



The Aspen Institute | Germany

BERLIN TRANSATLANTIC CONFERENCE

The Transatlantic Partnership
at Stake: Do We Still Need
Each Other?

CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

Berlin, October 9, 2014

BERLIN TRANSATLANTIC CONFERENCE

THE TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP AT STAKE: DO WE STILL NEED EACH OTHER?

For decades, the Transatlantic community of values and security served as the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany's foreign policy. But now, undeniable cracks have emerged in this foundation. From the NSA scandal to TTIP, the role and policies of the United States are being increasingly questioned in Germany. Across the Atlantic meanwhile, German criticism seems to fall on deaf ears. Both come at a time when the Transatlantic community faces huge challenges in the Ukraine crisis and the Middle East. Following the NATO summit in Cardiff and ahead of the next round of TTIP talks, the Aspen Institute Germany marked its 40th anniversary by exploring the past and future of the Transatlantic relationship with the first Berlin Transatlantic Conference.

20 speakers and panelists from Germany, Europe, and the U.S. discussed the state and future of the Transatlantic relations together with an international audience of more than 200 guests at the premises of Microsoft Germany Unter den Linden. As a special feature, the key issues of the four topics were introduced by participants of Aspen Germany's Exchange Program for Staffers of the Bundestag and Congress.

The discussions revealed broad consensus that the Transatlantic partnership is still important, if not even more crucial than ever. Following this conclusion, the Aspen Institute Germany plans to establish the Berlin Transatlantic Conference as an annual event to further explore and discuss how and where we still need each other.

The Aspen Institute Germany thanks the following partners, sponsors, and donors for their support of this conference and the surrounding program:

Daimler AG
Deutsche Bank
Deutsche Welle
Embassy of the United States of America in Germany
Ernst & Young
German Federal Chancellery
German Federal Foreign Ministry
Hotel Adlon Kempinski
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Lufthansa Group
Microsoft Deutschland
Rathaus Schöneberg
Robert Bosch GmbH
Robert Bosch Stiftung
Shepard Stone Stiftung
Tempus Corporate
Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts
Visit Berlin

and the following private individuals: Dr. Christoph Abeln, Dr. Jörg Baldauf, Britt S. Eckelmann, Dr. Corinne M. Flick, Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dusmann, Florian Jehle, Sue Koffel, Ambassador (ret.) Thomas Matussek, Helmut W. Meier, Ulrich Plett, Dr. Kurt R. Schwarz, and Karsten D. Voigt.



CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

13:00 **CONFERENCE OPENING AND WELCOME**

Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany
Dr. Dirk Bornemann, Head of Legal and Corporate Affairs, Assistant General Council of Microsoft Germany, Switzerland, and Austria

13:00 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

The Honorable Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs of the United States of America

13:15 **PANEL I
TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS: AN ALLIANCE OF COMMON VALUES OR A BOULEVARD OF
BROKEN DREAMS?**

Elmar Brok, Member of the European Parliament and Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs
Bernhard Mattes, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany
Dr. Norbert Röttgen, Member of the German Parliament, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag
Ambassador Kurt Volker, Executive Director of the McCain Institute for International Leadership
Moderator: **Elliot Gerson**, Executive Vice President of The Aspen Institute

14:15 **PANEL II
READY TO ANSWER GLOBAL THREATS? NATO AFTER THE CARDIFF SUMMIT**

General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum
Jürgen Hardt, Member of the German Parliament and Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation at the Federal Foreign Office
Ambassador Alexander Vershbow, Deputy Secretary General of NATO
Moderator: **Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger**, Foreign Editor of Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

15:15 **PANEL III
A NEW ECONOMIC AGENDA: CAN TTIP REVITALIZE TRANSATLANTIC POLITICS AND TRADE?**

Carlo Calenda, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Italian Republic
Eckart von Klæden, Head of External Affairs of Daimler AG and former Minister of State
James A. Boughner, Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs at the Embassy of the United States
Peer Steinbrück, Member of the German Parliament, Chairman of the German-American Parliamentary Group of the Bundestag and former Federal Minister of Finance
Moderator: **Prof. Dr. Joachim Krause**, Kiel University

