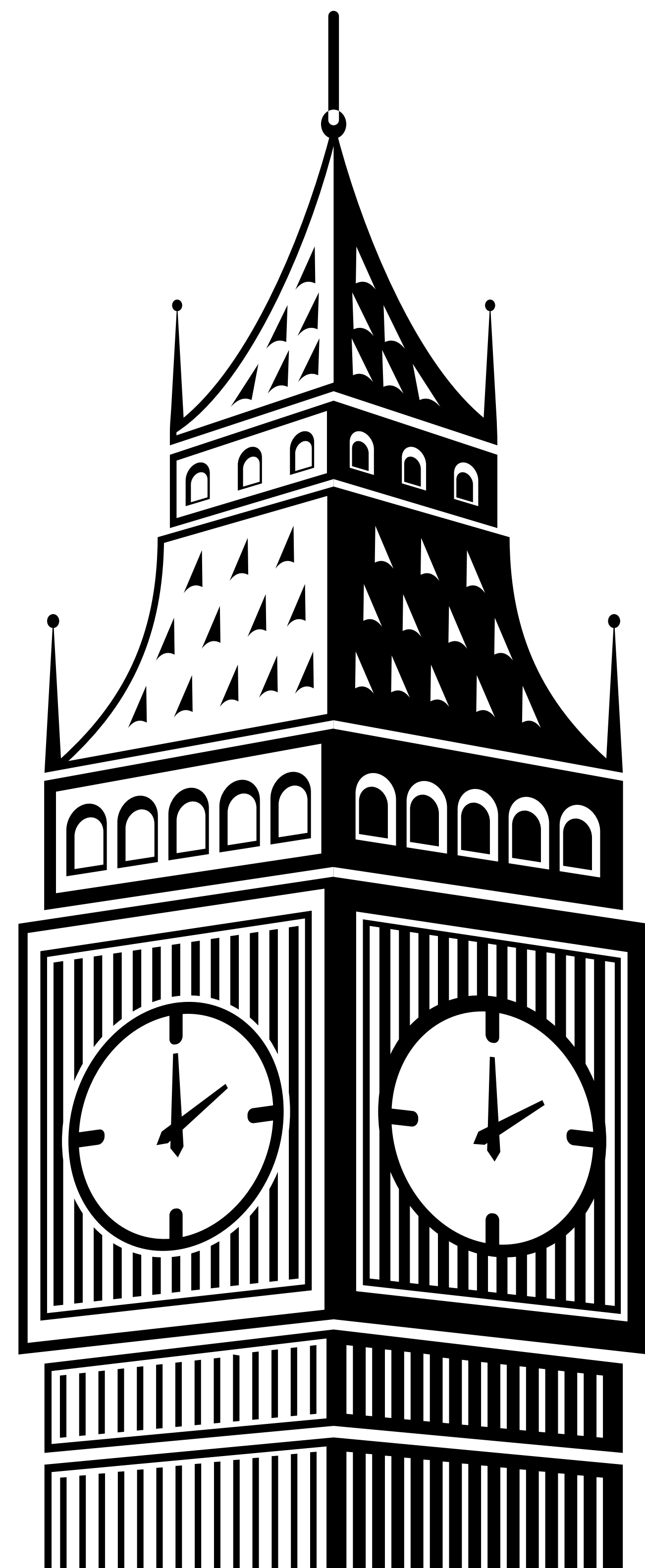




24th LSE German Symposium

Transforming Tomorrow

March 3rd - 7th 2025



German Society
The London School
of Economics
and Political Science





The LSE SU German Society

The German Society is a Students' Union society at the London School of Economics and Political Science. With currently over 350 active members, the Society is the largest German student society in the UK.

Since Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, we have renewed our commitment to promote the mutual understanding and relationship between the UK and its European allies. Through partnerships with public and private bodies, including the German Embassy in the UK, we offer cultural, social, academic, and career-oriented events for members and non-members alike.

Participation is open to everyone with a reach that goes far beyond the LSE.



German Society

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The LSE German Symposium

The Society's flagship event is the annual LSE German Symposium in London. Initiated in 2002 by German LSE students, the German Symposium has become an established event in the university's calendar and beyond and will be held for the 24th time in 2025. From **3rd to 7th March**, the conference week will host several keynote speeches, discussion panels, and intimate events every day to offer the opportunity for intellectual debate and reflection. Throughout the week, we will examine current issues relevant to Britain, Germany and their role in Europe and the world. Over the years, we have consistently attracted renowned politicians, executives, economists, entrepreneurs, journalists and academics to speak at our Symposium. All events are free of charge and open to the public.

