



Aspen Institute) Germany

Annual Report 2017/2018

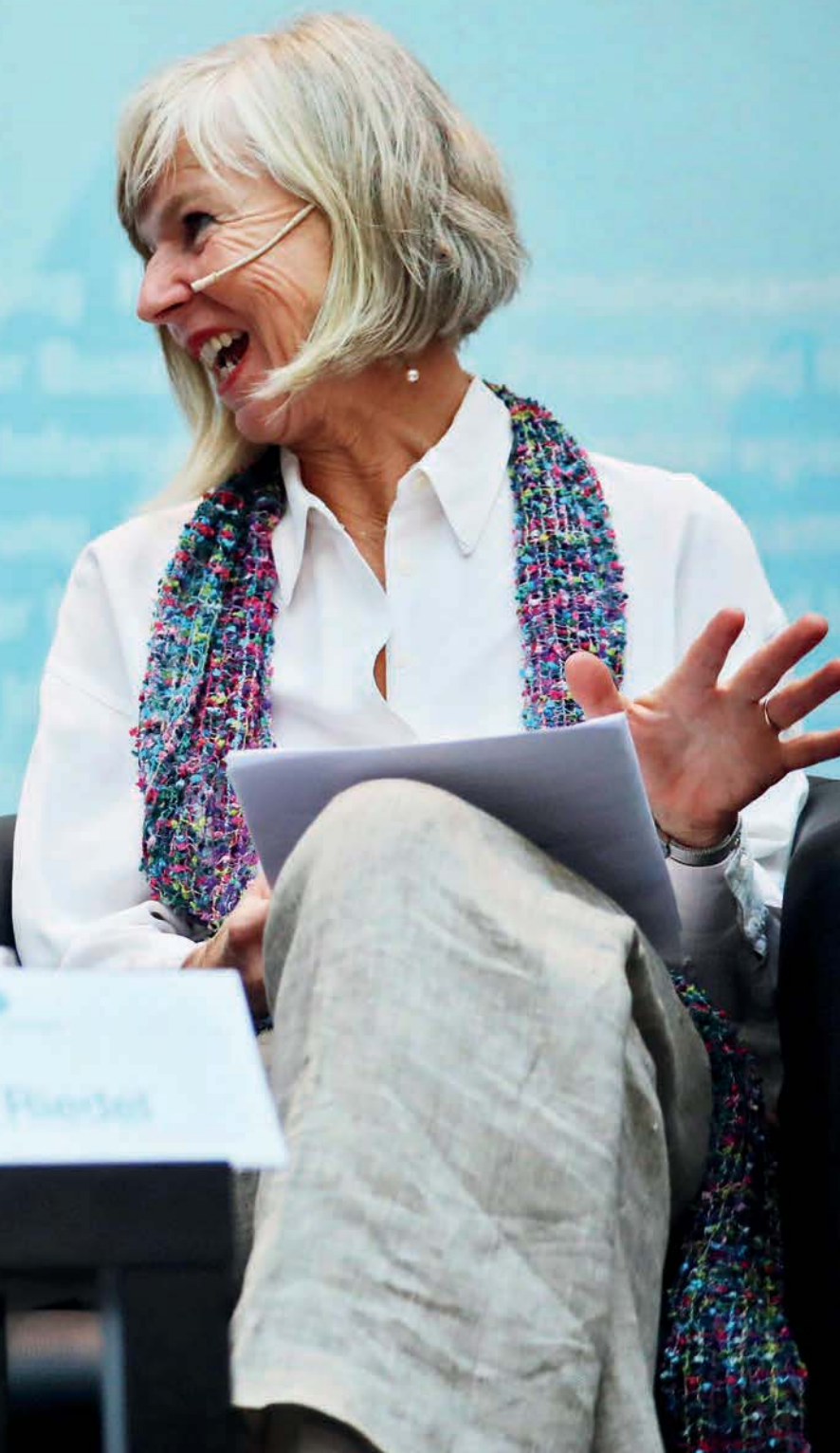




US Governor Philip D. Murphy (New Jersey)

Annette Riedel, Senior Editor, Deutschlandfunk Kultur

*Berlin Transatlantic Forum 2018: "Present at the New Creation? Tech. Power. Democracy."
October 16, 2018*



PREFACE

Dear Friends of Aspen Germany,

2017 and 2018 were years of world-wide political and economic changes. The international order, established 70 years ago under US leadership after World War II, is now being challenged by the rise of populism, the rise of authoritarian regimes from Russia, China, Turkey, and fundamental changes in US policy under President Donald Trump.

In the last two years, we have seen an erosion in the core of our transatlantic alliance. From NATO and our common security interests to our trade relations, from our approach to climate change to arms control – everything we have taken for granted as a stable framework of transatlantic relations is now being questioned. These dramatic changes did not go unnoticed by us. So, what role has Aspen played in the last two years in trying to tackle all these challenges and to promote our mission?

As a boutique institution with limited financial and personnel resources, we try to focus our activities on three major issues: Transatlantic relations, the digital transformation process in our societies, and the future role of Germany in the Balkans, the EU, and globally.

In order to tackle the many transatlantic challenges facing Europe because of Donald Trump's presidency, a group of transatlanticists from several Berlin-based think tanks, institutes, and foundations came together in 2017 to combine their intellectual power to define a common future vision of German and American relations under these new circumstances. Their efforts culminated in the so-called transatlantic manifesto "In spite of it all, America: A transatlantic manifesto in times of Donald Trump – a German perspective." This document was published on October 12 in the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit* and simultaneously in the *New York Times*. Aspen Germany has been one of the signatories and will stay an active force in safeguarding and strengthening our international order.

In 2017, we also had three US mayors in quick succession as guests of Aspen Germany: Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel from Chicago. All three events attracted high-ranking transatlanticists from the Bundestag, think tanks, and political foundations as well as business representatives. The goal of these events was to facilitate a transatlantic discussion about the future course of the United States after Trump's election.

Throughout both years, we have also continued our transatlantic exchange programs. The Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program brought staffers from the US Congress to Berlin and staffers from the German Bundestag to Washington, D.C.. Over the years, we have built a robust network of young American and German staffers whose commitment to our transatlantic course is a tribute to our mission.

Aspen Germany tries to anticipate future political and economic trends in the transatlantic arena. A transatlantic scenario workshop in May 2017 brought together high-level experts from Europe and the US to explore the future of the liberal order in 2025. This group developed a range of possible scenarios in the areas of migration, terrorism, security, trade, and climate. Thanks to a generous grant from the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung), their findings were then transformed into a newspaper called "The Aspen Insight." The paper, which was distributed in large numbers parallel to the annual Berlin Transatlantic Forum in 2017, won a Special German Design Award in 2018.

Besides our transatlantic endeavors, the Aspen Institute Germany continued its Southeast Europe Programs, promoting regional dialog in the Western Balkans and the region's Euro-Atlantic integration. Aspen had the pleasure of hosting another Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' conference under the patronage of German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and the Czech Deputy Foreign

Minister Jakub Dürer in cooperation with the German Foreign Office in 2017. Moreover, equally supported by the German Foreign Office, Aspen Germany continued its regional dialog format bringing together high-level diplomats and politicians and experts from civil society from the Western Balkans and the EU in search for common solutions to pressing issues. In 2018, we extended our activities in the region with a new program supported by Open Society Foundations. Aspen Germany was established as a policy hub in Berlin for think tanks from the Western Balkans looking to extend their relations both to German think tanks and decision-makers in Berlin.

These two classic pillars of Aspen Germany have been complemented with a new program: A three-year series on the digital agenda. This new program focuses on the impact of the digital transformation on society, politics, and economy and was launched with a conference and a keynote speech by Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Brigitte Zypries in April 2017. It was followed by a successful transatlantic and Pan-European workshop with the new digital commissioner Mariya Gabriel in Brussels in September 2017.

Together with the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. and the Internet Economy Foundation in Berlin, we were able to initiate a Transatlantic Digital Agenda which provides a platform for stake holders, politicians, civil society, and regulators to meet in a confidential setting to openly discuss common challenges and potential solutions. We also partnered with other digital players, amongst them the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg, Telefonica, Microsoft, and Lockheed Martin. On the topic of artificial intelligence, we have forged a close cooperation with the Heinz and Heide Dürer Foundation whose grant allowed us to conduct the first international Berlin conference on artificial intelligence in April 2018.

Our three annual Leadership Seminars have continued to be our most important asset in winning over new supporters

for our Institute. We have successfully increased its outreach and attractiveness in 2017 and 2018 by creating an additional program series of alumni events, among them two successful joint ventures with the Stanford and Harvard Alumni Associations of Berlin which gave us the opportunity to spread the message about our value-based leadership mission among prospective future participants.

Another highlight of 2017/2018 were our annual summer parties which took place at the Mendelssohn-Remise in Berlin. Our guest of honor and keynote speaker in 2017 was Helga Schmid, Secretary General of the European External Action Service. The speaker at our summer party 2018 was Minister of State Niels Annen who shared his thoughts on the repercussions of Trump's presidency on transatlantic relations. Both successful events gave our members and guests an excellent overview and in-depth insight into European politics and the future of transatlantic relations.

Our annual Berlin Transatlantic Forum in the fall of 2017 and 2018 and the Aspen Gala in October 2017 were other highlights of our event calendar. Honoring Wolf Biermann, German poet, composer, and singer, and Dr. Guido Goldman, founder of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, with the Shepard Stone Award, the Gala had over 190 guests. The program included a congratulatory note by Chancellor Angela Merkel and recitation of a poem and songs by Wolf Biermann.

2017 also saw the launch of a new Aspen Europe Program named the „Aspen Initiative for Europe.“ It has the goal of identifying programs and events of all European Aspen Institutes which are of common interest and can be joined by either all or a coalition of the willing. Within this framework, Aspen Germany in close cooperation with the Aspen Institute Central Europe in Prague started a series of workshops with Visegrád countries to discuss the future policies of Germany and the Visegrád group within the European Union and explore opportunities for even deeper

cooperation between Germany and the Visegrád countries. Events have already taken place in Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, and Berlin.

In conjunction with these Aspen Europe programs the newly created Aspen European Strategy Group, an assembly of high-ranking representatives of all Aspen Europe countries, has met with the Aspen Strategy Group of the US in Brussels in June 2018. In meetings with the EU Commission, the EU Parliament, and NATO, both groups discussed where we currently stand in our transatlantic relations and how to best overcome current crises in the areas of defense, trade, Iran policies, and climate.