16:15 **PANEL IV
»A BRAVE NEW WORLD«?
THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION AS A THREAT TO PRIVACY, SECURITY, AND SOCIETY**

Dr. Dirk Bornemann, Head of Legal and Corporate Affairs, Assistant General Council of Microsoft Germany, Switzerland, and Austria
Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, former Federal Minister of Justice and Member of Google's 'Right To Be Forgotten' Advisory Committee
Christopher Painter, Coordinator for Cyber Issues at the U.S. Department of State
Moderator: **Dr. Jackson Janes**, President of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies

KEYNOTE SPEECH

THE HONORABLE VICTORIA NULAND

Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs of the United States of America

“It’s wonderful to be here with all of you at the Aspen Conference. Thank you to Aspen. Thank you to Microsoft for your support, this fantastic space. Thank you Rudy, and congrats to you as well, for receiving the Lucius D. Clay Award, which for those of you that don’t know is like the Nobel Prize for Atlanticists here in Germany. Congratulations to you.

It’s wonderful to be back in Berlin on this beautiful fall day and to kick off this conference celebrating 40 years of Aspen in Germany. So much has changed since Aspen first opened its doors here in 1974. Looking around the room I’m glad to see that most of you were not old enough to attend in 1974, but maybe a few were. Europe was divided; Bonn was Germany’s capital; and the threat of the Soviet Union loomed over free people around the world.

Of course in 1974 Germany also won the World Cup — so not everything’s changed.

Twenty-five years ago, just meters from here, Germans of all stripes tore down the Wall and with it that world of division, oppression and tyranny that it represented, began to crack. In less than a year, Germany was whole again; Europe was reborn; and together the United States and Germany began turning our attention to supporting the nations of Central Europe as they pushed for NATO and EU membership, which they obviously succeeded in. Germany began to grow more comfortable in its European and global leadership role. First through our work together in Bosnia and Kosovo, and then in Afghanistan, and let me take this opportunity to congratulate Germany for making the next courageous global leadership decision in deciding to support the counter-ISIL fight in Iraq with strong support to the Peshmerga forces fighting ISIL.

So for 40 years, for 25 years since the fall of the Wall in particular, when we no longer had that existential threat, what’s united us is our common understanding that our security and our prosperity depended not only on each other, but on the advancing the cause of a Europe whole, free and at peace. And that Europe whole, free and at peace was not simply a security project or an economic project, it was a project based on our common values. Those values that are captured in the very first line of Germany’s Basic Law that, and I quote, “Human dignity shall be inviolable — as the basis for every community, of peace, of justice in the world.”

And today I would argue as we look at whether we still need each other, it is that fight for human dignity that continues today whether it’s in Donetsk, or in Mosul, or in any corner of the world where freedom, where rule of law, where human rights are trampled by forces who have their own divisive, violent and repressive agendas.

So when you ask at this conference whether we still need

each other, the answer is absolutely clear — now more than ever. We need it for our security. We need it for our prosperity — depend on it. But I would also argue that the quality and effectiveness of Transatlantic leadership, whether it’s at home or abroad with that strong U.S.-German engine at its core also today impacts the fact of people all over Europe and all over the world, whether they are victims of Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, ISIS terror in Iraq and Syria, or Ebola’s scourge in West Africa.

And I will admit that it’s not always easy to work together. It’s not always easy to keep that fabric of unity whole. This year has tested the U.S.-German relationship. We know that. But like members of any family, sometimes we disagree; sometimes we make mistakes; we inadvertently weaken each other and weaken our bond. But when that happens, because we are family, because we need each other, because our relationship is rooted in common security, common prosperity and common values, it’s incumbent on us to fix it, and we do. We talk it out, we work it out, we establish those new habits of working together and living together that make us both stronger.

