

under the Patronage
of the European Parliament



Westdeutscher Rundfunk
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Österreichischer Rundfunk
PHOENIX
Europäische Kommission
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Project management
Michael Radix
WDR Chief editorial office Television

Marianne Breuer
CIVIS Medienstiftung

editor
Westdeutscher Rundfunk Köln
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Invitation | May 12, 2016

Europe without Europeans?

WDR¹ europa forum

registration.europa-forum.wdr.de



Design
www.viertel.com

Federal Foreign Office Berlin



Europe without Europeans?
The EU in Crisis Mode. Europe is changing

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 19th International WDR Europaforum will once again take up issues of the debate on Europe's future and on May 12, 2016, will offer a one-day conference of leading European politicians at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. The presentations and panel discussions will focus on Europe's future: Which Europe do we want, how should it work, and how far do we want to go together as a Union?

Terror, wars in neighbouring countries and crises without end – can the EU go on like this? Continuing debates about refugee policy, the unfinished Euro, the growing gap between rich and poor, the uncertain future

of Great Britain in the EU, the re-emergence of nationalist populists: Many call for re-nationalization and up-grading of the nation states. Few EU member states show their solidarity. There is a lack of Europe and there is a lack of Union. Do we live in a Europe without Europeans? More than ever, an efficient and active Europe is required.

Europe is at a critical point. Hundreds of thousands of refugees are fleeing from war and oppression. Their reception and integration will change Germany and Europe. The fear of imported conflicts and other terrorist attacks of the so-called "Islamic State" are increasing. Attacks, which in

Paris and Brussels were carried out by EU citizens. Electoral success and best results in public opinion polls for xenophobic parties throughout Europe are a cause for concern. The disputes between the EU member states about a joint refugee policy, leave Europe faced with major challenges. What does the future hold for us, what can we expect?

Only a few weeks before the EU summit in Brussels in June, and the EU referendum in Great Britain, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Südwestrundfunk, Österreichischer Rundfunk and the ARD/ZDF current affairs and documentary channel PHOENIX, together with

the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany are organizing a debate event on European politics for radio, television and the Internet at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

We hope to welcome you once again this year as a participant in the discussions and as our guest.

Yours sincerely



Tom Buhrow
Westdeutscher Rundfunk



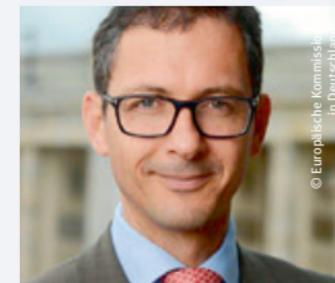
Lutz Marmor
Norddeutscher Rundfunk



Peter Boudgoust
Südwestrundfunk



Alexander Wrabetz
Österreichischer Rundfunk



Richard Nikolaus Kuehnel
Europäische Kommission
Vertretung in Deutschland



Frank Piplat
Europäisches Parlament
Informationsbüro in Deutschland

Word of Greeting



Even if they do not appear in the daily news, countless Europeans really deserve more attention: the volunteers in Germany who work practically until exhausted to help refugees, people in Greece who cook for hundreds of people in need and the families who open their homes to unaccompanied children on the run. That is the Europe that stands up for its values. Even if some member states appear to succumb to the temptation of national egoism and some complain that there are no longer any Europeans, I am optimistic. For according to all the surveys, the citizens are banking on joint solutions and the unifying foundation of our European values: human rights, democracy and peace.

In other words, Europe really is a Europe of Europeans and it is already in solution mode – also on a European level. Since May last year, the European Commission has been presenting concrete answers to tackle the refugee crisis. Starting with measures to rescue people in distress at sea, we have also made suggestions as to how we Europeans could

divide the responsibility for refugees more fairly, how we could help people in the neighbouring countries of Syria and how we could protect our external borders more effectively together. This also means that we should work more closely with Turkey – if only for the fact that a border always has two sides and it is always better to protect this with a neighbour rather than against it.

The member states have managed to do a great deal in record time. Other things, such as the fair redistribution of refugees, have only been tackled after some hesitation – although it would be easy for everyone if the responsibility was distributed equally among the more than 500 million Europeans. I am delighted that slowly but surely the realization has established itself that only European solutions can be permanent. Europe always works best when we support each other and realize that we can master the challenges far better together, than when each country acts alone. Only together can we preserve the Schengen

Agreement, which gives all of us the freedom to travel, trade and live across borders.