For the first time ever, Aspen Germany successfully organized side events at the Munich Security Conference in 2017 and 2018. Together with Goethe University Frankfurt and the law firm Rückel & Kollegen in Munich, we hosted amongst others Charles Kupchan, Senior Director for Europe at the National Security Council under Barack Obama, Governor John Kasich (R-Ohio), Ambassador Kurt Volker and Aspen Kyiv President Natalie Jaresko on topics ranging from transatlantic issues to American domestic politics and the Ukraine.

All our Aspen events in 2017/2018 have contributed to a greater awareness of our Institute in the public arena, the German government, and the German Bundestag. This is why the budget committee of the German Bundestag decided to increase the financial support of the Aspen Institute Germany with an annual grant of 400.000 Euros starting in 2018. This generous financial support will help us to continue our work and to grow our programs according to our needs.

The growth and success story of Aspen Germany in the last couple of years would not have been possible without the support and contributions of our Board of Trustees, the Management Board, and first and foremost a stellar performance of our Aspen Team. I am also grateful to all our partners, donors, and sponsors who have been supportive of our work in the last years. Together, we have been able to make Aspen Germany a respected player in the transatlantic arena, a strong defender of our liberal values, and a committed promoter of our open societies. I am sure we can count on your continuous support and commitment in the future.

Sincerely,
Rüdiger Lentz



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*Aspen Summer Party 2018 of the Aspen Institute Germany
and the "Verein der Freunde"*

June 19, 2018

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*Aspen Summer Party 2018 of the Aspen Institute Germany and the "Verein der Freunde"
June 19, 2018*

MISSION AND PROGRAMS

THE ASPEN IDEA

The Aspen Institute Germany promotes values-based leadership, constructive dialog among conflicting parties, and euro-atlantic cooperation to support and enhance a strong, open society.

To fulfil its mission, Aspen Germany convenes decision-makers and experts from the fields of politics, business, academia, media, culture, and civil society in three programs:

The **Policy Program** offers a non-partisan, confidential platform for dialog and analysis to address regional and global challenges and to develop mutually acceptable solutions.

The **Leadership Program** reflects on values and ideas using the Socratic method to deepen knowledge, broaden perspectives, and enhance participants' ability to solve the problems they face.

The **Public Program** provides a forum for open and constructive dialog between decision-makers and a broader audience on a wide range of current issues.

The Aspen Institute Germany was founded in Berlin in 1974 and has since then actively promoted the idea of a transatlantic community and of a free and open society. It serves as a non-partisan, non-profit convening platform and is part of the global Aspen network, with partners in the US, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Romania, Spain, Great Britain, Japan, India, Mexico, New Zealand, and Ukraine. Together, the Institutes are committed to addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

The Aspen Idea goes back to 1945 when Chicago businessman and philanthropist Walter Paepcke (1896-1960), son of German immigrants from Mecklenburg, arrived in Aspen, a then sleepy town in the mountains of Colorado. Struck by the human and moral catastrophe of World War II, Paepcke dreamed of “a place where the human spirit can flourish.”

Paepcke was a trustee of the University of Chicago and close friends with its president Robert Hutchins as well as with the philosopher Mortimer Adler. Together, they shared one vision: To create a platform for dialog between leaders, thinkers, and artists from around the globe where they could step away from their daily routines and reflect on what makes good leaders and a good society.

Their dream came true in 1949, when Paepcke made Aspen the site for the 200th birthday celebration of German poet and philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe commemorating the historic and abiding philosophical ties that America and the rest of the world had with Germany, despite the atrocities of the Hitler regime and World War II. The 20-day gathering attracted such prominent intellectuals and artists as Albert Schweitzer, Jose Ortega y Gasset, Thornton Wilder, and Arthur Rubinstein, along with members of the international press and more than 2,000 attendees. That year, Paepcke created what is now the Aspen Institute.

Today, the Institute’s vision and reach extend far beyond its original roots. In policy programs, seminars, public events, and global leadership initiatives, its form and force have grown to confront contemporary challenges and matters of collective concern.

The Aspen Institute is based in Washington, D.C. and has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland’s eastern shore. It also maintains offices in New

York City and has an international network of partners in Germany, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Romania, Ukraine, Spain, Great Britain, Japan, India, New Zealand, and Mexico.

As the first Institute abroad, Aspen Germany was founded in 1974 in the midst of the Cold War. Its founding members included former Chancellor Willy Brandt, former High Commissioner for Germany John J. McCloy, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, the Governing Mayor of Berlin Klaus Schütz, historian Lord Alan Bullock, the future President of West Germany Richard von Weizsäcker, sociologist Ralf Dahrendorf, and publicist Marion Countess Dönhoff among others. Together they envisioned creating a symbol of transatlantic community.

Under the leadership of Shepard Stone, its first Executive Director, Aspen Germany established a unique track record of building German-US cooperation and dialog with the former Soviet Union. Stone’s successors extended this tradition and also focused on issues facing the Balkans and the Middle East.

To this day, the Aspen Institute Germany enables constructive dialog amongst conflicting parties and promotes Euro-Atlantic cooperation to support and enhance a strong, open society.



Aspen Leadership Program

Aspen Leadership Seminar

The Aspen Leadership Seminar brings together high-ranking leaders from politics, business, media, culture, NGOs, and sports three times each year. It is a unique format dedicated to discussing leadership and the responsibilities that come with it in a philosophical context. The program was launched in the United States more than sixty years ago and introduced in Germany in 2011. Its offering is unparalleled in Germany and hits the core of the “Aspen Idea,” which is to promote values-based leadership and to serve as a platform for substantial dialog about difficult topics of our time.

In order to fulfill its mission of enabling dialog, debate, and critical thinking, the Seminar offers a ‘safe space’ to reflect on one’s own leadership qualities, decisions, and responsibilities, a concept deeply rooted in the Aspen idea. By immersing themselves in excerpts from major philosophical works ranging from antiquity to modernity, participants explore the most universal facets of the human existence, such as the relationship of individual freedom and the order of society, the limits of power, and different models of ethical leadership.

The Seminar is meant to enable the participants to develop their own style of ethical leadership. It is not a traditional leadership seminar meant to improve leaders’ efficiency or workplace skills, but instead focuses on more profound learning. It specifically targets individuals with professional and societal responsibilities that seek to broaden their horizons regarding their behavior toward subordinates and peers as well as their ability to lead not only effectively, but also ethically. In addition to the differentiated analysis and evaluation of the philosophical texts, the participants explore the connection between the philosophical findings of the texts and their own personal leadership. The Seminar hence demands in-depth preparation of the readings of all its participants.

Past participants say that they profited immensely from the immersion in the philosophical context of leading. Many attest to having revised and changed their own viewpoints after the Seminar. The first Seminar was conducted in 1951, inspired by the Great Books Seminar held by philosopher Mortimer Adler at the University of Chicago. According to Adler, philosophy is everybody’s business and essential to what makes us human. The idea was that the Seminar would improve society by fostering humanistic thought among important decision-makers.

Among the Aspen Leadership Alumni in Germany are top executives from Google, Lufthansa, UPS, Daimler AG, Deutsche Bank, Pfizer, SAP, the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Bundestag, Axel Springer, Bertelsmann, and Siemens.

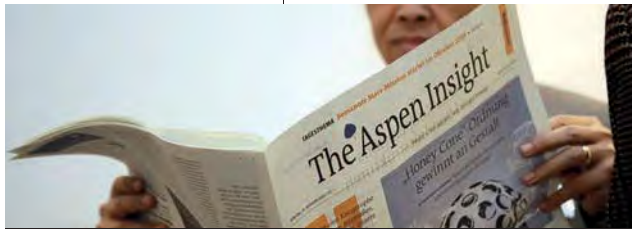


Values-Based Leadership

The idea that good leaders are key to a good society is a core part of the Aspen idea. Values-based leadership emerges from an inside-out process. When we are not clear about our values, it is hard to imagine how we can stand up for our beliefs. How can we speak out if we do not know what is important to us? How can we act according to our convictions if we only have a vague idea what they are? Leading a life that is congruent with one's beliefs and values gives leaders the authenticity and credibility that they need to be effective. Once leaders have identified their values, they have a greater sense of stability and confidence. They are perceived as consistent, trustworthy, and committed to an ethical leadership style. The Aspen Leadership Seminar seeks to address these and other questions.

Aspen Leadership Alumni Program

The Aspen Leadership Alumni community consists of roughly 300 individuals dedicated to furthering the conversation and keeping alive the spark that was ignited during the Seminar. To continue the journey of mind and friendship made possible by the unique and often life-changing experience, our alumni strive to keep connected with one another through a series of workshops, debates, lunches, and reunions throughout the year. The rich and diverse Leadership Alumni Program ensures follow-up to the Seminar and the formation of a community of leaders committed to the ideal of values-based leadership. The Leadership Alumni Program is an excellent platform to share and discuss ideas, build relationships, and foster lifelong friendships. Many alumni attest to the value of the Leadership Alumni Program to maintaining the connection between leaders of extremely diverse backgrounds and fields.



Aspen Policy Program

Aspen Policy Programs actively address current policy challenges. In closed-door and occasional on-the-record conferences and workshops focusing on complex political and social trends and developments, decision-makers and experts analyze common challenges and develop viable solutions. Introductory presentations by international experts lay the groundwork for focused debates with the aim of forging international consensus among politicians, diplomats, and experts from academia, civil society organizations, business, and the media. During the discussions, participants develop constructive suggestions and policy recommendations, which are often subsequently published and presented in a public event.

Aspen Digital Program

2017 marked the launch of a new digital policy program at the Aspen Institute Germany. The digital revolution is causing some of the most profound societal challenges of the 21st century. By 2020, there will be almost 25 billion networked devices, approximately 3.5 for every person on the planet. Cloud computing, cross-border supply chains, the Internet of Things, e-commerce, and the sharing economy are giving rise to a new class of Mittelstand, the “Micro-Multinational.”

Across the OECD, digitally-dependent jobs make up 22 percent of all new jobs created. Many of these jobs will be powered by start-ups. But the digital revolution is not happening in a vacuum. It comes against the backdrop of a rising tide of populism and resentment toward institutions and elites that have not delivered on inclusive growth, security, and social cohesion. Productivity gains of the past two decades – benefiting from the rise of the Internet – have accumulated disproportionately at one end of the wealth spectrum as income inequality grows and social mobility becomes more difficult.