I know that the NSA revelations fueled emotions on both sides of the Atlantic and particularly here in Germany. But we are now working through it as we have done at times of stress in the past. We are tackling the issues head on, we’re addressing them quickly including through the new Chancellery-White House-led Structured Dialogue and the U.S.-German Cyber Dialogue.

This is hard, hard work. What we are trying to do is restructure our intelligence relationship for the 21st Century. I am confident that we will do it and that we will be successful at it.

As we look at the many challenges today that require our leadership there is none more existential for this continent than what we are facing together in Ukraine. It is a central test of our common resolve.

Just two days ago I stood before an audience of brilliant young students in Ukraine at Shevchenko University — the very kids who stood just seven months ago in the snow on the Maidan fighting for their human dignity, their freedom, their opportunity, their chance to live as citizens in the U.S. live, as citizens in Germany live. They are counting on us. They are counting on our support. And throughout this crisis no country in Europe has led more strongly than Germany — politically, economically or morally. And the United States has had no stronger partner in supporting Ukraine, in imposing costs on Russia, but also in keeping the door open for diplomatic de-escalation if that is possible with Moscow, in our own interest and in Ukraine’s interest.

Germany has led nationally and within the EU in sending

humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, in opening European markets and association for Ukrainian goods, in improving energy security to keep Ukrainians and in fact all Europeans warm throughout the winter, and in helping Ukraine fight the cancer of corruption. And Germany has also led in the EU, in making it absolutely clear to Russia that when it violates basic international law, when it operates by the principle that big countries can just trample small ones at will, that there will be costs and in imposing tough sectoral sanctions on Russia and on the separatist cronies.

Today, there is a peace deal on paper in Ukraine. There is, thankfully, peace across a lot of eastern Ukraine. But as you know, the peace deal is still being violated in key sectors. If there is truly to be peace in Ukraine all 12 points of the Minsk peace deal must be implemented and we as a Transatlantic community of support for Ukraine must help Ukraine insist on it. And there must be no sanctions relieved until all foreign forces and equipment have left Ukraine, until Ukrainian sovereignty over its international border has been restored, and until all of the hostages have been released.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank Germany for the support that it is offering to the OSCE as it seeks to make its services available to monitor the peace deal and to move out as peace is established in the east, and particularly in the discussion that you're having internally on sending surveillance drones to the OSCE mission. This will be a very important confidence builder if it can be approved.

Even as we work on securing Ukraine and its democratic and European choice, we have worked together, the U.S. and Germany, across the Transatlantic community to secure our NATO space and to make sure that every NATO ally knows that our Article 5 guarantee means what it says and that we will defend every inch of our space.

NATO also craves the strongest possible Germany, leading our frontline reassurance mission with soldiers, with planes with ships on the front eastern lines; training our partners; and meeting our Wales pledge to increase defense spending. Today Germans, like Americans, sit comfortably surrounded by friendly neighbors including many members of the NATO and EU family. But it wasn't very long ago, as we have said, when the battle lines went right through Germany, right through Berlin. So there are many people in this room today who remember what that felt like, to live on the front lines. And that is precisely why we can and must work together on land, on sea and in the air to make sure every member of our NATO family feels equally secure. Feels as secure as you feel here in Berlin. Whether that means funding our militaries, whether that means modernizing our forces and making sure that the equipment works, or whether it means demonstrating our resolve to use that equipment as necessary whether in Article 5 defense or globally.

The eyes of Europe are on us. And in NATO, if Germany and the U.S. lead, others will lead as well.

Even as we shore up security in our Euro-Atlantic space, we are also united in working together globally. Today that



means fighting ISIL — militarily, politically, economically. So it's not only about the work that we are doing together militarily, to strike ISIL at its heart with our Iraqi partners, in Syria, to strengthen training, strengthen partnership on the ground. It is also about what we do in the Euro-Atlantic space. We must work together to ensure that our homelands are a no-go area for the recruitment of foreign fighters and for the financing of this kind of poison.

