

COMMUNICATING EUROPE: GERMAN PERSPECTIVES ON ENLARGEMENT

Thursday 21 – Friday 22 FEBRUARY 2008

With the Assistance of the
GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND - REUNITING EUROPE of the UK
FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE



This conference will examine the nature and dynamics of the German EU-enlargement debate.

Participants will discuss new research on the state of opinion in Germany among policy-makers, politicians, and public opinion. Distinguished guests from government, political parties, media and academia will provide insight in Germany's enlargement debates and participate in informal and frank discussion.



- What are the attitudes to future enlargement in Germany – going behind the headlines? What are the competing visions of the future of Europe among German policy elites?
- Who are the key policy-players and opinion formers? What is the role of the major parties, the opposition, the party institutes, think tanks and the media?
- What are the major concerns of German policy makers when it comes to the future of the Western Balkans?

THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY

1600-1630

OPENING SESSION - INTRODUCTION - OVERVIEW

Chris LANGDON and Gerald KNAUS

European Stability Initiative

1630-1720

GERMAN PERSPECTIVES ON ENLARGEMENT

Germany has always been one of the driving forces of enlargement. However, after the enlargement rounds of 2004 and the reluctant admission of Bulgaria and Romania, German support for further enlargement has diminished. What is the state of the debate today? And how is it related to wider debates on the future of Europe?

Ulrike GUÉROT

Head of Berlin Office, European Council on Foreign Relations

Sandra BREKA

Head of Berlin Office, Bosch Foundation

1720-1820

GERMAN EU POLICY

What are the traditions of German foreign policy and how do these affect German attitudes towards further enlargement?

Gunther KRICHBAUM

Chairman of the Committee on European Union Affairs (CDU), Bundestag

Rainer STINNER

Deputy Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (FDP), Bundestag

1820-1840

Tea/coffee

1840-1940

GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH EAST EUROPE

What are the major concerns of German policy makers as they look at the Western Balkans? How committed are German policy makers to further enlargement in South East Europe?

Gerhard ALMER

Head of EU-External Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Berlin

Johannes JUNG

Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (SPD), Bundestag

Peter REUSS

Foreign policy advisor to the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, Bundestag

2000

WORKING DINNER

At the Residence of Hugh MORTIMER

Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy, Berlin

With the Ambassadors of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Montenegro

FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY

0930-1045

THE ROLE OF THINK TANKS IN THE GERMAN DEBATE ON ENLARGEMENT

Cornelius ADEBAHR

European Foreign and Security Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (DGAP), Berlin

Jörg HIMMELREICH

Senior Transatlantic Fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS)

Michael WEICHERT

Programme Manager for South East Europe, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Berlin

1045-1115

Tea/Coffee

1115-1245

THE BALKANS IN GERMANY'S PRINT MEDIA

How is news made in Germany? Which news influence policy? Which images of South East Europe predominate in German media?

Andrea BÖHM

Die Zeit, Hamburg

Caroline FETSCHER

Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin

1300-1430

LUNCH:

Restaurant Entrecote at the Checkpoint Charlie

1500-1600

GERMANY'S TELEVISION COVERAGE OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE

What shapes the coverage of the Western Balkans on German Television?

Thomas MORAWSKI

Bavarian Television, Munich

1545-1630

CONCLUDING SESSION: NEXT STEPS

How to make the most of 2008?

Gerald Knaus

ESI

1930

CONFERENCE DINNER