Many citizens from Dresden to Detroit feel alienated from an ever-accelerating process of digitalization that some feel is ignoring privacy protections; excluding citizens from dignified work; treating safety and cybersecurity as an afterthought; and unmooring their sense of moral grounding. Against this backdrop of opportunities and challenges, the Aspen Institute Germany has established a new digital policy program. The program consists of the following three pillars.



The Transatlantic Digital Agenda

First – the Aspen Institute Germany has joined together with the Atlantic Council and Internet Economy Foundation in a new initiative, the Transatlantic Digital Agenda: Bridging the Gap. This initiative brings together senior decision-makers in politics, business, academia, and civil society in Europe, the US and beyond to foster closer transatlantic digital cooperation. In this context, it will explore the strategic question: how can we translate the transatlantic values – which have served the global community so well for 70 years – for a digital age where those values are increasingly under threat by economic uncertainty, rising populism, new democratic vulnerabilities, and previously unimagined cyber risks?

Aspen Values-Based AI Initiative

Second – the Aspen Institute Germany launched in 2018 an annual Aspen Berlin Artificial Intelligence Conference that has brought users, policy-makers, business leaders, innovators, economists, philosophers, religious leaders, union organizers, civil society, and security experts together to discuss the AI's possibilities and pitfalls. The first day-and-a-half long conference addressed four separate – but interrelated – dimensions of AI: Economic impact; ethics and democracy; safety and security; and the over-the-horizon challenges of artificial general intelligence. At its core, the conference confronted the question: How can AI designers, operators, and policy-makers guarantee that AI improves lives, ensures dignity, preserves security, and safeguards democracy for users and citizens?

Building on the first annual Aspen AI Conference and in preparation of the second edition in March 2019, the Aspen Institute Germany, and the Italian Embassy, launched a broader Values-Based AI Initiative consisting of workshop series at the Italian Embassy in Berlin to address the values framework undergirding the Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning (AI/ML) revolution.

Each off-the-record, half-day long workshop brings together 30-35 representatives from government and politics, tech companies, academia, trade union, and civil society. Each tackles one discrete social challenge and identifies essential elements for the development of AI/ML policy, regulation, and norms. Conversations will combine theoretical explorations of first principles – like the centrality of personal autonomy, human dignity, and accountability – with practical discussions about public policy and transatlantic cooperation. Discussions and outcomes from the workshops will help to frame themes and challenges that should be addressed at #AspenAI19.



Digital Dish Luncheons

Third – the Aspen Institute Germany organizes regularly held Digital Dish Luncheons inviting a provocative thinker for an intimate, off-the-record lunch in Berlin to discuss an issue related to the most pressing tech policy debates. The Dish will bring together a mix of frontier thinkers on tech policy and specialists focusing on the US-European relationship. By bringing together both communities, the Digital Dish Luncheon Series will confront both communities with trends, frictions, and successes in the transatlantic tech policy space and contextualize issues in the broader US-European relationship.

Outlook toward 2019

2019 will add Cybersecurity related issues to the Digital Program's range of topics. Finance, health, retail, and government data are already in a daily struggle with an ecosystem of organized crime syndicates, hacktivists, intelligence services, viruses, malicious states, terrorists, and rogue hackers. Strafrictions tegies to protect and mitigate dynamic cyber threats exist but they are unevenly implemented across Germany and Europe. In a world where digital density is making cyber ecosystems "too integrated to fail," cyber risks from pin-prick data breaches to a "Cyber Lehman" are becoming greater, more dangerous, and more dependent on the weakest links in the chain.

Germany and Europe are in the crosshairs. 2015 Bundestag and 2017-8 Informationsverbund Berlin-Bonn (IVBB) attacks demonstrated that APT28, associated with the Russian GRU, and others are capable of exfiltrating information from Germany's most heavily guarded databases. Legacy critical infrastructure systems running outdated software with increasingly-known vulnerabilities, are being connected, exposing them to hostile actors and hazardous conditions on the Internet. Malware like NotPetya and WannaCry snake through the global internet shutting down operations in hospitals, small businesses, and home computers. Zero Day vulnerabilities are being trafficked on the dark net.

The internet of things – from appliances to self-driving cars to industrial equipment to medical devices – is lowering the threshold for attacks that can cause economic disruption, property damage and physical harm, shattering trust in markets and governments. As the 2016 Mirai botnet and DT router attacks have shown, everyday objects – toys, baby monitors, appliances, and even cloths – are becoming



Staffers Exchange Program

vulnerable to attack or being dragooned into zombie botnet armies to attack others.

The public is demanding greater privacy protections and stronger democratic oversight over the rules governing the Internet. Threats to online activity are increasing both in number and sophistication threatening on government entities, large businesses, Mittelstand, and individuals. How can policy-makers, industry and civil society work together to manage growing risks while preserving the global nature of the internet.

In 2019, the Aspen Institute Germany will organize a conference bringing together a multi-stakeholder, multinational group of European and American influencers – policy makers, legislators, engineers, hackers, civil society, academics and representatives of the business, security and privacy communities.

The Aspen Institute Germany, with the support of the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany and with funds from the European Recovery Program of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, designed an exchange program for Congress and Bundestag staffers to foster dialog on the transatlantic relations. The program was initially launched in 2014.

Participating staffers take part in intensive debates on the most pressing concerns facing the transatlantic community. In 2017, topics discussed included trade, democracy, security, and tech policy. In 2018, they were populism, terrorism, multilateral organizations as well as urban development and mobility. The staffers also meet with decision-makers, experts, and practitioners. Site visits in Berlin and D.C. and cultural events promoting mutual understanding are also an integral part of the program.



Berlin Transatlantic Forum

Inaugurated in 2014 on the occasion of Aspen Germany's 40th anniversary, the Berlin Transatlantic Forum addresses the most pressing challenges jointly facing Europe and the United States. Each fall, the Institute hosts a conference bringing together renowned experts and decision-makers from both sides of the Atlantic to exchange ideas and seek answers to important questions in the fields of security, energy, technology, democracy, and trade, and also to discuss issues pertaining to our shared foundation of Western values. The annual conference is preceded by a workshop, during which a small group of experts from Germany, Europe, and the US gathers for an in-depth discussion of key topics of transatlantic concern.

In 2017, the Forum discussed the state and future of the liberal order. The outcome of the Brexit vote and the election of Donald Trump seem to question, even threaten, the values and foundations of our post-war liberal order. The three-day workshop in May engaged 23 participants in a foresight exercise, developing scenarios for possible futures of how the liberal order might evolve by the year 2025. The result of the workshop – the best- and worst-case scenarios – were presented at the conference on October 26. In addition, the conference explored Germany's role in a changing international landscape.

The 2018 Forum focused on the nexus of technology, power, and democracy, discussing the challenges to the transatlantic relationship and international community in the deep digital age. In September, a group of 26 participants met for a workshop to discuss various aspects of how technology is recasting relations within states and between states. The conference on October 16 then discussed the state of the transatlantic relationship as well as how technological progress is influencing our democratic systems and geopolitical power dynamics.

The Berlin Transatlantic Forum marks a continuation of the Institute's close ties to the city of Berlin. In 1974, in the midst of the Cold War, the Institute was founded as a symbol of transatlantic solidarity. Since then, Aspen Germany has attracted high-level guests to Berlin to strengthen Euro-Atlantic cooperation.

The project is made possible by a generous grant of the foundation LOTTO-Stiftung Berlin as well as support from Volkswagen, Lockheed Martin, and the Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung.



Southeast Europe Program

The Aspen Institute Germany has focused on 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 published the report "Unfinished Peace" in 1996, 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 in addition to several other events with a focus on the region.

Since 2008, one of the Policy Program's main focuses has again been on the Western Balkans, which includes the countries of former Yugoslavia and Albania. In closed-door meetings, the Aspen Institute Germany facilitates an open and honest high-level exchange between former conflict parties in order to support regional cooperation and dialog, as well as to further the region's agenda on Euro-Atlantic integration and the transformation processes this entails. The goal of this exchange is to openly address both remaining problems and disagreements between decision-makers of the region as well as successes and advances. Moreover, Aspen Germany regularly brings together experts and decision-makers working in, on and with the region for an increased exchange of perspectives, opinions, and assessments. In pursuit of these goals, the Aspen Institute Germany's Southeast Europe Program has different formats: the Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' Conferences, the so-called Sub-cabinet Meetings, it facilitates small, off-the-record exchanges, and background briefings and discussions.

Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' Conferences

The first Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' Conference took place in December 2008. Behind closed doors, top politicians and senior officials from Germany and the US met with foreign ministers from Southeast Europe including, for the first time, the Serbian Foreign Minister and the Acting Foreign Minister from Kosovo. In subsequent years, foreign ministers from the region have gathered annually in Berlin for a regional meeting together with their US, European, and German colleagues.

Since 2010, Aspen's Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' Conferences have been organized in cooperation with the German Foreign Office and an EU member state's Embassy in Berlin with the German Foreign Minister. Since 2010, partners have included the Austrian Embassy in Berlin and then Foreign Ministers Dr. Guido Westerwelle and Dr. Michael Spindelegger; the Hungarian Embassy in Berlin and then Foreign Ministers Dr. Guido Westerwelle and Dr. János Martonyi; the British Embassy and then Foreign Ministers Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Philip Hammond; the Italian Embassy and then Foreign Ministers Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Paolo Gentiloni; as well as the Czech Embassy and then Foreign Ministers Sigmar Gabriel and Lubomír Zaorálek. In 2014, Foreign Ministers Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Philip Hammond used the Aspen Foreign Ministers' Conference as a platform to present a joint German-British initiative to revitalize the reform process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In his opening speech of 2017, Foreign Minister Gabriel emphasized Germany's commitment to the region and revealed Germany's plans of setting up additional funds to further support the Western Balkans.



Sub-Cabinet Meetings

Since 2009, Aspen Germany's Southeast Europe Program's sub-cabinet meetings have brought together high-level decision makers, politicians, diplomats, and experts from the Western Balkans, the US, Germany, the EU, NATO, and other international organizations to discuss various issues related to current and future challenges in Southeast Europe. At exclusive closed-door conferences, a limited number of participants can exchange views informally and off-the-record, and discuss their differences and commonalities. Supported by expert policy papers, discussions aim at bridging differences that still exist, identifying common challenges and ideas, and developing mutually acceptable solutions and recommendations. Topics discussed include the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans, non-traditional security threats, the fight against organized crime and corruption, the role of external actors in the region, economic development, energy security, regional cooperation, rule of law, and democratization.