We also, as we always talk about, have to fight the other global challenges. Nobody leads more strongly on this planet in climate change than Germany, and nobody sets the standard better for Europe and for the Transatlantic community. And together today we are also working to fight Ebola. Not just sending our own specialists and our own equipment to the front lines of the disease, but also providing the structures where other smaller nations can join with us in making a contribution.

At the same time, and I won't go into it too deeply because I did it last week, we must also ensure that inside our own space we are defending democracy by making sure that our own governments are clean, are transparent, are open. I speak of this less in Berlin, but particularly in Central Europe where the cancer of corruption threatens to undercut the democratic gains that have been made over 25 years, and to open a wormhole for nefarious outside influences, to undercut the democratic system, checks and balances, free media, space for civil society. The fight for democracy in our own space is not over. We have to continue to work together to protect and defend it.

And that takes me to the last area I want to talk about today, and that is our economic prosperity and the T-TIP agreement, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership that we are building together. If we do this right, TTIP can be for our economic security and prosperity what NATO has been for our military security, and we must do it right.

It's clear from the lively debate that's going on in Germany and in other parts of Europe on TTIP that we have a whole lot more work to do to explain to our people the benefits of this agreement. We have to take that time, Germans and Americans, Europeans and Americans, to explain in plain terms to our mothers, to our sisters, to our daughters, to our grandchildren what TTIP is and what it isn't. We have to engage civil society. We have to create those same kinds of communities of common action between government and business, civil society and local people that we created for NATO enlargement, we have to now create for TTIP. We have to listen to the skeptics, we have to engage them, and we have to bust myths.

In fact we have to fight the fear that some are mongering around Europe with concrete facts. And here are the facts. Every dollar or euro we save our consumers in St. Louis or in Stuttgart; every dollar that we put into autoworkers' pockets in Dresden or in Detroit lifts our economies, creates jobs, and makes us stronger not only at home but also in the world.

And TTIP is not primarily about the big guys. Microsoft knows how to work in Europe. Our companies — Siemens knows how to work in Kansas. It is the medium and little guys who need the help that TTIP can offer. If we do it right, TTIP will finally open the marketplace to those medium and small businesses who have found the American market or the European market too complicated and too daunting, and that's what we have to do. TTIP can also, if we do that, open our marketplaces to a new burst of innovation that we do together.

And this is not simply about our own prosperity in our own space. It's also about our leadership globally and ensuring that our free market model, our low, no-tariff model, dominates in the global conversation about world trade.

And I would argue that TTIP's values based case is just as important as the economic case, and just as real. In the United States, in Europe, we have to preserve the system here in our own space and globally that protects the environment, protects our workers and protects our families. TTIP can and will set the global gold standard for trade agreements in these areas in environmental protection, in labor protection, in protection of consumers and workers. If we insist on it, and we will, and we can.

And by unlocking our combined market, we will strengthen, not undermine, our democracy. TTIP, against popular myth, is not about forcing Europeans to eat, buy, or make things the American way. Nor will it force Americans in Kansas to eat liverwurst for breakfast. But it will give all of us more choice — in the products that we buy and use, and it will give all of us more affordable opportunities to work together to produce more things. So choice is strength, and empowering our citizens, our producers and our consumers is also part of our common strength and part of our project together for the next 40 years of the Aspen Institute here in Berlin and around Europe.

As President Obama said before the Brandenburg Gate last year, the Wall belongs to history, but we have history to make together as well. Whether we're talking about Ukraine, whether we're talking about strengthening NATO, building global security democratically together, fighting back terror, strengthening our prosperity and our open global free market way of life, the United States and Europe, the United States and Germany need each other more than ever. We have to be that engine of strength and change and democracy and freedom around the world as we've always been.

