



WHAT NEXT?

Europe in the new geopolitical reality

The 24 February 2022 shattered the dream of the “European house”, caused a humanitarian catastrophe and put even more significant strain on the international order. Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine indeed marks a turning point. It forces the European Union to fundamentally reflect on its geopolitical positions and perspectives.

In the fourth month of the war, the initially impressive unity of the European Union has long since begun to erode. The immediate shock of Russian aggression has only temporarily brought the member states closer together. After the first rapid decisions on humanitarian aid, logistical assistance and several rounds of sanctions, as well as an unexpected willingness to take in refugees, the diverging interests are becoming increasingly apparent.

The wrangling over the latest bundle of sanctions and especially the EU Commission’s proposals for an oil embargo has not only made it obvious that the EU states are economically dependent on Russia to very different degrees, which also limits the scope for using leverage in different ways. In addition, traditional political divergences over the relationship with Russia have re-emerged. They have made the thesis that Vladimir Putin, with his campaign against the pro-European neighbouring country, is involuntarily helping the EU to achieve a new sense of community questionable again.

But the unexpected unity has yet to prove its worth in the long run and in the strategic repositioning that is due. How radically, how quickly should economic ties with Putin’s Russia be cut? How far can military aid for Ukraine go without risking a war against a nuclear power? Should further EU and NATO accessions be fast-laned or rather postponed? How can the relationship with Russia be made sustainable and secure in the future?

Finally, the diverging ideas among member states about the EU’s core values and long-term integration objectives have not been resolved by the war in Ukraine. The common ground within the EU needed to meet challenges from outside is not a given.

How the EU is equipped to hold its own in this existential test will be the subject of reflection at the **WDR Europaforum on 2 June 2022**. It will be held under the motto: **What next? Europe in the new geopolitical reality**.

The Russian war against Ukraine is having a major impact on the political climate in Europe in the short, medium and long term. The EU is facing huge challenges in military, political and economic terms. In view of the current situation, Germany is forced to rethink its role in Europe and the world.

WDR will broadcast the Europaforum live, a summary will be shown from 20:15-21:00 on tagesschau24 and from 22:15-23:00 on phoenix. The event will also be available online via livestream at: www.wdr-europaforum.de



PROGRAMME

Live on WDR Television | 2 June 2022

- 10.00 **Welcome** **Tom Buhrow** | Director-General of Westdeutscher Rundfunk
Dr. Jörg Wojahn | Head of European Commission Representation in Germany
- 10.15 **Keynote address** **Roberta Metsola** | President of the European Parliament
- 10.20 **Interview** **New unity or new dispute?**
Consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine for the EU
Frans Timmermans | Vicepresident of the European Commission
Interview: Markus Preiß, Head of ARD Studio Brussels
- 11.00 **Discussion** **Tricky balancing acts**
Handling the 'Zeitenwende' (turn of the times) in practical politics
Lars Klingbeil | Co-Chair of SPD
Prof. Dr. Hedwig Richter | University of the Bundeswehr, Munich
Moderation: Dr. Joachim Görge, Head of Trimedia News Südwestrundfunk
- 11.40 **Discussion** **Erroneous certainties?**
Assessing the chances of a new peace order
Bijan Djir-Sarai | Secretary General of the FDP, MP
Group in the Bundestag
Martin Schirdewan | Co-Chair Left Group European Parliament
Moderation: Isabel Schayani, Head of WDRforyou, Moderator „Weltspiegel“
- 12.05 **Discussion** **A paradigm shift**
Germany's future role in Europe
Friedrich Merz | Federal Chairman of the CDU, Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the Bundestag
Prof. Dr. Ursula Schröder | Scientific Director of the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg
Moderation: Andreas Cichowicz, Editor-in-Chief Norddeutscher Rundfunk
- 12.45 **Break**
- 13.45 **Interview** **Aleksandra Otschman** | Journalist, Kiev
Interview: Sabine Scholt, Head of WDR Programme Group Current Affairs, Europe and Abroad
- 14.00 **Interview** **A question of values**
European foreign policy in a changed world
Annalena Baerbock | Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen
Interview: Tina Hassel, Head of the ARD Capital Studio Berlin
Followed by exchange with students
- 14.50 **Interview** **Lena Chernenko** | Journalist, Moscow
Interview: Sabine Scholt, Head of WDR Programme Group Current Affairs, Europe and Abroad
- 15.00 **Discussion** **No room for subtleties?**
The 'Zeitenwende' (turn of the times) as cultural challenge
Claudia Roth | Minister of State for Culture and the Media, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen
Sasha Marianna Salzmann | Author and dramaturge
Sonja Zekri | Cultural correspondent Süddeutsche Zeitung in Berlin
Moderation: Vivian Perkovic, Journalist, Moderator Kulturzeit/3sat
- 16.00 **End**

Studio expert

Presenter

Concept | Realisation

Prof. Dr. Daniela Schwarzer | Executive Director Europe and Eurasia, Open Society Foundations

Sabine Scholt | Head of WDR Programme Group Current Affairs, Europe and Abroad

Ferdos Forudastan | Head of WDR Europaforum, Chief editorial office WDR Television

Heribert Roth | Editor WDR Programme Group Current Affairs, Europe and Abroad