Policy Hub for Think Tanks from the Western Balkans

One of the challenges for policy organizations from the Western Balkans is a disconnect from the European Union. All too often pro-European voices interacting with their EU counterparts struggle to step beyond local paradigms. This deepens the perception in the EU that the Western Balkans are a problematic neighbor who, in the future, might become a free-rider on EU financial assistance without contributing to solving wider European problems. Genuine Europeanization cannot take root if two sides are talking cross purposes. In order to bridge this growing gap, this initiative seeks to establish closer, more regular, and more targeted contacts between policy organizations from the Western Balkans and their EU member state counterparts as well as decision-makers. In cooperation with the Open Society Foundations, the Aspen Institute Germany functions as a policy hub in Berlin for select policy research organizations from the Western Balkans. Aspen Germany supports these organizations in identifying potential local partners in Berlin, facilitates their advocacy visits, and assists with the preparations of these visits. The idea is to help policy organizations from the Western Balkans to better understand the policy scene in Berlin, identify opportunities for collaboration with local organizations, and improve the effectiveness of their political outreach and advocacy. Through the establishment of contacts to other organizations, a more sustainable and impactful involvement of Western Balkans organizations in Western European policy debate is intended. In its first year of functioning as a policy hub, Aspen's Southeast Europe Program organized and facilitated a total of ten visits, hosting more than fifteen think tanks from five countries and connecting them with leading figures at institutions such as the German Bundestag, the Foreign Office, the Federal Chancellery, Berlin-based think tanks and research organizations, as well as individual experts, such as renowned journalists.



Background Discussions

Complementary to the core events of its Southeast Europe Program, Aspen Germany facilitates background discussions for better connectivity and increased exchange among MPs, political advisors from the Bundestag, and selected experts from government and civil society, such as think tanks, political foundations, and journalists. The topics of such background discussions vary from evaluations of relevant summits, current developments in the region, and exclusive dinners with selected politicians from the region, such as the Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev and his delegation in February 2018.

Aspen Public Program

The Aspen Institute Germany's Public Program serves as a forum for discourse and exchange addressing a broader audience of interested individuals who wish to discuss fresh ideas and look at important current issues from new perspectives. Topics include current political, economic, and social matters as well as questions of values-based leadership. The Public Program consists of several different formats. A series of evening events features renowned speakers who share their ideas either in an interview setting or in a brief presentation followed by a discussion. While the interview portion of the event is sometimes broadcast by one of our media partners, the following discussion is off-the-record to enable a frank and open exchange. The Aspen Brown Bag Lunch series takes place several times a year and gathers experts, members of the "Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts e.V." (Association of Friends of the Aspen Institute), and representatives from politics, business, and civil society for a working lunch to discuss current topics under Chatham House Rule. Finally, the Public Program includes stand-alone events such as exclusive breakfast and dinner events, background briefings, the annual Aspen Summer Party, and the Aspen Gala. Some of these events are hosted in cooperation with partner organizations. The Public Program is open to invited guests and upon request. Members of the "Verein der Freunde" enjoy preferred access to major Public Program events.



Selection of Speakers in 2017 and 2018:

Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, Indiana

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of the City of Chicago

Ambassador Martin Erdmann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Turkey

Eric Garcetti, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles

H.E. Richard Grenell, Ambassador of the United States of America to Germany

Tina Hassel, Editor in Chief and Chief Correspondent at ARD

US Governor **John R. Kasich** (Ohio)

Dr. Tobias Lindner, Member of the German Bundestag (Alliance 90/The Green Party)

Michael Link, Member of the German Bundestag (FDP)

H.E. Shi Mingde, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Robby Mook, veteran Democratic Political Operative

US Governor **Phil Murphy** (New Jersey)

Norbert Röttgen, Member of the German Bundestag (CDU)

Helga Schmid, Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS)

Aspen Publications

Esch, Valeska / Remme, Yannic (eds.): *A European Future for the Western Balkans: Addressing Political and Economic Challenges*, Aspen Institute Germany, Berlin, 2017.

Esch, Valeska / van Zijverden, Olga (eds.): *Rule of Law Reforms in the Western Balkans*, Aspen Institute Germany, Berlin, 2018.

Available at www.aspeninstitute.de.



*Eckart von Klaeden, Vice President and Head of External Affairs, Daimler AG;
Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Aspen Institute Germany*

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of the City of Chicago

Dr. Anna Kuchenbecker, Deputy Director, Aspen Institute Germany

*Exclusive Dinner with Mayor Rahm Emanuel
July 14, 2017*

FIVE REASONS TO SUPPORT ASPEN

1. Strengthen Transatlantic Cooperation

Strengthening the transatlantic partnership is the core of the Institute's mission. We believe that a strong relationship between Germany, Europe, and the United States is vital to the world as it strives for stability, peace, and prosperity. Our programs bring together leaders from policy and business on both sides of the Atlantic to address major challenges and find joint solutions.

2. Engage in Expert Conversation on the World's Most Pressing Issues

Aspen Germany convenes thought leaders from across society and creates a space for serious dialog to address national and global challenges. Ranging from informal, off-the-record conversations to intellectual exchanges at expert workshops and conferences, the Institute facilitates discussions on today's most pressing issues, e.g. artificial intelligence, international trade conflicts, and the rise of populist movements. Recent speakers included Ambassador Kurt Volker, Executive Director of the McCain Institute for International Leadership and former US Ambassador to NATO, New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy, State Minister Niels Annen of the Federal Foreign Office, as well as Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles.

3. Access Aspen's Global Network

Aspen Germany is part of a global network with partners in the United States, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Romania, Spain, Ukraine, Great Britain, Japan, India, Mexico, and New Zealand. As part of this network, Aspen Germany has access to and works with some of the most talented, like-minded individuals around the world to address today's toughest questions.

4. Foster a Culture of Leadership Based on Enduring Values

The idea that good leaders are a key to a good society is a core part of Aspen's mission. Becoming an effective leader is an inside-out process. Leading a life congruent with one's personal beliefs and values, gives leaders the authenticity and credibility that their constituents desire. When leaders live their values, they project a greater sense of stability and confidence and are seen as consistent, trustworthy, and likely to be willingly followed. Through its values-based leadership seminar "Philosophy & Practice," Aspen Germany strengthens leaders from business, politics, and civil society for the good of their organizations and society.

5. Invest in Constructive Dialog and Mutual Understanding

In times of diminishing public confidence in politics and the media, growing snap judgement, and polarization, opportunities to have a constructive and civil discourse about difficult issues are not easy to find. Aspen Germany enables respectful conversations amongst conflicting parties, brings together opposing views, and works towards finding common ground and mutually acceptable solutions – at home and abroad.

For further information contact:

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kreutz@aspeninstitute.de



Werner Hoyer, President, European Investment Bank

*Aspen European Strategy Group Meeting:
Exclusive Dinner with Werner Hoyer
March 27, 2017*

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Prof. Dr. Volker Berghahn

Prof. Dr. Volker Berghahn is the Seth Low Emeritus Professor of History at Columbia University. He received an M.A. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and his PhD from the University of London. He completed his habilitation at the

University of Mannheim, but subsequently returned to the UK where he taught at the Universities of East Anglia and Warwick before moving to Brown University in 1988 and to Columbia in 1998. He has published widely on the field of modern German History, European-American economic and cultural relations, and historiography. His books include: *Germany and the Approach of War in 1914* (1973); *Modern Germany. Society, Economy and Politics in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge 1982); *Militarism. The History of an International Debate, 1861- 1979* (New York 1982); *The Americanization of West German Industry, 1945-1973* (New York 1986); *Otto A. Friedrich. Ein politischer Unternehmer* (Frankfurt 1993); *Imperial Germany, 1871-1914* (New York 1994); *America and the Intellectual Cold Wars in Europe* (Princeton 2001); *Sarajewo 1914. Der Untergang des alten Europa* (München 2001); *Der Erste Weltkrieg* (München 2003); *Europe in the Era of Two World Wars* (Princeton 2005); *Industriegesellschaft und Kulturtransfer* (Göttingen 2010); *American Big Business in Britain and Germany. A Comparative Study of Two 'Special Relationships' in the 20th Century* (Princeton 2014). He has just completed a manuscript entitled "Journalists between Hitler and Adenauer. From Inner Emigration to the Moral Reconstruction of West Germany," published by Princeton University Press in October 2018.



Carl Douglas | Carl Douglas is Vice Chairman of Assa Abloy AB and Securitas AB and Board Member of Latour AB. He is also the Chairman of MMT Group AB. Apart from his business-ventures, he is a farmer and an avid diver, photographer, and explorer of the underwater realm.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Doctorate of Letters (h.c).



Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann

| Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann was born on January 26, 1951, in St. Louis, Missouri (United States). She holds a degree in Psychology and English Literature from the University of Denver, Colorado. Moreover, she is a trained actress

who attended the Drama Studio of the Royal Academy of London. Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann worked as an actress in the Screen Actors Guild in the United States and also became self-employed by starting a business for interior design. In 1980, she married Peter Dussmann, Chairman of the Dussmann Group, and moved to Germany with him. Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann was appointed Member of the Supervisory Board of Dussmann Group when her husband suffered a severe stroke after 30 years of marriage. In April 2009, she assumed the position as Chairperson of the Supervisory Board. Since 2011, Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann has been Head of the Peter Dussmann Foundation's Board of Trustees.



Elliot Gerson | Elliot Gerson is an Executive Vice President at the Aspen Institute (US), responsible for its Policy Programs, its Public Programs and its relations with international partners. The Institute's more than 30 Policy Programs focus on both domestic and international issues. They

provide neutral venues, do nonpartisan analysis, foster candid dialog among leaders, advocate new policy and promote best practices. The Institute's Public Programs – including the Aspen Ideas Festival and many smaller programs across the country – open the Institute's doors to a broader audience and further both its educational goals and its hopes that thought will lead to action. The Institute has international partners in Central Europe, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Romania, Ukraine, and Spain. Gerson also administers the US Rhodes Scholarships. He was a Rhodes Scholar, a US Supreme Court clerk, practiced law in government and privately, held executive positions in state and federal government and on a presidential campaign, and was president of startups in health care and education, and of two leading national insurance and healthcare companies.



Werner Hein | Werner Hein is Senior Counsel at the international law firm Mayer Brown LLP and lives in Washington, D.C. Now a German-American, he spent his formative years in Germany studying law in Berlin and Bonn. After a stint at the legal adviser's office at the Federal Economics

Ministry, Bonn, he studied US law at Columbia Law School, New York, and started his legal career in the US as legal and trade adviser at the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. Switching to the private practice of law, he ultimately joined Mayer Brown LLP as partner where

he has advised telecommunications and technology companies on corporate transactions mainly in the transatlantic marketplace. Outside his professional career, Werner started early on promoting the German-American relations by helping establish the Deutsch-Amerikanische Juristenvereinigung. Werner also set up the US entity "Friends of Aspen Germany." He is the co-founder of the American Writers Museum, which, after eight years in the making, opened in Chicago last year as a national museum. Werner engages in initiatives at Georgetown University that promote intercultural dialogue.



Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert

Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert is the founding partner of GÖRG's Berlin Office and served as a long-standing member of the firm's management board and as Head of the firm's Corporate Service Line. GÖRG, with more than 270 lawyers, is one of the leading

independent law firms in Germany. Since 2013, he has split his time between Berlin and Frankfurt where he headed the Frankfurt office of the firm until the end of 2017. Roland studied in Passau and Freiburg i.Br. where he obtained his doctorate degree in law. His doctoral dissertation was awarded the Georg F. Roessler Prize of the Federal Supreme Court Bar in Karlsruhe. He was a lead advisor in the 2009/2010 sales process of Karstadt Warenhaus GmbH and the European "Quelle" business and served as Chair of the Supervisory Board of Karstadt during that business' insolvency proceeding. He is one of the well-known corporate practitioners with specializations in the areas of complex corporate transactions and restructuring projects. Dr. Hoffmann-Theinert was admitted to start practicing as a notary in Berlin in 2000. He has taught as an Associate Lecturer at Berlin's Free University since 2000 and is the author of numerous academic publications.



August von Joest | August von Joest looks back on over 45 years of experience in different industries, both national and international. Mr. von Joest's career covers general trading and contracting, experience in the aviation and defense industry, the privatization of national industry,

corporate finance, M&A, and private equity. He now holds a number of non-executive positions and runs his family office taking care of a number of investments. August von Joest is married, has three children, and enjoys classic motorsport and golf.



Eckart von Klaeden | Eckart von Klaeden was born in Hanover, Germany, on November 18, 1965, and is a lawyer by training. He started his professional career as a spokesman of the CDU in Lower Saxony before he became a member of the German Federal Parliament in 1994. There he held

a number of posts: from 2000 to 2005 as parliamentary secretary, from 2005 to 2009 as foreign policy spokesman of the CDU/CSU faction in the German Federal Parliament, and from 2006 to 2010 as treasurer of the CDU. From 2004 until 2013 he was a member of the federal board of the CDU and since 2006 he was also a member of the executive committee. In 2009, he assumed office as Minister of State of the Federal Chancellor. On November 1, 2013, Eckart von Klaeden joined Daimler AG as Vice President, External Affairs where he is responsible for external relations and Daimler's political dialogue worldwide. In this position, he reports directly to the Chairman of the Board of Management of Daimler AG, Dr. Dieter Zetsche.



David Knowler | David Knowler has been the General Manager of Cerberus Deutschland Beteiligungsberatung GmbH since 2003. Before starting his own international consulting company (1997-2002), Mr. Knowler worked for Procter & Gamble for eleven years, where he

started his professional career in Germany in 1986. After nine years in Finance and Controlling positions, Mr. Knowler spent two years managing the Procter & Gamble Germany Fine Fragrance business in Asia Pacific. Mr. Knowler received two undergraduate degrees from the University of Massachusetts (Economics, German) in 1983, as well as being named a Commonwealth Scholar. Mr. Knowler spent the academic year 1981/82 studying in Freiburg, Germany. He received his MBA from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) in 1985. Mr. Knowler is board member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, Global Board Member of the Republicans Overseas, Vice President of the Steuben-Schurz Gesellschaft, member of the board of trustees of "The English Theatre" in Frankfurt, and serves on various supervisory and advisory boards in Germany. Mr. Knowler, born in May of 1961, is an American Citizen and a resident of Germany. He is married and has three children.



Andreas Krebs | Andreas R. Krebs was named Managing Partner at Cologne Invest GmbH Germany (Venture Capital) in 2010. He is a member of several Boards of Directors, Advisory Boards, and Boards of Trustees. In October 2010, he was appointed Chairman of the Supervisory

Board of Merz and in 2012 as Chairman of the Shareholder Council. Prior to this, he was Executive Board Member

and President, EMEA and Canada at Wyeth (US). Mr. Krebs holds a Business Degree, began his career with Woelm Pharma and has worked for Bayer AG, Germany since 1984, holding several senior positions such as General Manager Canada, Vice President Asia Pacific and General Manager Bayer Argentina. He has worked in seven countries, has vast experience in the field of life science, and experience in international healthcare markets of Europe, North America, Asia Pacific, Middle East, and Latin America. Mr. Krebs is also engaged in several philanthropic organizations and chairs the private NGO 'Project Girassol', operating in a Favela-Community in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He is married with two grown-up children and lives near Cologne. Andreas Krebs is the author of the book "Die Illusion der Unbesiegbarkeit" (The Illusion of Invincibility), GABAL, 2018.



Dr. Friedrich Kuhn | Based in Berlin, Friedrich Kuhn plays a key role in Egon Zehnder's Health and CEO practices. He developed the Egon Zehnder Transformational Leadership framework and now leads the global Practice, which helps CEOs, top teams, and entire organizations become more responsive, proactive, and competitive. Drawing on his deep experience as a health-care consultant, Friedrich also helps organizations recruit and integrate top external talent as well as develop internal leadership. Before working for Egon Zehnder, Friedrich served on the board of Blueorbit E-Business AG, a business consulting and implementation provider with a strong focus on the health-care market. Before that, he was a consultant for McKinsey & Company in Munich, starting as an Associate and quickly advancing to the role of Engagement Manager. His projects included post-merger integrations, reshaping global value chains, and redesigning organizations after a fundamental market transformation. Friedrich earned an MA in mathematics from the Ludwig

Maximilian University of Munich as well as a PhD in philosophy. Music is important in his life: He plays cello in an orchestra of managers, and his wife is a professional harpist. Friedrich is very devoted to his two sons, who also have an artistic bend, and enjoys traveling and spending weekends with his family on a houseboat in the lakes around Berlin.



Roderick von Lipsey | Roderick von Lipsey is a Managing Director at UBS Financial Services, Inc, where he is a senior member of the Private Wealth Management practice in Washington, D.C. At UBS, he has held key leadership positions, to include the Midwest Complex Director for the firm's

Private Wealth Management business, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Prior to UBS, Rod was a Vice President at Goldman, Sachs & Co. His career in finance began after serving 20 years on active duty in the US Marine Corps as a "Top Gun" grad, former Marine fighter pilot, and decorated combat veteran. During his military career Lieutenant Colonel von Lipsey also served as a Director at the National Security Council; co-authored and edited a book on conflict intervention while serving as a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow; served as a White House Fellow and Special Assistant for Foreign and Security Policy to the Chief of Staff to the President; and was the Senior Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under GEN Colin L. Powell. He currently holds numerous securities industry registrations and has served as trustee and advisor for several domestic and international not-for-profit organizations including the Aspen Institute. Mr. von Lipsey and his wife Alexia reside in the Massachusetts Avenue Heights area of Washington, D.C. and are the proud parents of three boys attending international baccalaureate program schools.



Helmut Meier | Helmut Meier, born on April 29, 1951, is a German citizen and lives in Krefeld (family residence) and in Vienna. He has been married for over 40 years and has three adult daughters and five grandchildren. After attaining his Abitur at the secondary school at Moltke-Platz

in Krefeld, he volunteered for two years in the Bundeswehr and reached the rank of lieutenant of artillery. He studied mathematics and computer science in Bonn and graduated with a master's degree. For his continued education, he chose INSEAD in Fontainebleau, where he successfully passed the international MBA (Master of Business Administration). Professionally, he worked for 30 years as a project planner (Siemens) and consultant (Booz Allen & Hamilton) in the telecommunications, media, and information industries worldwide. In 2009, he completed his active consulting career as a senior partner and member of Booz Allen & Hamilton's worldwide board of directors. He is very active philanthropically by founding an ecclesiastical foundation in his hometown and through targeted donations in the education of talented young people (Donor INSEAD). He is involved in culture and literature in the German-speaking area (he is a Patron and Donor of the Honorary Konzerthaus-Gesellschaft, the Alternativer Büchner Literaturpreis, Maecenas winner Vienna). He is a member of CONVOCO and has been a board member of Aspen Germany for over a decade. He has been dedicated to the Aspen idea since the mid-1990s through his commitment to Aspen's parent organization in the United States.



Fred Reinke | Fred W. Reinke, a partner in Dentons' Washington, D.C. office, is the head of insurance litigation for the firm's Global Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice. Mr. Reinke handles complex international commercial and class action litigation, particularly on behalf

of major European insurance/reinsurance companies and financial institutions. He counsels clients on insurance and reinsurance coverage disputes, governmental and internal corporate investigations, class action defense, banking and other financial transaction-related litigation, civil antitrust litigation, personal jurisdiction defense and appellate matters. He has also conducted numerous internal corporate investigations and guided directors of public and private companies on corporate governance matters and investigations involving various governmental entities, including the SEC, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Commerce. Mr. Reinke has extensive experience in advising and representing German and French companies and banks on a wide array of legal issues in the United States. He was a Robert Bosch Fellow in Germany and is a member of the American Council on Germany, a Young Leader at the American Council on Germany/Atlantik-Brücke, and is on the Board of Trustees of the American Institute for Contemporary Germany Studies (AICGS). He received his B.A. from St. Olaf College (MN) and his J.D. from Columbia University (NY). Mr. Reinke also studied as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Hamburg and is fluent in German.



Cecilie Rohwedder | Cecilie Rohwedder is a contributor to the Wall Street Journal, based in Washington, D.C. She writes for various parts of the publication, including Life & Arts, Careers, Weekend and Mansion. A native of Germany, she spent nearly two decades as a Journal reporter in

Europe, where she was based in Brussels, Bonn, Berlin, and London and covered areas ranging from European politics to media, retail and fashion industries. Mrs. Rohwedder is a graduate of Georgetown University and holds a master's degree from Columbia. She has been a Fulbright Foundation Scholar and Knight Wallace Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan. She is on the Board of Visitors at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, an active member of Atlantik-Brücke, a non-profit group furthering transatlantic relations, and on the Board of American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers (ASSIST), a youth exchange organization. Mrs. Rohwedder also serves in various capacities at the National Cathedral School in Washington. In her free time, she likes to read, play tennis or travel the world with her husband and three daughters.