Thank you to Aspen for what you do in that regard. I'm proud to be with you today on this 40th Birthday. Thanks."

PANEL I GERMAN-EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS: AN ALLIANCE OF COMMON VALUES OR A BOULEVARD OF BROKEN DREAMS?

Elmar Brok, MEP, Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs

Bernhard Mattes, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany

Dr. Norbert Röttgen, MP, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag

Ambassador Kurt Volker, Executive Director of the McCain Institute for International Leadership Washington

Moderator: **Elliot Gerson**, Executive Vice President of The Aspen Institute

The first panel dealt with the values that bond, but also the values that divide the Transatlantic partners. The panelists agreed on the validity and reliability of common values shared by the EU and the U.S., while at the same time emphasizing the need for improvements in managing and communicating current issues.

Dr. Röttgen stated that the trust had decreased between Europe and the United States. Current developments like the crisis in Ukraine or the advance of IS have taken the Western partnership by surprise. He suggested that, by violating Western values, Putin had forced the Western partnership to remember and defend its common values.

Mr. Brok agreed, stating that Putin's activities led to a revitalization of NATO as the central institution of common security with a clear mandate. Both agreed that the Western countries needed to shape globalisation and to address the concerns of their population in order to be able to counter nationalism and separatist movements.

From a business perspective, Mr. Mattes could not observe any big impact on the transatlantic relations and business had continued as usual.

Ambassador Volker emphasized the distinction between smaller differences and big value gaps pointing out that the common response of the Western Alliance to Putin's actions would need to be improved.



PANEL II READY TO ANSWER GLOBAL THREATS? NATO AFTER THE CARDIFF SUMMIT

General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum

Jürgen Hardt, MP, Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation at the Federal Foreign Office

Ambassador Alexander Vershbow, Deputy Secretary General of NATO

Moderator: **Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger**, Foreign Editor of Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The second panel discussed decisions taken in Wales, latest developments, and adequate (strategic) responses to non-traditional threats.

Ambassador Vershbow emphasized that NATO was ready to defend its members and to continue its support for neighboring states, but also that modern equipment was needed in order to be able to fight new threats like foreign terrorists.

General Domröse agreed that allies and coalitions played an important role, because NATO was able to strike everywhere and around the clock, but not alone. He was convinced that the Western partnership could win the peace, and defined political structures, economic development, and military capacities as key factors. He emphasized the potential for stable political developments in Afghanistan. According to him, both capability and joint training were required.

According to Mr. Hardt, a great deal of money had already been invested in capabilities like air transportation

and helicopters, although the development had taken too long and were too expensive. At the same time, he pointed out that it was important to further the development of the Bundeswehr by trying to keep expenditures at least at a constant level or even increase it. Mr. Hardt defined three key factors prior to taking a final decision about military action: A clear legal status, a reasonable prospect that military forces would support the goal, and the conviction that the Bundeswehr could support the goal by sending German soldiers.

Ambassador Vershbow stressed the importance of developing strong partnerships for NATO, for example with Australia and Japan. According to him, more resources and decisions would be necessary in order to strengthen the political role of NATO internationally. NATO and the Western partnership would need to be prepared for both, military and non-military threats. According to Ambassador Vershbow, a closer relationship between NATO and the EU could prove “the more promising path.” He noted that NATO would not be able to address all the issues at the same time, but that it needed to be effectively engaged.



PANEL III A NEW ECONOMIC AGENDA: CAN TTIP REVITALIZE TRANSATLANTIC POLITICS AND TRADE?

Carlo Calenda, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Italian Republic

Eckart von Klaeden, Head of External Affairs of Daimler AG and former Minister of State

Peer Steinbrück, MP, Chairman of the German-American Parliamentary Group of the Bundestag and former Federal Minister of Finance

James A. Boughner, Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs at the Embassy of the United States of America

Moderator: **Prof. Dr. Joachim Krause**, Kiel University



The discussants on the Transatlantic trade panel agreed on a positive evaluation of TTIP, but emphasized the need for improvements of the communication with the public.