Transforming Tomorrow

Europe finds itself at a critical juncture, grappling with an array of unparalleled challenges. The ongoing Russian military aggression in Ukraine, the escalating conflict in the Middle East and the civil war in Sudan, next to a disrupted economy characterised by a persisting cost of living crisis, the ever increasing effects of climate change or the transformative impact of emerging technologies, and the surge of extremism collectively jeopardise the foundation of the rule-based international order upon which Europe stands.

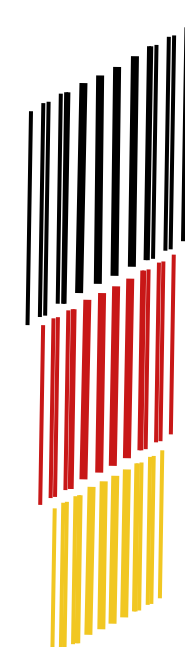




The choices made in response to these challenges will mould Europe's societal, economic, and ethical landscapes for generations to come and it is our responsibility to overcome these barriers by fostering, repairing, and creating connections.

Under our guiding motto "Transforming Tomorrow", the LSE German Symposium 2025 takes the current crises not only as an opportunity to critically discuss the drastic changes that will follow, but most importantly, to explore how we can rethink political and economic rulebooks to overcome the deficits these calamities have exposed in our society and how to emerge stronger together amongst partners.

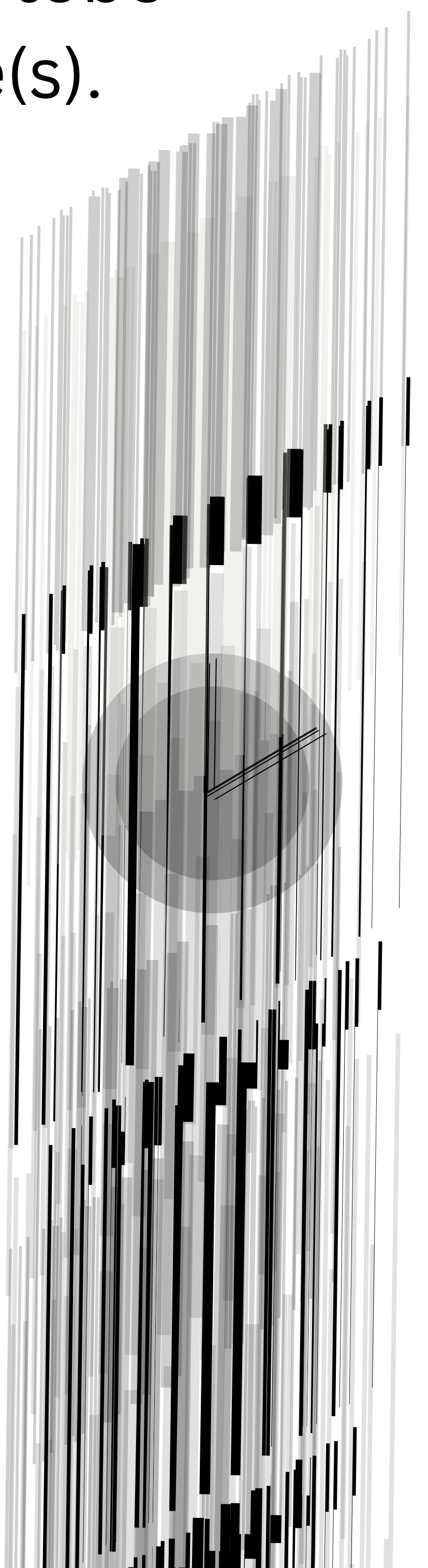
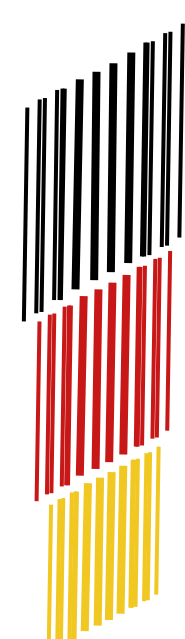
Moreover, our distinctive position as a German Society within a UK institution compels us to dissect the intricate bilateral relations between the EU and the UK, as the two balance partnership and competition. With many questions in mind, we seek to explore how decision-makers in politics and business can react to crises more effectively in the future and create more resilient systems and partnerships to handle radical uncertainty.





The Symposium will take place almost exactly three years after Russia's invasion of Ukraine began. This historical event marks a watershed moment in European security considerations and challenges the Anglo-European partnership in new ways, while also serving as a pivotal moment to reflect on the future of the European project and international cooperation more generally.

"Transforming Tomorrow" at the 24th German Symposium will address how we can leverage common interests and values to strengthen international ties and to reshape political, economic, and social horizons to be ready for the challenges of the upcoming decade(s).





