

under the high Patronage
of the European Parliament



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Westdeutscher Rundfunk
Südwestrundfunk
Norddeutscher Rundfunk
Österreichischer Rundfunk
PHOENIX
Europäische Kommission
Europäisches Parlament

Projektleitung

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Herausgeber

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RETHINKING EUROPE

POLITICS AND PROSPECTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

WDR¹

SWR¹

NDR¹

ORF

phoenix



Design
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WDR¹ europa
forum

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

The 21st International WDR Europaforum will once again see leading European politicians discuss Europe's future at a one-day conference on 07 June 2018 at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

What kind of Europe do we want? What should it look like? And how far do we want to go as a union? Do we need to rethink Europe? The conference will focus on politics and prospects of the European Union.

Migration, globalisation and digitalisation are fundamentally changing the way we live and work. Economic improvements give many people better chances at success and strengthen the European bond.

Others worry about an uncertain future and are afraid they might not be able to keep up.

The rise of nationalist, authoritarian and xenophobic parties and politicians is leading Europe to a critical point. The EU is facing a plethora of challenges with the continuing debate in East and West about joint constitutional and democratic values, about questions of national identity and about growing social polarisation. How can the union react to "illiberal democracies" and authoritarian national populism?

After the Brexit vote, the remaining 27 EU member states have closed ranks. But a number of EU member states and European institutions want to go a step further. They demand a rejuvenated and solidary union – a sovereign, united and democratic Europe. These aims should be clearly defined. The joint EU foreign and security policy needs to be adapted to the dramatic changes in international politics. A successful communication with the global powers USA and China will determine Europe's future.

A few weeks before the EU summit, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Südwestrundfunk, Österreichischer Rundfunk

and ARD/ZDF's joint event and documentary channel PHOENIX together with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the German Federal Foreign Office are hosting a discussion event on European policy – broadcast live from the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on radio, on TV and streamed online.

We very much hope that you will come again this year to participate in our lively debates.

With kind regards



Tom Buhrow
Westdeutscher Rundfunk



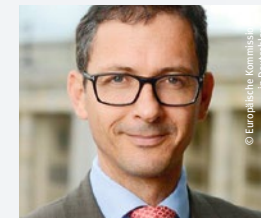
Lutz Marmor
Norddeutscher Rundfunk



Peter Boudgoust
Südwestrundfunk



Alexander Wrabetz
Österreichischer Rundfunk



Richard Nikolaus Kuehnel
European Commission
Representation in Germany



Frank Piplat
European Parliament
Information Office in Germany

Word of Greeting



Europe once again has a tailwind. Thanks to a joint effort, in recent months we have managed to achieve results that mean noticeable improvements for many people – despite all the challenges and global uncertainties. More than 236 million people in Europe are in employment. That is a record which at the same time boosts purchasing power and wealth. Germany, in particular, can benefit from these developments.

What delights me most is the fact that the feeling of belonging has become even stronger. Especially in Germany, citizens' movements such as the "Pulse of Europe" have countered EU scepticism and widespread pessimism with a quick-witted, positive strength. The new German government has seized this mood, and placed Europe at the forefront of its coalition agreement. We have a common objective: Using Europa's collective strength in order to generate a new awakening for Europe.

At the same time, I am not under any illusion. The populist danger will continue to lurk in future. For this reason, the European Union and all of its member states must prove constantly to its people that Europe is an asset. Only when we act together in solidarity can Europe overcome obstacles and achieve great things.

It is time for Europe to take on more joint responsibility and leadership in an uncertain world. Who but ourselves can anchor and export stability? Who is better able to stand up for values and global rules? Who else can give power to peace? Together we can regulate the chaos, face volatility with security, and confront the maze of interests with clarity and values.

However in terms of its basic architecture, Europe is not yet ready for global politics. But it is something we must strive towards, now more than ever, for the world is watching us. Therefore, in matters of foreign policy we should speak with one voice. This gives us collective authority.

Just as our capability to act on foreign policy increases when we stick together, we are also equally successful together when it comes to concluding fruitful trade agreements, controlling migration or ensuring our security. In view of the global transformation, my hope is that we can stand together and jointly overcome all crises and challenges.