Minister (ret.) Steinbrück noted that the debate on TTIP was dominated by misunderstandings, prejudices, and a lack of transparency, making it difficult to advertise its benefits and to see its strategic importance.

Deputy Minister Calenda complained about the lack of common economic rules in Europe and the lack of leadership in the Western World regarding the trade relationship. He preferred facing risks rather than staying in the current situation for a long time. He called for an ambitious, but pragmatic attitude.

Mr. Boughner recommended that both parties should continue to negotiate and to define even stricter standards and

laws as TTIP should be a blue print for future agreements. He also pointed out that the economic and investment relations between the EU and the U.S. already were the most dynamic ones in the world. But he also stressed the existence of some issues such as financial standards or energy security, which were not negotiable for the United States.

Minister of State (ret.) von Klaeden emphasized the need to address a bigger audience – not only “big companies”. He stated that the European economies would suffer most if TTIP failed, and stressed the importance and the benefits of competitiveness in contrast to protectionism.

Mr. Boughner was optimistic that there would be a positive agreement in the end. Mr. Calenda agreed, stressing the importance of rhetoric and creativity in order to improve the image of TTIP in public.



PANEL IV

»A BRAVE NEW WORLD?« THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION AS A THREAT TO PRIVACY, SECURITY, AND SOCIETY?

Dr. Dirk Bornemann, Head of Legal and Corporate Affairs, Assistant General Council of Microsoft Germany, Switzerland, and Austria

Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, former Federal Minister of Justice and Member of Google's "Right to be Forgotten" Advisory Committee

Christopher Painter, Coordinator for Cyber Issues at the U.S. Department of State

Moderator: **Dr. Jackson Janes**, President of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS)



The digital revolution panel was dominated by the discussion on the global surveillance disclosures and on how to cooperate in the field of cyber policy in the future.

Mr. Painter assured that the U.S. and the EU needed each other now more than ever, also and especially when discussing issues concerning cyber space, technology, and data security. According to him, both parties would have to overcome disagreements and recollect their common values in order to be able to take action against internet censors like Putin or the Chinese authorities.

Minister (ret.) Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger welcomed the dialogue and the willingness to cooperate on cyber issues, but also expressed her disappointment that not much had happened since Snowden's revelations. She emphasized

that the right of privacy had to be more important than the right of security and economic interests. In this regard, she disapproved of the access of secret services to private data collections of companies. She called for a "good balance" between the freedom of information and the right of privacy, postulating European data protection standards.

Dr. Bornemann stated that the discussion had gone the wrong way and called for government action to define the borders of cyber legality. Mr. Painter agreed, emphasizing the existence of norms and values in cyber space and concluded by citing the judgement of the Human Rights Council that everyone has "the same rights online and offline".

The mission of the Aspen Institute is the promotion of values-based leadership by encouraging the reflection of ideals and ideas of a good society. The Aspen Institute offers a bipartisan neutral platform to discuss and elaborate on critical issues. In order to achieve its mission, the Aspen Institute Germany offers three programs, the Leadership Program, Policy Program, and Public Program.

The Aspen Institute is an international nonprofit organization that fosters enlightened leadership, the appreciation of timeless ideas and values, and open minded dialog on contemporary issues. The Aspen Institute USA was founded in 1950. The institute and its international partners seek to promote the pursuit of common ground and deeper understanding in a non-partisan and non-ideological setting. Aside from "The Aspen Institute", there are nine independent Institutes in France, Italy, Czech Republic, Romania, Spain, Japan, India, Mexico, and Germany.