Dr. Kurt Schwarz | Dr. Kurt Schwarz was born on June 19, 1951, near Düsseldorf and now lives in Munich and Berlin. After finishing high school in Düsseldorf, he studied medicine and law at the University of Heidelberg and obtained his MD degree in 1979.

After his doctoral thesis in Experimental Pharmacology, he joined the Department of Internal Medicine of the University Hospital in Heidelberg. In 1982, he was awarded a visiting fellowship by the German Research Foundation at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In 1986, he

joined Merck & Co. (New Jersey) and returned to Germany to work for the German subsidiary in Product Management and Medical Affairs. In 1990, Dr. Schwarz founded his investment company Leifina GmbH in Munich and joined the Supervisory Board of Schwarz Pharma AG, representing the Schwarz family as a major shareholder. Dr. Schwarz holds several board seats and is actively involved in several cultural, philanthropic, and political institutions.



Frank Sportolari | Frank Sportolari (62), a native of Chicago, holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Illinois. Before joining UPS in 1986, he worked 6 years as a logistics manager for the US Department of Defense in Germany. Mr. Sportolari joined

UPS in Munich, Germany, in 1986 and held various positions of increasing responsibility within the Finance and Accounting function, including working as a Controller in Munich, Cologne, and Neuss for UPS in Germany before moving to Madrid in 1996 where he was the Controller for UPS Spain & Portugal. This was followed by Controller assignments at UPS Italy and in the UPS European Coordination Center in Brussels, where Frank Sportolari coordinated the activities of the UPS Controllers across the Europe Region. He has had extensive experience in Italy where he held the position of controller from 1998 to 1999 and of managing director from 2002 to 2004. From 2004 to 2007, he took on the role of Vice President of European Strategy, based in Brussels, Belgium, where he was responsible for developing strategies for the EMEA markets. In 2007, Frank Sportolari returned to Italy as managing director, a position which he held until September 2011. During this time, he served as a board member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Italy. In September of 2011, Frank Sportolari was appointed to his current position as President of UPS Germany. He is the President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, vice

chairman of the CDU Business Council International Commission and on the boards of several industry and charitable organizations. Mr. Sportolari lives in Düsseldorf with his wife and 4 of his 6 children. He holds American and Italian citizenship.



Till Staffeldt | Till Staffeldt is Global COO Regulation, Compliance und Anti-Financial Crime (CRegO) and Vice Chair of the Regulation, Compliance und Anti-Financial Crime Executive Committee at Deutsche Bank. Mr. Staffeldt started his career at Deutsche Bank in 1997 after

having completed his studies in Law at the Universities of Berlin, Heidelberg, Konstanz, and London. Following several roles in Frankfurt, Mr. Staffeldt was appointed as Regional Head of Corporate Development in 2006. Two years later, he became Global Head of Business Management & Development Private and Business Clients (PBC). In 2009, he took over the responsibility as Head of PBC in Berlin. Till was appointed as Head of Private Banking Germany in 2011. In 2013, he became PBC's Global Head of HR and PBC's Global Head of CAO. Three years later, he was appointed as Head of HR for Regulation, Compliance und Anti-Financial Crime and Legal.



Dr. h. c. Karsten D. Voigt Dr. h. c. Karsten D. Voigt was the Coordinator of German-North American Cooperation at the German Federal Foreign Office from 1999 to 2009. He majored in history and in German and Scandinavian studies at the universities of Hamburg,

Copenhagen, and Frankfurt. Dr. Voigt became actively engaged in politics at an early age. He accompanied witnesses during the Auschwitz trial proceedings and took

part in Anti-Vietnam war demonstrations. From 1969 until 1973, he served as Chairman of the the German Young Socialists Organization. From 1984 until 1995, he was a member of the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party and from 1985 to 1994, member of the Executive Committee of the Party of European Socialists. From 1976 to 1998, he served as a Member of the German Parliament (Bundestag) for the Social Democrats (SPD). From 1977 to 1998, he also served as a Member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, of which he was President between 1994 and 1996. Dr. Voigt's expertise is in the fields of foreign policy and security. From 1983 to 1998, he was foreign policy spokesman of the SPD parliamentary group. Dr. Voigt also serves on the Steering Committee of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP).



Christine Wolff | Management consultant Christine Wolff, M.Sc. Geology, MBA and Business Mediator, worked for more than 20 years in international engineering consulting firms as a manager. In her last position, she was Managing Director for Europe & Middle East at URS

Corporation (now AECOM). As a Senior Vice President, she was responsible for operations in 15 countries with 2.000 employees. Main operational activities were planning and consulting for large infrastructure, energy, and environmental projects. Christine Wolff started her career in Australia as a geologist in exploration for chromite, gold, and diamonds. After seven years in Australia and South Pacific region she returned to Germany. She is member of several supervisory boards including SWECO AB, Hochtief AG, and Berliner Wasserbetriebe. As a technical advisor, she is member of the Reform Commission for Mega Projects of the German Federal Ministry for Transport and Digital Infrastructure.



*Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann,
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Dussmann Group;
Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, Aspen Institute Germany*

Dr. Anna Kuchenbecker, Deputy Director, Aspen Institute Germany

*Book Presentation and Discussion:
“Abenteuer Freiheit – Ein Wegweiser für unsichere Zeiten”
September 26, 2017*

MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board (Vorstand) of the Aspen Institute Germany consists of a chairperson and up to five additional members who are elected by the Board of Trustees for a term of three years. The Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany is chairman and member of the Management Board. The Management Board represents the Institute legally and advises the Executive Director on legal matters, fundraising, the program, finance and accounting as well as strategic communication.

Rüdiger Lentz (Chairman)

Executive Director
Aspen Institute Germany

Dr. Christoph Abeln (until October 2017)

Partner
ABELN Fachanwälte für Arbeitsrecht | Rechtsanwälte

Britt Eckelmann

Partner
cpm Gesellschaft von Architekten mbH

Prof. Dr. Gunther Hellmann

Professor of Political Science
Goethe University Frankfurt a.M.

Peter Lennartz (Treasurer)

Partner
Ernst & Young GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft

Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner

Head of Department External Economic Policy
Federation of German Industries

Ulrich Plett

Auditor
UPW7 GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft



Dr. Christoph Abeln | Dr. Christoph Abeln is founder and one of the leading attorneys for labor law in Germany, consulting executives and managing boards. He served as a member of the Management Board of Aspen from 2011 to 2017. He runs several law offices of Abeln Attorneys for

Labor Law, e.g. Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich. After studying in Freiburg and Munich, Dr. Abeln received his PhD from the Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg. His dissertation compared “The Legal Status of Management Board Members and Works Council Members.” After taking articles in Berlin, he passed the bar in 1994. In addition to his work as an attorney, Dr. Abeln has spoken at the German Society for Personnel Management, the labor policy publishers “Labor and Law” as well as at the Forum Institute for Management GmbH. His law firm organizes the annual “Labor Law Day” in Frankfurt, he has published an “Executive Handbook” in multiple editions, and is a sought-after interlocutor for leading German business newspapers such as “Handelsblatt” and “Manager Magazin.”



Britt S. Eckelmann | Britt S. Eckelmann is the managing shareholder of cpm architects in Berlin. After her studies at the Technical University Berlin, University of Brighton, and University of Manitoba, she focused her architectural practice on workplace and office design.

Since completing her Executive MBA at ESCP in Paris in 2008, she has been active in investment management in the real estate sector. She trains young and foreign architects in building code, HOAI, and on multinational and virtual teams at the Berlin architectural guild. Ms. Eckelmann serves on the advisory board of the chair for entrepreneurship

and innovation at the Technical University Berlin. She became a member of the Management Board of the Aspen Institute Germany in 2017 and was a member of the Management Board of the Friends of the Aspen Institute from 2010 until 2018.



Prof. Dr. Gunther Hellmann

Prof. Dr. Gunther Hellmann is a Professor of Political Science at Goethe University, Frankfurt a.M. He specializes in international relations, German foreign policy, European & Transatlantic security relations, and theory of international relations. Before

assuming his position at Goethe University in 1999, Prof. Hellmann taught at Freie Universität Berlin and Darmstadt University of Technology. Since 2007, he has been a Principal Investigator in the context of Goethe University's Center of Excellence "Formation of Normative Orders." In 2008-2009, he held the "Steven Muller Chair in German Studies" at the SAIS Bologna Center of Johns Hopkins University, in 2012 he was the "Harris Distinguished Visiting Professor" at Dartmouth College, Hanover, in 2012/13 he was Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, GMF, Washington, D.C. Since 2014, he has served as Executive Secretary, resp. President of the World International Studies Committee.



Peter Lennartz | Peter

Lennartz is a Partner with Ernst & Young. He started his career in 1985 with EY in Hamburg and transferred to EY Boston from 1999 to 2002 to serve German clients in the US in his role as the German Audit Desk Partner. Peter Lennartz joined EY Berlin in

2002 and is currently heading EY's assurance practice in Berlin and EY's Start-up Initiative in Berlin as well as in

Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. He serves national and international clients in the Start-up, Technology as well as Healthcare sector and is an author, speaker, and moderator in the field of start-ups.



Rüdiger Lentz | Rüdiger Lentz

is the Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany. From 2009 until 2013, he served as the Executive Director of the German-American Heritage Foundation and Museum in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, he worked as a TV correspondent and magazine

journalist for Der Spiegel, ARD Television, Rias Berlin, and Deutsche Welle for over three decades. During his time as Bureau Chief for Deutsche Welle in Washington, D.C., he was a Visiting Lecturer at Harvard University, the School of Foreign Service in Washington, and a regular guest on CNN and C-Span. Mr. Lentz has been a long-time member of the Atlantik-Brücke and a founding member of the German American Business Council (GABC) in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner

In January 2014, Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner (M.Sc.) became head of the department "Foreign Economic Policy" at the Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie (BDI), Federation of German Industries. 2016-2017 she was B20 Sherpa, responsible for

the G20 Outreach process with the Business Community of the German G20. Until December 2013, she was a member of the Executive Board of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), a policy-oriented think-tank based in Berlin. Her fields of interest include international trade and finance as well as commodity markets. Before joining the SWP, she worked for the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), where she headed

the program “Globalization and the World Economy” (2000-2002). From 2005 to 2006, Ms. Mildner was a lecturer at the John F. Kennedy Institute of the Free University of Berlin. In spring 2010, she was a visiting fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in Washington, where she is still a non-resident Senior Fellow. In fall 2011, she was a visiting fellow at the German Marshall Fund’s Transatlantic Academy in Washington. Ms. Mildner conducted her Bachelor studies in economics and North American studies at the Free University of Berlin and earned a Master of Science in international political economy from the London School of Economics (2000). She wrote her PhD thesis at the Free University of Berlin on the economic and political rationale of export credit finance in the United States. During her PhD studies, she attended the Yale Center for International and Area Studies (YCIAS) of Yale University (2002-2003).



