European identity and value systems. What is Europe and what does it mean, in the twenty-first century, to be European? How can European values be effectively and creatively promoted?

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

The Forum was funded with generous support from:

Robert Bosch Stiftung
PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

(Speakers invited and themes proposed *denotes unconfirmed)

Sunday 15 July

1530 onwards Participants arrive – afternoon tea served

1630-1715 **Welcome and introduction**

Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Camilla Fenning

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Christian Hänel

Deputy Head of Department, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Stuttgart

1715-1830 **1. Setting the context: the changing global framework**

What are the main ways in which the international framework has changed in the last decade? How can the current political and economic situation be explained and what are the most significant challenges facing Britain and Germany as a result?

Simon McDonald

Ambassador, British Embassy, Berlin

Ulrike Guérot

Senior Policy Fellow and Representative for Germany, European Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin

Volker Hoff

Vice President, Government Relations, Public Policy Europe, Adam Opel AG, Rüsselsheim

1830 Drinks reception

1900 Dinner

Monday 16 July

0800-0900 Breakfast

0900-1030 **2. Europe: a crisis of identity?**

Given current political changes, is it still clear what Europe represents? What is Europe, and how do British and German perspectives differ, particularly of the EU? How do other European players view Britain and Germany; how can we bridge different conceptions and seek mutual understanding? What changes to the political framework of the EU are necessary and how might these be achieved? What are the threats and opportunities posed by enlargement of the EU? Does the young generation hold hope or fear for the future? What have the impacts of the debt crisis been on the EU; fragmentation, power shifts, lack of public trust?

Mara Delius

Culture Editor, Die Welt, Berlin

Daniel Möckli

Head, Strategic Trends Analysis, Centre for Security Studies, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zurich

1030-1115 Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1115-1245

3. The future of the Euro and European economies

What is the future of the Eurozone and what role can Britain and Germany play in stabilising the Euro's future? Does a smaller Eurozone remain the best option for future stability? Given their very different relations to the Euro, how can Britain and Germany cooperate? What are the key economic changes that are required and how should European states work together to produce creative and innovative responses to the economic crisis? What are the wider implications of the Eurozone crisis?

Stefan Georg

Chairman, Delta Economics, London

Mats Persson

Director, Open Europe, London

1300-1500

Lunch

1500-1630

4. Meeting domestic challenges

Presentations in plenary, during which the speakers will address the key domestic challenges as they see them.

Matthew Robinson

Global Trends Director, Accenture Institute for High Performance, London; British German Forum alumnus

Will Straw

Associate Director for Globalisation and Climate Change, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), London

Phillip Blond

Director, ResPublica, London

The plenary session will be followed by working groups, on the following topics:

Theme 1 - Growth and jobs

What are Germany and Britain's prospects for growth? How can growth be created and sustained? What are the possibilities for growth and job creation posed by technological innovation and a revival of the manufacturing sector? How can Britain and Germany foster entrepreneurship?

Chair: Stefan Georg, Chairman, Delta Economics, London

Theme 2 - Education

How can Europe's economy be boosted through educational reform? What are the current strengths and weaknesses in Germany and Britain's education systems and what reforms are needed to encourage growth and job creation?

Chair: Phillip Blond, Director, ResPublica, London

Theme 3 - State and society

What should the respective roles of state and civil society be in a time of austerity? How do British and German young people view the state of democracy in Europe? Is there a need to rebalance the state? How should participatory democracy be enhanced?

Chair: Matthew Robinson, Global Trends Director, Accenture Institute for High Performance, London; British German Forum alumnus

Theme 4 - Migration and multiculturalism

What are the difficulties and opportunities presented by migration? What measures need to be taken in order to build harmonious societies? Are politicians correct to talk of the 'failure of multiculturalism'?

Chair: Will Straw, Associate Director for Globalisation and Climate Change, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), London

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1730

Report back from working groups

1730-1845

5. The shift to emerging powers

What are the implications of the rise of new economic powers for Britain, Germany and Europe, particularly for Europe's economic competitiveness? How real and pertinent are fears that power is slipping from Europe's grasp? Should Europe accept a more limited role in the global power balance? In what areas would increased cooperation and integration between Europe and the emerging powers be most beneficial and valuable? How do Britain and Germany's key partnerships with emerging powers differ?