Leadership Program – The Aspen Seminar

The Aspen Seminar is an exceptional Leadership-Program focused on 'value-based leadership'. With its 60-year tradition in the U.S., it is the most prestigious trademark of the Aspen Institute and the secret behind its success. It embodies the Aspen philosophy by promoting values-based leadership among decision makers from all over the world through offering them a platform for an open and critical discourse on fundamental philosophical questions of human existence.

In this unique seminar, away from the hectic everyday life, in an inspiring natural environment, executives have the opportunity to critically discuss classical and modern philosophical body of thought. The seminar program consists of sessions organized around six themes: Human Nature, Individual Rights and Liberty, Property and Productivity, Equality and Social Welfare. Excerpts of various classical and modern texts about universal values written by important thinkers shape the foundation for reflection and dialog on the fundamental questions of our present and future: What are the current challenges our society has to meet? How will your organization as well as you yourself have to adjust to these challenges and which humanistic values are relevant in this process?

Policy Program

Aspen Policy Programs openly address current policy challenges. In closed-door conferences and seminars on complex political and social developments, decision makers analyze common challenges in confidence and develop viable solutions. Kickoff presentations by international experts set the ground for focused debates with policy makers in search for an international consensus among politicians, diplomats, and experts from academia, business, and media. In the course of discussions, constructive suggestions and policy recommendations are

developed and later on published.

The Aspen Institute Germany has had a focus on the developments in Southeast Europe since the early 1990s. In cooperation with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Aspen's former Executive Director David Anderson initiated the International Commission on the Balkans in 1995 under the leadership of former Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans, which in 1996 published the report "Unfinished Peace", an analysis of the causes of the Balkan conflicts and an independent assessment of the European, American, and UN responses. This high-level international commission was followed by a young leaders study group on the future of the Balkans as well as several other events with a focus on this region.

Since 2008, one of the Policy Program's key focus has again been on the countries of former Yugoslavia and Albania, the so-called Western Balkans. In its closed-door meetings, the Aspen Institute Germany facilitates an open and honest high-level exchange between former conflict parties in support of regional cooperation and dialog and the region's agenda of Euro-Atlantic integration including the transformation processes this entails. The goal of this exchange is to openly address achievements and progress as well as remaining problems and conflict issues between decision-makers of the region. In pursuit of this goal, the Aspen Institute Germany's Southeast Europe Program has two different formats, the Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' Conferences and the so-called Sub-cabinet Meetings.

Public Program

The Aspen Institute Germany's Public Program addresses a broader invited public. It serves as a forum for discourse, where new ideas can be discussed in a fruitful environment of interested and informed individuals. The central theme of the Public Program is values-based leadership, the mission of the Institute. Thus, it is discussed how leaders can deal with the political and economic challenges of our time and how they are currently being dealt with.

The Public Program consists of three different formats. The first one is the Aspen Forum, a series of evening events for a small public of no more than 50 guests. They are invited to listen to the ideas of a guest speaker in a familiar and exclusive interview situation or brief lecture. Some of these events are hosted in cooperation with Deutschlandradio Kultur. While Deutschlandradio Kultur broadcasts the first part of the event, the second part is an intimate off-the-record discussion with our guests only. The second format is the Aspen Brown Bag Lunch series, aiming at constructive dialog on current political, economic and social issues. Two to four experts provide short input statements before the discussion is opened to 20-30 selected guests. Finally, the Public Program includes major events such as the annual summer party, the President's Night in 2012, or the Berlin Transatlantic Conference and the 40 Years Aspen Germany Celebration.



40 YEARS ASPEN GERMANY

The Transatlantic Partnership at Stake: Do We Still Need Each Other?

CONTACT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE GERMANY

The Aspen Institute Deutschland e.V.
Friedrichstrasse 60
10117 Berlin
Germany
T +49 (0) 30 804 890 0
F +49 (0) 30 804 890 33
info@aspeninstitute.de
www.aspeninstitute.de

40 Years Aspen Germany has been organized in cooperation with
ONC Odewald Networking Communication GmbH.