Ulrich Plett | Ulrich Plett runs his own business as auditor and consultant at UPW7 GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, Berlin. He is a board member of Corestate Capital Holding S.A., of KIRON Open Higher Education gGmbH, and of other NGOs. Until summer 2015, he was Office

Managing Partner of Ernst & Young Berlin. He studied business administration in Münster and Munich and started his career in 1980 in the Chicago Office of Arthur Andersen. After further years in the AA Offices in Hamburg and Barcelona, he transferred back to Germany in 1993 to build up the EY Office in Berlin. His clients included media & entertainment, internet, technology, and real estate companies.



*Britt Eckelmann, Partner, cpm Gesellschaft von Architekten mbH;
Member of the Management Board, Aspen Institute Germany*

*Natascha Bonnermann, Owner and Manager, Pan Am Lounge;
Leadership Alumna*

*Social Reception with H.E. Richard Grenell
June 12, 2018*

“VEREIN DER FREUNDE”

The “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts e.V.” (Association of Friends of the Aspen Institute) is a German non-profit organization founded in 1989. It counts among its founders and members representatives from politics, business, academia, diplomacy, and arts and culture. Their support is crucial for the Institute and Aspen Germany’s efforts to fulfill its mission and to conduct its programs independently. Membership is open to anyone who shares Aspen Germany’s vision and supports the work of the Institute through an annual membership fee. Membership fees are tax-deductible as permitted under German and EU law.

Membership in the “Verein der Freunde” comes with a range of exclusive benefits. Members enjoy access to Public Program events and special occasions such as the Institute’s annual summer party, the Berlin Transatlantic Forum, the Aspen Berlin AI Conference and the public portion of Aspen’s Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers’ conferences. Public Program events take place in an exclusive, familiar atmosphere that allows for both dialog and networking. All members receive the Institute’s newsletter “Aspen Inside” periodically, in which new members are introduced, upcoming events are announced, and past events reviewed. Aspen Germany publications, such as the annual report and official conference papers, can be requested from the Institute for free.

Corporate Members

Corporate members receive invitations to and early notification of Public Program events with key decision makers and policy experts, including exclusive and high-level discussions, private luncheons, dinners, and evening events. They may bring a corporate guest with them to such events and receive priority treatment on the waitlist for overbooked events. Corporate membership contributions are tax-deductible in both Germany and in the United States.

Individual Members

Individual members receive personal and non-transferable invitations to and early notification of Public Program events with key decision-makers and policy experts. They also receive priority treatment on the waiting list for overbooked events. Membership contributions are tax-deductible in both the Germany and in the United States.

Junior Members

In order to foster a new generation of transatlanticists, the Institute offers a junior membership to persons up to the age of 35. Junior members enjoy the full range of benefits of full members including preferred invitations to Public Program events.

To learn more about the “Verein der Freunde” please contact
Wiebke Wartenberg, Program Officer
T: +49 (0)30 804 890 15
wartenberg@aspeninstitute.de



*Dr. Ansgar Tietmeyer, Independent Advisor,
Athora Deutschland Holding GmbH;
Member of the "Verein der Freunde"*

*Conference: "Humanity Disrupted:
Artificial Intelligence and Changing Societies"
March 14-15, 2018*

MANAGEMENT BOARD

“VEREIN DER FREUNDE”

The Management Board of the “Verein der Freunde” consists of a chair, a deputy chair, a treasurer, and three additional members, who are elected by the General Assembly of Members for a term of three years. They are responsible for winning and retaining members in the “Verein der Freunde.” Since 2011, the Management Board of the “Verein der Freunde” and the Management Board of the Aspen Institute Germany have met in joint session.

Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert (Chairman)

Partner, Lawyer, and Notary
GÖRG Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten mbB

Eva Katharina Deininger

Management Consulting Sales

Britt Eckelmann (until June 2018)

Partner
cpm Gesellschaft von Architekten mbH

Arno Heuermann

Founding Partner and Chief Operating Officer
Catenion GmbH

Helmut Kranzmaier

Managing Partner
Heluma Ventures

Jan Losemann (Vice Chairman)

Founder and CEO
Losemann Legal Tax GmbH

Ulrich Misgeld (Treasurer)

Member of the Board
April Stiftung



Eva Katharina Deininger

Eva Katharina Deininger works as an independent management consultant. She has specialized in strategic development, digital transformation, finance, and performance management. In current consulting mandates, she advises companies on digital

transformation, platform economy, and big data. After studying International Business Administration at ESB Reutlingen and Ecole Supérieure de Commerce Reims in France, Eva Deininger started her professional career in the Corporate Finance and Strategy practice at Arthur D. Little. She continued at Axel Springer SE, where she held various leading positions, most recently as Managing Director of several group companies and shareholder representative of national and international affiliated companies. Eva Deininger participated in Aspen Germany’s Leadership Seminar “Philosophy and Practice” in 2011 and has been a member of the “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts” since then. She believes in transforming organizations by value-based leadership and the activation of resources through appreciation and trust. In her spare time, she plays the violin and piano, is interested in arts and architecture and enjoys sailing.



Britt Eckelmann | Britt S.

Eckelmann is the managing shareholder of cpm architects in Berlin. After her studies at the Technical University Berlin, University of Brighton, and University of Manitoba, she focused her architectural practice on workplace and office design.

Since completing her Executive MBA at ESCP in Paris in 2008, she has been active in investment management in the real estate sector. She trains young and foreign architects in building code, HOAI, and on multinational and virtual

teams at the Berlin architectural guild. Ms. Eckelmann serves on the advisory board of the chair for entrepreneurship and innovation at the Technical University Berlin. She became a member of the Management Board of the Aspen Institute Germany in 2017 and was a member of the Management Board of the Friends of the Aspen Institute from 2010 until 2018.



Arno Heuermann | Arno Heuermann is a Founder and the Managing Director of Catenion, a life science management consultancy firm focused on the bio-pharma industry worldwide. While studying for his degrees, Mr. Heuermann founded a technical engineering office in

1994. He continued to follow the entrepreneurial path in 1998 by founding Biopsytec, a DNA diagnostics company focused on agriculture, heading the company for more than five years. In 1999, he co-founded Epigenomics AG, a DAX listed biotech company, for which he later continued to act as an advisor and member of the firm's supervisory board. Since then, Mr. Heuermann was involved in several other projects like the Phorms schools, several pharma and biotech start-ups and others.



Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert is the founding partner of GÖRG's Berlin Office and served as a long-standing member of the firm's management board and as Head of the firm's Corporate Service Line. GÖRG, with more than 270 lawyers, is one of the leading

independent law firms in Germany. Since 2013, he has split his time between Berlin and Frankfurt where he headed the Frankfurt office of the firm until the end of 2017. Roland studied in Passau and Freiburg i.Br. where he

obtained his doctorate degree in law. His doctoral dissertation was awarded the Georg F. Roessler Prize of the Federal Supreme Court Bar in Karlsruhe. Early on, the restructuring and sale of companies in financial difficulties was a central focus. He was a lead advisor in the 2009/2010 sales process of Karstadt Warenhaus GmbH and the European "Quelle" business and served as Chair of the Supervisory Board of Karstadt during that business' insolvency proceeding. He is one of the well-known corporate practitioners with specializations in the areas of complex corporate transactions and restructuring projects. Dr. Hoffmann-Theinert was admitted to start practicing as a notary in Berlin in 2000. He has taught as an Associate Lecturer at Berlin's Free University since 2000 and is the author of numerous academic publications.



Helmut Kranzmaier | Helmut Kranzmaier is an Investor, Entrepreneur, Advisor, and the Managing Partner of HELUMA Ventures. Currently, he serves as the CEO of Infinitec Solutions, a Software as a Service B2B platform for Financial Institutions.

Prior, he has spent almost 10 years in strategic communications advisory roles and 10 years across various management positions at Deutsche Bank in Germany and Great Britain. Helmut Kranzmaier studied business administration and holds an Executive MBA from City University London/Ashridge Business School. He is a Certified Investor Relations Officer through the German Investor Relations Society.



Jan Losemann | Jan Losemann is founder and CEO of Losemann Legal Tax, a firm providing business process outsourcing and controlling for law, tax/finance, and HR. He is trusted advisor and outsourced in-house counsel for a number of medium-sized international enterprises. Mr.

Losmann has a generalist, integral approach; his firm embraces and advises regarding the use of legal technology, digital accounting, and other innovative solutions. As a self-employed lawyer since 2001, he has served a wide range of industries including hospitality, medical, technology, food, construction, and real estate. He is furthermore member of several German-Spanish organizations and has a specific focus on Spanish-speaking countries.



Ulrich Misgeld | Ulrich Misgeld is a qualified banker and business economist. In 1967, he started his apprentice training at Deutsche Bank, studied parallel to his work and worked, until he left the company in 1992, for Deutsche Bank in corporate banking, most recently as manager for the Berlin

and Brandenburg branch. In 1992, he became a member of the board of directors of the Berliner Volksbank. At the beginning of 2000, Ulrich Misgeld left the banking world and was appointed as a member of the board for Finances, IT, and HR at Selux AG, a leading company of the lighting industry with plants in Germany, France, and the US. After 15 years in this position and various voluntary activities in industrial associations and the Berlin Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK), he went into planned retirement at the age of 65 in September 2015. Today, he currently has Executive Board responsibilities in charities, e.g. he is member of the board of the APRIL Stiftung since 2010

and takes on supervisory board work. Since October 2015, he has been council member at the Below Tippmann & Compagnie Personalberatung GmbH. Mr. Misgeld is an enthusiastic marathon runner and has successfully participated in over 50 runs.



Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert, Partner,
GÖRG Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten mbB;
Chairman of the “Verein der Freunde”;
Member of the Board of Trustees, Aspen Institute Germany

Aspen Summer Party 2018 of the Aspen Institute Germany
and the “Verein der Freunde”

June 19, 2018

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*Eckart von Klaeden, Vice President and Head of External Affairs, Daimler AG;
Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Aspen Institute Germany*

*Dr. Heinz Dürr, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Heinz and Heide Dürr Foundation;
Member of the "Verein der Freunde"*

Wolfgang Hummel, Managing Director, ALPHA Industry Investment

H.E. Shi Mingde, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany

*China Club Event: Influence and Responsibility – China's Role in the World"
with H.E. Shi Mingde
April 5, 2018*



FRIENDS OF ASPEN GERMANY

The Friends of Aspen Germany are located in Washington, D.C. and were founded in 2014 by enthusiastic American supporters of Aspen Germany together with the pro bono support of Mayer Brown LLP. The Friends help the Institute with their advice and support on the Institute's US programs and fundraising activities.