Therefore, we need a refugee policy which goes beyond the crisis mode. The creation of European border and coastal controls is one example that we can learn from the weaknesses which this crisis has revealed. Just as the financial crisis ultimately caused us to prepare our common currency for the future.

For Europe, crises have often represented an opportunity, because they made us aware of the power of our joint efforts. This time too we must not forget that we have teamed up because we can shape our future better in the globalized world when we join forces.

Therefore, we do not only need the short-term solution mode, but also the European future mode. That includes the investment programme

with which we are mobilizing 315 billion Euros for investments in jobs of the future and a joint energy policy.

Europe is, in other words, by no means married to the word “crisis”, Europe is not the cause of the challenges facing us, but rather the best answer. I am, therefore, very much looking forward to the WDR Europaforum and the dialogue with you all.

Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission



Word of Greeting

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We are experiencing turbulent times in Europe. The European Union is facing greater challenges than ever before: the refugee crisis, increasing nationalism, the economic and monetary union which has yet to be completed, the dramatically high level of youth unemployment, the threatening withdrawal of Great Britain from the EU or the dangers of terrorism are just some of the most urgent problems.

In particular, the dramatic escalation of the refugee crisis shows us that we are unable to provide national responses to a global phenomenon like the movement of refugees. This is only possible with a united Europe. And nevertheless, we see how in many countries the primacy of the national interest and national action takes precedence over the community solution. This lack of solidarity harms us all, just as well as

the people who look to us for protection from Assad's bombs or the so-called Islamic State. And simultaneously this lack of solidarity prevents a lasting solution to the movement of refugees, which could only become a crisis as a result of the failure to find a joint European approach.

We can only master the challenges of the 21st century together, in a solidly united and strong Europe. In order to do this we need to reflect once again on our strengths and joint values, which form the foundation of the EU and unite us all: solidarity, tolerance, openness, diversity, equality and the preservation of human dignity. Our actions must be able to be measured in terms of these values.



Against this background, I am delighted that for the 19th time this year, the WDR Europaforum is bringing together high-ranking representatives from the media and politics, in order to discuss the state of Europe and to point out directions into the future.

I wish you all fascinating and fruitful discussions!

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

Word of Greeting



Europe is changing. At first sight that does not appear to be anything new – until you take a look at the direction in which it is moving. Could it be that integration has gone into reverse gear? For the first time in a European country a vote will be taken about a possible withdrawal from the European Union and not about a bid to join it. And for the first time in many decades, we are again introducing border controls, instead of abolishing them.

It thereby comes as no real surprise that today there are many places in Europe where the desire exists to shift back to the nation state. The world often appears to us to be confusing, the critical developments in our neighbouring countries threatening. With the influx of refugees, we are even feeling in Germany the consequences of war in Syria and Iraq. Russia's violent annexation of the Crimea has called into question previously assumed certainties about peace in Europe.

Regional developments today have a worldwide effect. The effects of an economic slowdown in China are also felt by companies in Munich, Milan and Madrid. In the age of globalization and digitalization, the boundaries are more permeable and the contours become less distinct than we would sometimes like. But we will not be able to turn this historical development back again. We must face up to the fact that the pressure from outside has changed the political geometry within Europe. This forces us to make adjustments on a national and European level: the European Union is currently undergoing a metamorphosis, and we still do not know what it will turn out like in the end.

Whether a colourful butterfly or a dull gray moth emerges, however, is something that the Europeans have in their own hands. The external pressure may not be an excuse for us not to tackle the urgent internal tasks. We cannot solve problems by sticking our heads in the national sandpit. This applies to foreign policy as well as to the internal constitution of the European Union. The Europeans shape their cooperation themselves – nobody can relieve us of the responsibility to provide the political dynamics in Europe with a constructive direction once again.

How we can get the integration dynamic moving in forward gear again and what form we can provide for Europe in the future will depend, above all, on convincing concepts. Europe, therefore, requires room for discussion and competition to find the best ideas. The WDR Europaforum

has for many years been providing an excellent opportunity for this. It is good that once again this year we can welcome it to the Federal Foreign Office.

I look forward to a lively exchange of ideas and fascinating debates about Europe!

Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Federal Republic of Germany



Program May 12, 2016 | Forenoon

10:00	Greeting	Tom Buhrow Director-General Westdeutscher Rundfunk Richard Nikolaus Kuehnel Head of Representation European Commission Germany	11:45	Video-Statement	Europe's Relapse into National Pattern of Thinking? Position and Perspectives Martin Schulz President European Parliament, MEP
10:15	Lecture	Keeping Europe together Frank-Walter Steinmeier Minister for Foreign Affairs Federal Republic of Germany, MP	12:00	Discussion	Europe – stay or go? The EU of different Speeds? David Lidington Minister for Europe United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (requested)
	Interview	Tina Hassel Head of ARD Capital Studio Berlin		Interview	Sonia Seymour Mikich Editor-in-Chief WDR Television
10:45	Lecture	Poland on the Way to Repositioning? What unites, what separates Europe? Witold Jan Waszczykowski Minister of Foreign Affairs Republic of Poland	12:30	Diskussion	Europe in Crisis Mode – Europe after the Crisis? Jean Asselborn Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Miroslav Lajcak Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Slovak Republic
	Interview	Andreas Cichowicz Editor-in-Chief NDR Television		Presenter	Rolf-Dieter Krause Head of ARD Television Studio Brussels
11:15	Discussion	Europe is a Europe of Europeans and long since in Solution Mode? Jean-Claude Juncker President European Commission	13:00	Break	Snacks at the Federal Foreign Office
	Interview	Andreas Cichowicz Editor-in-Chief NDR Television Sonia Seymour Mikich Editor-in-Chief WDR Television			

Program May 12, 2016 | Afternoon

13:00 **Break** **Snacks at the Federal Foreign Office**

14:00 **Lecture** **Europe before the decision? The one-dimensional European**
Robert Menasse Author, Essayist, Critic

14:30 **Discussion** **Europe without Europeans – Reversal of the European Integration?**
Angela Merkel Federal Chancellor Germany, MP

Interview **Tom Buhrow** Director-General Westdeutscher Rundfunk
Roger de Weck Director-General Schweizerische Radio- und Fernsehgesellschaft

15:00 **Discussion** **Crisis, War and Terror – Does the EU lack clear Strategies?**
Elmar Brok Spokesman for Foreign Affairs EPP Parliamentary Group European Parliament
Katja Kipping Co-Chairwoman of Germany's party Die Linke, MP
Alexander Graf Lambsdorff Vice-President European Parliament, ALDE/MEP
Cem Özdemir Federal Chairman of Germany's party Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, MP

Presenter **Fritz Frey** Editor-in-Chief SWR Television

15:45 **Resumé** **Tom Buhrow** Director-General Westdeutscher Rundfunk

16:00 **End**

Day's Presenter **Dr. Joachim Görgen** Head of Trimediale News SWR
Overall Direction **Michael Radix** Head of WDR Europaforum, Chief editorial office Television



WDR Europaforum 2016

In cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament and further European partners, the WDR has already conducted eighteen European forums with high-ranking politicians in Berlin, Brussels, Frankfurt/Oder, Cologne, Ljubljana, Strasbourg, Warsaw and Vienna.

WDR Europaforum, the international conference for Europe's leading politicians, has already established itself as an institution of renown.

The central focus of the international WDR Europaforums, featuring discussions and lectures on current topics of interest for radio, TV and the internet lies on European intergration: Which Europe do we want, how should it work and how far do we want to go together as a Union?

Information:

registration.europa-forum.wdr.de

Organisation and execution of the WDR Europaforum is carried out by the chief editorial office WDR television in cooperation with the CIVIS Media Foundation. Head of the WDR Europaforum is Michael Radix, chief editorial office WDR television.

WDR Europaforum
Westdeutscher Rundfunk

50600 Köln/Germany
Fon +49 (0)221 220 2086
wdr-europaforum@wdr.de

Registration

Please register online not later than May 10, 2016. Therefore please use your personal CODE and our webpage **registration.europa-forum.wdr.de** Further information will there be available. Please find your personal CODE in the letter enclosed.

Entrance as of 8.30 hrs
Federal Foreign Office

Official visitor's entrance
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin/Mitte

Due to the television transmissions and security checks, we would like to request that you arrive at the Federal Foreign Office in good time. With your participation in the WDR Europaforum you declare your consent to your image possibly appearing during the transmission of the programme.

Registration and participation in the 19th International WDR Europaforum are free of charge. As the number of participants is unfortunately limited, please register as soon as possible. Please make your own travelling and accommodation arrangements. Please note that all expenses for travelling and hotel accommodation are at your own cost.

This invitation is only valid after the successful electronic confirmation of registration and in combination with a valid passport/identity card with photo as admission ticket.



Registration online
registration.europa-forum.wdr.de

Closing date May 10, 2016

Registration
only online!