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of the European Parliament



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Europäische Kommission
Europäisches Parlament
Auswärtiges Amt

Project management

Michael Radix
WDR Chief editorial office Television

Marianne Breuer
CIVIS Medienstiftung

Editor

Westdeutscher Rundfunk Köln
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Invitation WDR Europaforum 2017 | 1 June, 2017 | Federal Foreign Office Berlin

EUROPE – MORE OR LESS?
FOR A UNION WE WISH TO LIVE IN

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Invitation

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 20th International WDR Europaforum will once again take up issues of the debate on Europe's future and on 1 June 2017, will offer a one-day conference of leading European politicians in the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. Europe's future forms the focus of the current talks and panel discussions:

Which Europe do we want, how should it look, and how far do we want to go together as a Union? Europe – More or Less. For a Union we wish to live in.

Terror, crises, war and a constant stream of new challenges – is Europe's Golden Age a thing of the past? The departure from the EU by the United Kingdom, turbulence and instability in several EU states, strong right-wing and left-wing populist movements throughout Europe, and the dramatically high level of youth unemployment are only a few of the most urgent problems. What is the future for the European integration?

Europe's situation is tense. The European Union's cohesion and capacity to act are under threat. The loss of trust in important democratic institutions shows: a growing number of citizens no longer feel represented by

their elected politicians. Will crisis become the new normality, or will Europe recapture the power of its common interests – in an EU of strength and solidarity?

A few weeks before the EU summit in Brussels in June, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Südwestrundfunk, Österreichischer Rundfunk and the ARD/ZDF event and documentation channel PHOENIX, together with the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, will stage a European political discussion event for radio, television and internet in the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

We hope that we can welcome you again this year as a panellist and guest.

Yours sincerely



Tom Buhrow
Westdeutscher Rundfunk



Lutz Marmor
Norddeutscher Rundfunk



Peter Boudgoust
Südwestrundfunk



Alexander Wrabetz
Österreichischer Rundfunk



Richard Nikolaus Kühnel
European Commission
Representation in Germany



Frank Piplat
European Parliament
Information Office in Germany

Word of Greeting



The year 2017 is gearing up to become a “world moment”. It is a year of challenges, but also of opportunities in which we – as the writer Stefan Zweig once put it – can decide the fate of our continent. We can choose between isolation, inequality and national egotisms on the one hand, and cosmopolitanism, social fairness and combined forces on the other, between regression and the future, between narrow-mindedness and Europe.

For me, a single comparative glance at the two halves of the previous century is enough to explain the key to success. Europe’s unity in diversity and openness has created a continent of peace and prosperity, security and freedom, justice and social fairness. And many around the world envy us for precisely these achievements. This must be preserved.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the heads of state and government acknowledged the fact that we Europeans can find better solutions together than any member state alone. That also corresponds with the desire of the people, who expect European politics to deliver results.

We are faced with a variety of challenges, ranging from globalisation and the impact of new technologies on society, to the increase in populism and questions of security. We cannot allow ourselves to be intimidated, but instead must use the opportunities that arise from these challenges.

Therefore, the white paper presented by the European Commission on 1 March shows possible paths for the future of Europe. It sketches five scenarios – it depends on us all, which of these we will choose.



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The debate on these scenarios is in full swing, and in my speech on the state of the Union in September I will draw the first conclusions. We hold our future, the future of Europe, in our own hands.

For me, however, Europe is not merely a matter of the mind, but also of the heart. It is the fundamental feeling of peace, security and opportunities. That is a task not only for politicians, but for all Europeans. It is encouraging that so many thousands of people are now taking to the streets regularly in support of Europe. We must make a stand for Europe, because even the most convinced Europeans will be overtaken by populists if they just remain at home on the sofa.

The ability to travel across borders, to live and work in safety, to enjoy the highest standards of healthcare and food safety as a consumer, and to benefit from the European single market as an entrepreneur – none of

this can be taken for granted. We must choose which world we want to live in. It is therefore down to us all to use 2017 as Europe’s “world moment” – for a Europe that protects, strengthens and defends its people.

Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission

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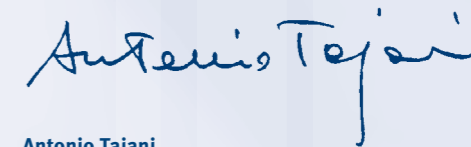


This year the European Union celebrated the signing of the Treaty of Rome 60 years ago – a milestone in European history. During the intervening period, the European Union has changed and developed continuously. But we have by no means reached our goal: as well as countless achievements, we have always also faced difficult times. For example, 2017 is the year in which, for the very first time in the history of the European Union, a member state applies to leave.

Despite this regrettable loss, we should see the event as an opportunity to shape Europe in such a manner that we all want to be part of this unique project. But this can only succeed with the help of an openly-conducted dialogue in which everyone has the chance to be heard. The WDR Europaforum is particularly important precisely for this reason. Thanks to its long tradition it represents an important platform for the exchange of ideas.

However the future of Europe will not only be determined in Brussels or Berlin. At present, thousands of people of every age are demonstrating in many European cities as part of movements such as *Pulse of Europe*, expressing by these means their attachment to the European Union. We must use this dynamic in order to reawaken enthusiasm for Europe, also among those who do not share our belief in a common future within the Union. For this reason, the European Parliament works every day towards implementing and developing the political vision of Europe, and bringing it closer to the people.

It must be clear to all that the best way to face the greatest challenges of our age – terrorism, climate change, social inequality and migration flows – is by acting together. Only by these means will it be possible to maintain freedom, security and prosperity in Europe, also in the future.



Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament



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Word of Greeting

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Which Europe do we want? This question is occupying us more than ever this year.

On the one hand, the European Union celebrated its 60th birthday in March. An anniversary year always presents the opportunity to honour the success of this unique project. The European Union has endowed its citizens with a degree of freedom, security and prosperity that many others envy.

On the other hand, after 60 years we are also standing at a crossroads. Which path do we want to take in future, in a world marked by crises? For me it is obvious: The path of European unity is the only right one. Europe can defend its values successfully only if it speaks with one voice. No European state can prevail alone amidst global competition. We must

also urgently reduce the prosperity gap in the European Union, it is poisonous for our internal cohesion. Democracy and the rule of law, solidarity with each other and diversity among ourselves are the keystones of the European project. We must advocate these values both internally and externally.

But we must go even further: We must create a better, a stronger Europe. This also means countering distorted perceptions and changing ingrained narratives. The narrow view that we are net contributors, which concentrates solely on payments to and direct returns from the EU budget, serves as a cheap argument to those who wish to construe the history of Germany as the packhorse of the European Union. But that is by no means the whole truth. Rather, it is more correct to state: Based on its economic involvement alone, no country benefits as much from European

unity than Germany. The economic advantages and gains in wealth far exceed the balance of mere contribution flows. For this reason, we Germans above all have every reason to strengthen our advocacy for the future of Europe and to increase our investment in the project of peace and prosperity that is the European Union, making it fit for the future.

At the anniversary summit in Rome the member states together reinforced their commitment to a better and stronger European Union, while at the same time leaving room for manoeuvre in terms of the degree and speed of cooperation in individual political fields. Thus the destination for the future has been set.

The anniversary edition of the WDR Europaforum is being held in moving times for European politics. There is certainly no lack of material for

discussion. I am delighted that the Federal Foreign Office can once again play host, and I wish you all an exciting and rewarding day, full of interesting discussions about Europe.

Sigmar Gabriel
Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs

Programme 1 June, 2017 | Forenoon

10:00 **Greeting** **Tom Buhrow** Director-General Westdeutscher Rundfunk
Richard Nikolaus Kühnel Head of Representation European Commission Germany
Michael Roth Minister of State in the Federal Foreign Office

10:30 **Lecture** **Which Europe – Is *Kerneuropa* a better alternative?**
Christian Kern Federal Chancellor Republic of Austria

Interview **Markus Preiß** Head of ARD Capital Studio Brussels

11:00 **Discussion** **Europe's future – Ideas and scenarios on how the crisis can be overcome**
Jean-Claude Juncker President European Commission

Interview **Tina Hassel** Head of ARD Capital Studio Berlin, Editor-in-Chief Television

11:30 **Discussion** **Europe – For a Union we wish to live in**
Martin Schulz SPD Chancellor Candidate, Chairman Social Democratic Party of Germany

Interview **Sabine Rau** ARD Television Correspondent

12:00 **Lecture** **Europe – More or Less? In praise of the European Union**
Roger de Weck Director-General Schweizerische Radio- u. Fernsehgesellschaft

12:15 **Discussion** **Strengthening Europe's future – “the EU is the Europeans' best idea of the 20th century”**
Wolfgang Schäuble Federal Minister of Finance Germany, MP

Interview **Roger de Weck** Director-General Schweizerische Radio- u. Fernsehgesellschaft

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

Programme 1 June, 2017 | Afternoon

14:00 **Discussion** **Germany's new European role – in a multipolar, post-Western world**
Sigmar Gabriel Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Germany, MP

Interview **Andreas Cichowicz** Editor-in-Chief NDR Television

14:30 **Discussion** **The United Kingdom's EU departure and its financial consequences – Scenarios for the EU budget**
Günther H. Oettinger EU Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources

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

15:00 **Lecture** **European identity in a state of change? Election observations**
Peter Sloterdijk Philosopher, Cultural Scientist, Author

Interview **Ingrid Thurnher** Editor-in-Chief ORF III Television

15:15 **Discussion** **Europe's future debate – More or Less Union?**
Elmar Brok Member Committee of Foreign Affairs European Parliament, EPP/MEP
Alexander Graf Lambsdorff Vice-President European Parliament, ALDE/MEP
Katja Kipping Co-Chairwoman of Germany's party Die Linke, MP
Cem Özdemir Federal Chairman of Germany's party Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, MEP

Presenter **Andreas Cichowicz** Editor-in-Chief NDR Television

16:00 **Farewell** **Tom Buhrow** Director-General Westdeutscher Rundfunk

End

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

WDR Europaforum 2017

In cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, 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.

Live on the Radio, Television and the Internet via europa-forum.wdr.de

Informationen:

registration.europa-forum.wdr.de

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

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 of WDR television.

WDR Europaforum
Westdeutscher Rundfunk

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

Registration

Please register online not later than 30 May, 2017.
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

Offizieller Besuchereingang
Official visitor's entrance
10117 Berlin/Mitte

Due to the television transmissions, 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 20th 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.



Broadcast dates | WDR Europaforum 2017

WDR Fernsehen	01.06.2017	10:00 - 12:45 14:00 - 16:00 hrs
ORF III Fernsehen	01.06.2017	10:00 - 12:45 14:00 - 16:00 hrs
PHOENIX	01.06.2017	15:30 - 17:30 hrs
WDR Cosmo	01.06.2017	12:00 - 14:00 hrs

WDR Europaforum online livestream at www.europa-forum.wdr.de



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Closing date 30 May, 2017