The Scholars of the Symposium

Additional to LSE members and the public, we invite students from across Europe to apply for one of the 60 available places in the Scholars of the Symposium (SOTS) programme. On top of providing reserved seats at all public events, we offer an exclusive programme including accommodation, cultural and social events, as well as a dinner with our sponsors. A highlight of the programme is the participation in informal coffee chats where up to ten attendees meet one of our speakers informally. The LSE German Society and the 'Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft' cover the majority of the participants' costs.

"Being able to sit together, listen to and interact with politicians, business leaders, academics, and leading figures of German and European society was an unforgettable experience. Not only were we able to learn from their discussions, but we could join the conversation in small informal events."

- 2024 SOTS Participant

For more information on the symposium and how to become part of it visit
www.germansymposium.co.uk





Testimonials

"Over the years, this Symposium has developed a reputation far beyond the confines of academia and the British Isles."

Dr Peter Ammon, Former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UK

"The German Symposium plays a key role for the strategic dialogue between Germany and the UK."

Wolfgang Ischinger, Former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UK

"It is encouraging to see how important the German-British friendship and the cross-border exchange are to these young people."

Dr Frank Mastiaux, CEO EnBW

"I must say I was impressed by the history of this event. Over time it has gained in importance."

Otmar Issing, Former Chief Economist at the European Central Bank

"Through these annual Symposia, the German Society makes a highly valued contribution not only to the school's diverse community but to London as a whole."

Minouche Shafik, Former Director of the LSE





The LSE German Symposium 2024 - A Review

From 5th to 9th of February 2024, the 23rd LSE German Symposium welcomed over 30 speakers under the motto "Building Bridges". The keynotes and panels addressed a variety of pressing issues reaching from the war in Ukraine to the post-Brexit German-British relations and discussed how to move forward during and after such times of crises.

Monday, 5th of February

Opening of the 23rd LSE German Symposium with subsequent reception at the Ambassador's Residence

-

“Mut zur Veränderung: Strukturwandel im Herzen Europas”

Anke Rehlinger, Minister-President of Saarland

-

“How can a German Government Be Replaced? Constitutional and Political Remarks.”

Philipp Amthor, Member of the German Parliament





Tuesday, 6th of February

“Striving for More in Innovation and Transfer”

Bettina Stark-Watzinger, Federal Minister of Education and Research

-

“Shaping the Future: Germany’s Role in Global Climate Change?”

Özden Terli, Meteorologist and ZDF TV-Presenter

-

“Navigating the Future in Troubled Waters: A Vision for Tomorrow’s German Economy”

Prof. Monika Schnitzer, German Economist & Chair of the German Council of Economic Experts

-

“Carlsquare Panel: Cross-border Investing in Post-Brexit” Europe

Dr. Jana Hecker, Managing Partner at Einstein Industries Ventures,
Johannes Huth, Partner at KKR

Dr. Dirk Markus, Founding Partner of Aurelius

Dr. Arnold Holle, Managing Partner at Carlsquare

“Corporate Diplomacy: Navigating Geopolitical Challenges in Business Operations”

Alexander Geiser, CEO of FGS Global

Britta Jacob, Senior Manager of Global Government Affairs at Bayer

simpleclub: “The Future of Education – How Qualification Solves Labor Shortage”

Nicolai Schork & Alexander Giesecke (Co-Founders and CEOs of simpleclub)





Wednesday, 7th February

“Learning from the Many Eras of Berlin’s History”

John Kampfner, Award-Winning Author, Broadcaster and Commentator)

-

Diplomatic Dialogue: “Past Perspectives & Future Visions”

Sir David Manning, GCMG, KCVO, Formerly British Ambassador to the
US and Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister

Lord McDonald of Salford, GCMG, KCVO, Formerly British Ambassador
to Germany, Member of the House of Lords and formerly Permanent
Under Secretary at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Lord Michael Jay of Ewelme

-

“Zukunftsweisende Technologische Entwicklungen in Sachsen-Anhalt: Chancen” und Herausforderungen

Dr. Rainer Haseloff, Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt

-

“Propelling Germany’s Financial Innovation”

Dr. Danyal Bayaz, State Minister of Finance of Baden-Württemberg

-

Carlsquare Panel: “The EU’s China Policy – Have the Lessons from the Failure of Ostpolitik 2.0 Been Learned?”

John Lough, Partner at Highgate & Associate Fellow at Chatham House

Dr. Andreas Fulda, Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham,
Asia Research Institute)

Dr. Arnold Holle, Managing Partner at Carlsquare





Thursday, 8th of February.

Bridging Challenges: Peter Altmaier's Vision for a Resilient Future

Peter Altmaier, Former Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy

-

Competitiveness, Transformation, De-risking – How Can Germany Emerge from the Crisis?