The WDR Europaforum provides a wonderful opportunity for an inspired, open, critical-constructive exchange. You are all very welcome to participate in this discussion. It concerns our common future!

Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission



Word of Greeting

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The WDR Europaforum offers the possibility to discuss the state of play in Europe today, and about which road we should take together to advance this project in the future.

Your initiative is precious, as it is remarkable in your commitment, now running in its 21st edition. WDR Europaforum is indeed a contribution to Europe from society itself, coming from the ground, from those who do Europe in their everyday lives.

It is clear to all that the European project has delivered immense benefits to citizens over its sixty years of peace and prosperity celebrated last year. And yet, the populist voices proposing European fragmentation keep on gathering momentum in different parts of our continent.

The recent election outcomes in Germany and France give us hope that citizens see Europe as a vector for solving their problems rather than a problem in itself. While they vote for Europe, at the same time, they are asking us to change it. Theirs is therefore only a conditional support.

Our duty is therefore to respond to that call as rapidly as possible, with concrete results for the change that our citizens are calling for. This necessitates expedient decisions on their immediate concerns, immigration at the top of the list, security and defence, but also the elimination of barriers to the digital single market, effective measures to combat youth unemployment and a long-term commitment to fighting climate change.

We must also dare to move forward in areas where we lost time in the past, including by integrating our defence capabilities and research, saving billions to European taxpayers thanks to synergies, eliminating overlapping investments.

We can lead the world on climate change and technological innovation. This Europe stands for excellence and standards based on sound values. Let us not shy away from seizing our destiny in our own hands.

Finally I turn to you with a request for your help. Whether you work in media, in the public or private sector, be it in your free time, or on social media, this Europe needs people like you to spread the reality of the European project. We can put Europe on the right track by taking the

right decision, but we need also to communicate them better with all our citizens. We can no longer allow fake news and misinformation to prevail. For this, we share a responsibility to speak frankly about the Europe we need to change, and the Europe we dare to strive for, for the benefit of our citizens today and tomorrow.

Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament

Word of Greeting

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of the Federal Foreign Office



“Rethinking Europe” – with this year’s title, WDR Europaforum is setting itself and us a big and important goal. These days, Europe is perceived far too often as a seemingly endless string of crises. As a result, we are in danger of losing sight of European integration as a project of peace and prosperity that is unique in the world. A strong Europe that is capable of acting is of the utmost importance for us Europeans and especially for us Germans – both on an economic and a political level.

So, it is all the more important that we nudge the European Union back on track, enabling it to tackle the current tasks and challenges with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. There is a whole host of things we need to come to grips with: How can we make the European economic and

monetary union crisis-proof? How can we lower the youth unemployment rate throughout Europe, which is still too high despite a solid economic development? How can we Europeans approach flight and migration with responsibility and solidarity in future? How can we strengthen Europe as a player in an increasingly less stable international environment? How can we fortify the bonds within the European Union and preserve our joint European values? And how can we modernise the Union to generate maximum support throughout all our societies – especially in the face of the rise of populism and nationalism?

At the same time, the challenges outside Europe are also growing. For years now, there have been armed conflicts in our immediate

neighbourhood that destabilise entire regions. Millions of people around the world are looking for safety and better prospects away from home. Simultaneously, we are experiencing a worrying erosion of our existing liberal, rule-based and democratic order.

No single member state can master these tasks and challenges within and outside Europe on their own. Instead, the European Union offers us the chance to work on joint political solutions and develop new perspectives. But this will only work if we Europeans act as one. That is why I am campaigning for upholding and strengthening the unity within Europe. To this end, I will maintain a lively exchange with all European partners, especially with our direct neighbours France and Poland.

I would like to thank the WDR for staging this event for the 21st time, offering us the chance to discuss our place within Europe and opening up new vistas. I feel especially honoured that the Foreign Office has again been invited to host the event in 2018 – I wish you all an exciting and fruitful day full of animated discussions on Europe.

