



25th INTERNATIONAL WDR EUROPAFORUM

Marginalised in geopolitics? Europe's role after the 'Zeitenwende'

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has massive consequences far beyond the immediate events of the war. In addition to the suffering of the victims of destruction and attrition, and the deaths of many thousands, the supposedly reliable conditions in international relations have been shaken. The turning point of February 24, 2022 – that much is certain, despite all uncertainty about the outcome of the war – is a key moment of global dimension in the history of the 21st century.

Europe is facing a geopolitical acid test. It is not yet clear what balance of power Vladimir Putin's murderous attempt to subdue the neighbouring country will leave in its wake. But already changing priorities and new imperatives dominate the political debate and agenda: military logic has moved to the strategic center, economic interdependency is considered a liability, increasing social tensions make Western societies more vulnerable to anti-democratic movements.

At the same time, the war affects an adequate response to major crises that need to be addressed without delay: Global warming and species extinction, famine and natural disasters, wars and grave human rights violations beyond Europe's borders. Transnational problems necessitate joint, coordinated action. But circumstances are even more difficult than before. The statics of the international political architecture are unstable and have become even more fragile in the course of the war against Ukraine. For the time being, Russia is no longer a partner of the West, China is increasingly acting as a rival.

In this situation, Europe more than ever needs to build its own sovereignty on the solidarity of the EU members. Fundamental issues are at stake: defending the principles of liberal democracy, rule of law and human rights, protecting peace through an international order based on binding rules, and securing the future of the European Union as an ambitious model of cooperation and integration.

Thus, nothing less is required than a strategic readjustment of the European project. Success or failure will determine whether Europe can maintain its place among the global powers.

The 25th International WDR Europaforum on June 6, 2023, will address these issues under the lead question:

Marginalised in geopolitics? Europe's role after the 'Zeitenwende'

WDR television will broadcast the Europaforum live, a summary will be shown on 6 June from 20.15 - 21.00 on tagesschau24 and on 7 June from 10.30 - 11.30 on phoenix. The event will also be available online via livestream at: www.wdr-europaforum.de

Thank you for your interest!



The WDR Europaforum is organised by Westdeutscher Rundfunk together with Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Südwestrundfunk, Österreichischer Rundfunk, phoenix, the European Commission and the European Parliament, which has granted the event patronage.



2023

PROGRAMME

Live on WDR Television | 6 June 2023

- 10.00 **Welcome** **Tom Buhrow** | Director General of Westdeutscher Rundfunk
Georg Pfeifer | Head of the Representation of the European Parliament in Germany
Dr. Jörg Wojahn | Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Germany
- 10.10 **Video welcoming message** **Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier** | Federal President
- 10.20 **Shortfilm** Best-of WDR Europaforum
- 10.35 **Interview** **Europe's hour or powerless on the sidelines?**
The EU in a major geopolitical crisis
Dr. Ursula von der Leyen | President of the European Commission
Interview: Markus Preiß, Head of ARD-Europastudio Brussels
- 11.00 **Interview** **Leadership in times of change**
German peace policy in a different environment
Olaf Scholz | Federal Chancellor
Interview: Ellen Ehni, Editor-in-Chief Politics and Current Affairs, WDR & Tina Hassel, Head of the ARD Capital Studio Berlin
Followed by an exchange with the audience
- 11.30 **Short interviews** **Beyond the defensive mode**
What's left of the European project?
Voices of young MEPs
- 11.40 **Discussion** **Partnerships and rivalries**
How much strategic independence does the EU need
Dr. Dietmar Bartsch | Co-Chairman of the parliamentary group DIE LINKE in the German Bundestag
Dr. Othmar Karas | First Vice-President of the European Parliament, EPP
Dr. Anna Lührmann | Minister of State for Europe and Climate at the Federal Foreign Office, Alliance 90/The Greens
Dr. Angela Stanzel | Sinologist, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)
Moderation: Ute Brucker, Head of the Department for Foreign Affairs/Europe, Südwestrundfunk
- 12.35 **Interview** **Europe, our hope**
Perspectives of an invaded country
Nataliya Pryhorynyska | Political scientist, Host of the „UkraineMEMO“ podcast, Co-Founder of the Alliance of Ukrainian Organisations
Interview: Sabine Scholt, Head of Domestic and International Affairs, WDR
- 12.45 **Break**
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- 13.30 **Short interviews** **Beyond the defensive mode**
What's left of the European project?
Voices of young MEPs

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- 13:35 **Discussion** **„This is not our conflict“**
Dealing with different views
Prof. Dr. Belachew Gebrewold | Professor of International Relations at the Management Center Innsbruck
Susanne Koelbl | Foreign correspondent, DER SPIEGEL
Prof. Dr. Shubha Kamala Prasad | Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Hertie School Berlin
Dr. Linn Selle | President of the European Movement Germany
Moderation: Stefan Niemann, Foreign Department Norddeutscher Rundfunk
- 14:20 **Interview** **With all its might**
Vanishing democratic spaces in Russia
Sergey Lukashovsky | Director of the Moscow Sakharov Centre for Human Rights
Interview: Sabine Scholt, Head of Domestic and International Affairs, WDR
- 14:30 **Discussion** **Values and Truths**
Europe against fake news and breach of law
Dr. Bijan Moini | Head of Legal of the Society for Civil Rights, Author
Thomas Haldenwang | Director General of the German domestic intelligence services
Prof. Dr. Dres. h.c. Juliane Kokott | Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union
Aydan Özoğuz | Vice-President of the German Bundestag, SPD
Moderation: Eva Lindenau, Programme Director phoenix
- 15:20 **Short interviews** **Beyond the defensive mode**
What's left of the European project?
Voices of young MEPs
- 15:30 **End**

Young Members of the European Parliament in the short interviews

Manon Aubry | The Left Group in the European Parliament – GUE/NGL, MEP

Alexander Bernhuber | Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) – EPP, MEP

Delara Burkhardt | Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament – S&D, MEP

Johan Nissinen | Group of European Conservatives and Reformers – ECR, MEP

Kira Marie Peter-Hansen | Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance – EFA, MEP

Emma Wiesner | Renew Europe Group, MEP

Expert in the studio

Prof. Dr. Daniela Schwarzer | Member of the Executive Board of the Bertelsmann Foundation

Presenter

Sabine Scholt | Head of Domestic and International Affairs, WDR

Conception | Realisation

Ferdos Forudastan | Head of WDR Europaforum, chief editorial office Politics and Current Affairs, WDR

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