Julia Klöckner, Former Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

-

'Zeitenwende' & the Future of the German Bundeswehr

Serap Güler, Member of the German Parliament

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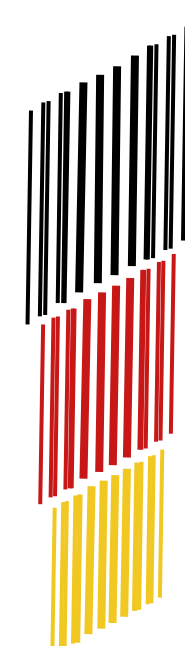
Bavaria and the UK – Opportunities and Challenges for our Future Cooperation

Eric Beißwenger, State Minister for European and International Affairs of Bavaria

-

When Building Bridges Is Tricky: Government Coordination

Prof. Dr. Thurid Hustedt,





Friday, 9th February.

“Inside the EU – Reforms for a Stronger Future”

Prof. Sven Simon, Member of the European Parliament

-

“Journalism in the 21st Century: What is Important to Bridge Perspectives and People?”

Shakuntala Banerjee, German Television Journalist and Reporter at ZDF
Lars Boering, Director of the European Journalism Centre and Former Head of World Press Photo

“The War in Ukraine – What Russia Really Wants and the Choices Facing Germany and the EU”

Jamison Firestone, Human Rights Activist, Lawyer & Managing Partner at FD Advisory

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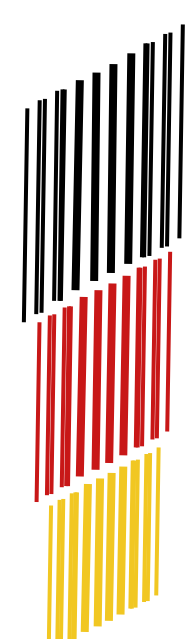
Growth Isn't Everything but Without Growth Nothing Is Possible

Jens Spahn, Former German Federal Minister of Health

Monday, 12th February.

Empowering the Economy

Christian Lindner, Federal Minister of Finance



The Post Speakers at the German Symposium*

Valery Giscard d'Estaing

Former President of the French Republic

Martin Blessing

CEO, Commerzbank AG

Dr Karl Brauner

Deputy Director-General, WTO

Douglas Hurd

Former Home and Foreign Secretary

Olaf Scholz

German Minister of Finance and Vice Chancellor

Prof Giemens Fuest

President, ifo Institute

Joschka Fischer

Former German Foreign Secretary and Vice Chancellor

Joachim Gauck

Former Federal President of Germany

Ralf Speth

CEO, Jaguar Land Rover

Franziska Giffey

German Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, Youth, SPD

Dr. Angela Merkel

Chairwoman, CDU

David Owen

Former British Foreign Secretary

Pedro Sanchez

Prime Minister of Spain

Dr. Robert Habeck

Chairman, BÜNDNIS90/Die Grünen

Tony Blair

Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Joe Kaeser

CEO, Siemens AG

Ferdinand Kirchhof

Vice President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany

Mervyn King

Governor, Bank of England

Karl-Ludwig Kley

CEO, Merck

Prof Angelika Nussberger

Vice President of the European Court of Human Rights



Olaf Koch

CEO, Metro AG

Janina Kugel

CHRO, Siemens

Norbert Lammert

President of the German Bundestag

Sabine Lautenschläger

Executive Board of the ECB

Peter Altmaier

Chief of Staff of the German
Chancellery, CDU

Christian Lindner

Chairman, FDP

Hans-Joachim Watzke

CEO, Borussia Dortmund

Wolfgang Mayrhuber

Chairman & CEO, Lufthansa

Brigitte Zypries

German Minister for Economic Affairs

Friedrich Merz

Vice President, Economic Council of the
CDU

Klaus Regling

Managing Director of the ESM

Claudia Roth

Chariwoman, BÜNDNIS90/ DIE
GRÜNEN

Wolfgang Schäuble

German Minister of Finance, CDU

Ursula von der Leyen

German Minister of Defence, CDU

Gerhard Schröder

Former Chancellor of Germany, SPD

Peer Steinbrück

Former Minister of Finance,
SPD

Hiltrud Werner,

Board Member, VW

Dr. Frank Mastiqux

CEO, EnBW

Christian Wulff

Former Federal President of
Germany

Dr. Rolf Martin Schmitz

CEO, RWE

*Positions at their time of attendance



**The LSE German Symposium
is proudly sponsored by:**



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Secretary: Maximilian Bussfeld
Treasurer: Josh De Buhr

For more information visit:
www.german-society.co.uk
www.germansymposium.co.uk



The German Society is a
society of the London School
of Economics and Political
Science Student Union