Andreas Klasen

Partner, Head of Economics and Policy, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Hamburg; British German Forum alumnus

Gerard Lyons

Chief Economist and Group Head of Global Research, Standard Chartered Bank, London

Daniel Brössler

Foreign Policy Correspondent, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Berlin

1845

Bar open for pre-barbecue drinks

1900

Barbecue hosted by **Richard Burge, Chief Executive, Wilton Park**

Tuesday 17 July DAY IN LONDON

0700

Breakfast

0740

Coach departs for London

1045-1145

Parliament and Europe: uneasy bedfellows or constructive partners?

Location: House of Commons, Committee Room 12

Chair: Paul Farrelly, Labour Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme, House of Commons, London; Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Germany

Panellists:

John Roper

Liberal Democrat Member, House of Lords, London

John Glen

Conservative Member of Parliament for Salisbury, House of Commons, London; British German Forum alumnus

Mark Hendrick

Labour Member of Parliament for Preston, House of Commons, London

Angus Robertson

SNP Member of Parliament for Moray, House of Commons, London; British-German Forum alumnus

Jenny Willott

Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Cardiff Central, House of Commons, London

1245-1415

Lunch at the German Embassy (Ambassador's Residence)

Hosted by **HE Mr Georg Boomgaarden**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, London

1430-1530

Panel discussion: Europe's place in a challenging world

Location: German Embassy

Panellists:

Georg Boomgaarden

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, London

Jonathan Scheele

Head, European Commission Representation in the UK, London

Simon Manley

Director, Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1600

Cultural visit - Tate Britain [optional exhibition: 'Migrations- Journeys into British Art'- £6]

1715

Coach departs for Wiston House

1930

Coach arrives Wiston House

c1930

Buffet dinner

Wednesday 18 July

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1030

6. Meeting external challenges

What are the key external challenges facing Europe, and the main threats to security and prosperity? How do, for example, organised crime, terrorism, resource scarcity and instability on Europe's borders threaten Britain and Germany?

Cornelius Adebahr

Associate Fellow, Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Studies, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin and Tehran; British German Forum alumnus

Markus Kaim

Head, International Security Program, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin

Sabrina Schulz

Senior Policy Advisor, Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G); Fellow, Stiftung Neue Verantwortung (SNV), Berlin

Matthew Lockwood

Head, Climate Change, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Brighton

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1200

7. Meeting external challenges: working groups

Working groups will examine the key challenges identified in the plenary session in more detail.

Discussion groups could include:

- **From a world of plenty to a world of scarcity**
- **Terrorism and organised crime**
- **Instability on European borders**

These groups will consider such questions as: How does this challenge impact on Europe's position in the world? In what ways do Germany and Britain's approaches differ? How can Britain and Germany cooperate and forge solutions?

1200-1230

8. Feedback from working groups

1245

Lunch

1345-1445

Football match (optional)

1515-1630

9. The branding of Europe

Are the ways in which Europe projects itself in the world fundamentally out-of-date? Should we develop a whole new way of promoting European values and strategic priorities? Are governments aware and engaged with the societies that they are trying to represent? What are more dynamic and modern ways of engaging, and ensuring influence for the future?

Elizabeth Linder

Politics and Government Specialist, EMEA, Facebook, London

Peter van Ham

Senior Research Fellow, Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael', The Hague

Christian Blüemelhuber

Faculty Director, Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, Brussels

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

10. Where is Europe's place in a challenging world?

How can Britain and Germany work together to address the threats and challenges facing Europe, both domestically and externally? What are the best outcomes for Europe and how do we achieve these? What are the key next steps that need to be taken?

Discussions in smaller groups

followed by

Presentations by the groups in plenary

1900

Reception drinks

1930

Forum dinner

Thursday 19 July

0815-0930

Breakfast

0930

Participants depart

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

This conference is open to those with expertise to share or an interest in the theme; our aim is to have a broad spread of nationalities and institutions represented. The full cost of participation is £1450. This covers 4 nights' accommodation, all meals during the conference and attendance at all sessions. Special rates may be available for those from non-OECD countries and also academics and NGO representatives.

Enquiries about participation and local travel to: Lisa Elvy, Conference Delivery Manager

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