Heiko Maas
Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs



Programme 7. June 2018 | Forenoon

10:00	Greeting	Tom Buhrow Director-General of Westdeutscher Rundfunk Richard Nikolaus Kühnel Head of Representation European Commission Germany	11:30	Discussion	Strengthening Europe – its fundamental consensus, its diversity and differences Warning of hatred against Jews – taking a firm stand against anti-Semitism Wolfgang Schäuble MP President of German Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag)
10:10	Lecture	Germany's responsibility in European politics The EU as a community of solidarity and shared values Michael Roth MP Minister of State for Europe German Federal Foreign Office		Interview	Andreas Cichowicz Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Programme Director NDR Television
	Interview	Roger de Weck Publicist, Media Manger	12:00	Discussion	Pro-European signals for a solidary market economy A German Minister for Finance will always remain a German Minister for Finance Olaf Scholz Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Finance of Germany (<i>requested</i>)
10:30	Lecture	Europe en Marche – France's initiative for Europe For a new economic and monetary policy Bruno Le Maire Minister of Economy and Finance of France (<i>requested</i>)		Interview	Fritz Frey Editor-in-Chief, Head of the main multi-media editorial office SWR Television
	Interview	Sabine Rau Head of ARD Capital Studio Paris	12:30	Discussion	Rethinking Europe – Great Britain's new perspectives regarding European policy We're leaving the EU, not Europe The Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP , Minister of State for Europe and the Americas, Deputy Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
11:00	Lecture	Europe's future – which Europe do we want? EU with core competencies, more space for national decisions Heinz-Christian Strache MP Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for the Civil Service and Sport of Austria		Interview	Sonia Seymour Mikich Editor-in-Chief, Head of Politics and Current Affairs WDR Television
	Interview	Roger de Weck Publicist, Media Manager	13:00	Break	Refreshments at the Federal Foreign Office

Programme 7. June 2018 | Afternoon

14:00	Discussion	New beginnings for Europe – together and solidary Germany's position and role as a European leading power Angela Merkel MP Federal Chancellor Germany
	Interview	Tom Buhrow Director-General of Westdeutscher Rundfunk Sonia Seymour Mikich Editor-in-Chief, Head of Politics and Current Affairs WDR Television
14:30	Discussion	Visions for Europe – pacification only through EU perspective Export stability or import instability Johannes Hahn EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
	Interview	Markus Preiß Head of ARD Capital Studio Brussels
14:55	Discussion	EU budget, Brexit gap, good behaviour clause – the struggle over EU fund Increased financial contributions of EU member states – disadvantages for economically underdeveloped regions Günther H. Oettinger EU Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources
	Interview	Fritz Frey Editor-in-Chief, Head of main multi-media editorial office SWR Television

15:20	Discussion	Politics and prospects of the European Union Shaping Europe's future – with a joint vision Elmar Brok MEP Member of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, EVP Alexander Graf Lambsdorff MP Deputy Parliamentary Leader of the Free Democratic Party of German Parliament Annalena Baerbock MP Federal Chairwoman of Germany's party Bündnis 90/Die Grünen Gabriele Zimmer MEP Parliamentary Leader of the European United Left/NGL European Parliament
	Interview	Ingrid Thurnher Editor-in-Chief ORF III Television
16:00	Farewell	Tom Buhrow Director-General of Westdeutscher Rundfunk
	End	
	Host of the day Overall management	Joachim Görgen Head of Trimedia News SWR Michael Radix Head of WDR Europaforum, Chief editorial office WDR Television

WDR Europaforum 2018

In cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, the WDR has already conducted twenty 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 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.

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Registration

Please register online not later than 05 June, 2018.
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 partici-
pation in the WDR Europaforum you declare your consent to your image
possibly appearing during the transmission of the programme.

Registration and participation in the 21st 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 2018

WDR Fernsehen	07.06.2018	10:00 - 12:45 14:00 - 16:00 hrs
ORF III Fernsehen	07.06.2018	10:00 - 12:45 14:00 - 16:00 hrs
WDR Cosmo	07.06.2018	12:00 - 14:00 hrs
PHOENIX	08.06.2018	15:00 - 16:00 hrs

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



Registration
only online!

Registration online
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Closing date 05 June, 2018