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*Werner Hein, Senior Counsel, Mayer Brown LLP;
Chairman, Friends of Aspen Germany*

*Berlin Transatlantic Forum 2018:
“Present at the New Creation? Tech. Power. Democracy.”
October 16, 2018*

FINANCE OVERVIEW

Aspen Institute Germany - Financial Key Figures (in TEUR)

Income	2017	2018
Governmental Grants	674	670
Corporations and Foundations	265	330
Individuals	396	404
Expenses		
Personnel Expenses without project expenses	337	366
Operational Expenses	163	178
Project Expenses*	892	871
*thereof direct personnel	368	433
* Project Expenses (excluding personnel) thereof	524	438
Digital Agenda	15	80
Digital Dishes, Workshops, Conferences		
Leadership Program	37	43
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The Aspen Insight

Heute schon wissen, was morgen bewegt

„Honey Cone“-Ordnung gewinnt an Gestalt

INTERNATIONALE ORDNUNG Regionale Kooperation ersetzt zunehmend das starre UN-System



SAMSTAG, 21. OKTOBER 2025 | NR. 1

Es brauchte eine Katastrophe apokalyptischen Ausmaßes, ehe wir bereit waren, unsere Differenzen im Interesse von Frieden und Sicherheit hinter uns zu lassen.

Kenneth Maclean, französischer Staatspräsident

HEUTE
Interview mit UN-Generalsekretärin Angela Merkel
Ein Gespräch über die zukünftige Rolle der Vereinten Nationen und Moral in der Politik
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Olympische Spiele 2036 in Israel und Palästina
Was bedeutet das für die Welt?
Sonderdruck • Seite 2

Newspaper "The Aspen Insight"
Based on the results of the workshop
"The Future of the Liberal International Order: The World in 2025"
May 15-17, 2017

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The American Academy in Berlin
The Aspen Initiative for Europe





LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



“I was infected with a healthy virus that will spread and propagate for a long time to come.”

*Alexander Kamenz
Chief Executive Officer
E. Michaelis & Co.*



“As a Commission official, the Aspen Seminar in Berlin was in full sync with the foundation of our European project based on shared values, enlightening ideas and most of all true leadership. My encounters and dialogues with all participants were truly fantastic.”

*Cosmin Dobran
Head of Unit
European Commission*



“One of the most worthwhile experiences in my life so far.”

*Dolores Kleine-Besten
Regional Director
Deutsche Bank Privat- und Geschäftskunden AG*



“Four days of relative seclusion from the outside world; with ample time for discussions, compelling readings, and fascinating people. What a valuable and memorable experience! I left the Seminar refreshed and inspired, and feel better prepared for the next career step which I am about to take.”

*Dr. Benjamin Becker
Director
Amerika Haus, Nordrhein-Westfalen*

“The Aspen Seminar was an enriching and enlightening experience, personally and professionally. Besides analyzing the fundamental principles of leadership in a profound way, it was the dynamic of a very diverse group of peers and being embedded in the serenity of a beautiful nature that made it so remarkable. Staying focused on intense reading and discussion for four days provided the perfect contrast to the ephemerality of life in general.”

Andrea Oliver

Director of US Business

SWK Stadtwerke Kaiserslautern Versorgungs-AG

“An interesting composition of participants from very diverse backgrounds and varied and meaningful texts were the foundation for an all-round successful and personally enriching seminar. Thank you!”

Frauke Schmidt

Managing Director & Trainer

In-Vention GbR

“Intense. Surprising. Inspiring.”

Christian Schütte

Editor Trends

Manager Magazin

“The Aspen Leadership Seminar is truly a timeless experience. Be it the texts we studied or the interaction with our peers and moderators. From a young professional’s perspective, the benefits of early leadership training are indeed invaluable and career changing.”

Maja Vuksic

Founder

Boston Education





Leadership Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner November 22, 2018

Happy Turkey Day! On November 22, 2018, the Aspen Leadership Program, the German Stanford Association, and the Harvard Alumni Club hosted an American Thanksgiving Dinner, complete with the traditional main course: turkey. However, the evening not only featured good food and celebration. Prof. **Amir Eshel** of Stanford University, Professor of Comparative Literature and German Studies, and Dr. **Thomas Sparr**, Director of the Suhrkamp Verlag publishing house, discussed the recently published book “Zeichnungen,” featuring Gerhard Richter’s “Birkenau” cycle and a series of poems written in accordance by Amir Eshel. The conversation was moderated by Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany. Pianist Shihyun Lee’s performance of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy’s “Lieder ohne Worte” rounded off the evening.



Workshop: “Are We Surrendering Values- based Leadership to Digitalization?” November 20, 2018

What does “digitalization” really mean? What do we mean by “values-based” leadership? What marks the relationship between the two? How do we envision a future in which digitalization is a tool for values-based leadership? These questions were, among many others, discussed during an interactive workshop held on November 20, 2018. Initiated by Dr. **Kay P. Hradilak**, Aspen Leadership Alumnus, Member of the “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts,” and Business Chief Consultant for SAP Germany, the workshop offered participants the opportunity to debate, reflect, and design the ideal company of the future in small groups after a short introductory meditation.

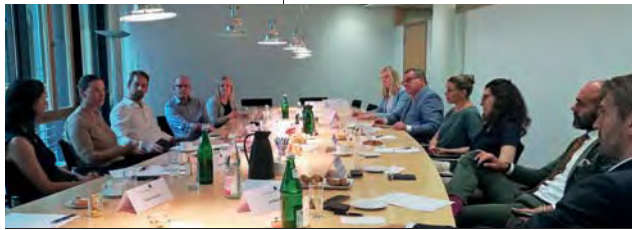


**Leadership Lunch: “Inner Leadership through Awareness in a Digital World?”
October 10, 2018**

Everyday leadership has many faces. It includes not only goals, visions, and values, but also direct human contact and interaction. In order to demonstrate leading qualities, one must also learn not to neglect one’s own personal needs. Our daily routine usually leaves little room to reflect our needs and our inner leadership. How do we successfully include rest and awareness into our extremely full daily agendas? These and many other questions led **Jonas Leve** and **Manuel Ronnefeldt** to found 7Mind, a Berlin start-up which seeks to integrate awareness and peace into our (digital) lives via meditation. On October 10, 2018, they presented us with their findings and demonstrated practical exercises for every day in the Digital Hub Cologne. Together, we discussed and experienced first-hand how meditation and awareness regarding ourselves can be the cornerstone for better values-based leadership.

**Discussion: “First-ism vs. Multilateralism: Donald Trump’s Revolution of Foreign Policy and its Implications for the Western Community of Values”
September 4, 2018**

On September 4, 2018, the Aspen Leadership Program and Till Staffeldt, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Leadership Seminar alumnus, hosted a moderated dialog on the topic “First-ism vs. Multilateralism: Donald Trump’s Revolution of Foreign Policy and its Implications for the Western Community of Values.” Dr. **Gunther Hellmann**, Professor for Political Science at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt and board member of the Aspen Institute Germany, and Dr. **Nikolas Busse**, Managing Editor of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Woche, discussed Donald Trump’s presidency, which marks a radical rupture in transatlantic cooperation and communication and has wide implications for Germany’s security and the security of the European Union. The increasing loss of trust in US decision-makers has caused many to perceive this moment as decisive for the future of Europe and Germany within it. How Europe and Germany should position themselves on the international stage in the Trump era was just one point that was discussed with our Leadership Alumni in Frankfurt am Main.



**Leadership Lunch: “Is Human Rights Based Leadership Possible?”
June 21, 2018**

On June 21, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Leadership Lunch on the topic “Is Human Rights Based Leadership Possible?” with Dr. **Anja Mihr**, Founder and Program Director of the Humboldt-Viadrina Center on Governance through Human Rights. After a short review of selected political theorists, participants could exchange ideas and intensively discuss human-rights based governance; security versus freedom; differences between institutions and organizations as well as the manifestation in values, norms, and standards – also in the context of current events and processes.



**Aspen Leadership Class of February 2018
Meet & Greet
June 17, 2018**

The February 2018 Aspen Leadership class met in The Pan Am Lounge on June 17, 2018, to reconnect and catch up. A particular thanks to owner **Natascha Bonnermann**, who hosted the get-together in an entirely unique, exclusive event venue in the heart of West Berlin. Once a place of leisure for pilots and stewardesses working for the legendary Pan American World Airways as well as a rendezvous for a host of international jet-set guests from entertainment and politics, the Pan Am Lounge embodies the spirit of optimism integral to the West during the 1960s and throughout the Cold War era. Pristinely restored down to the smallest detail of its furnishings and interiors, the tenth-floor penthouse Lounge with panorama terraces overlooking the capital city conserves and champions the valuable memory of this important era. This unique atmosphere made the reunion for our Alumni an unforgettable evening.

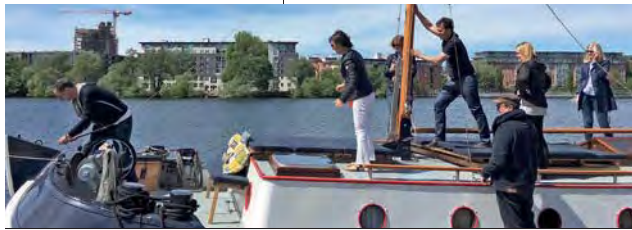


**Aspen Leadership Roundtable in
Frankfurt a.M.
May 25, 2018**

On May 25, 2018, former Leadership Seminar participants from Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, and Cologne gathered for a philosophical roundtable which took place – for the first time – outside of Berlin in Frankfurt am Main. Starting from an excerpt of Democritus, the Villa Bonn provided the optimal space not only to talk about values-based leadership but also about ethical issues such as true cognition, adequate human behavior, and the influence of happiness, justice, and humanity in daily life.

**Leadership Alumni Event: “Drafting of a
Manifesto for Leadership-Mindset-Change”
May 17, 2018**

The Aspen Institute Germany and TheNextWe initiated the drafting of a Manifesto for Leadership-Mindset-Change. Leadership Alumna **Insa Klasing**, CEO & Co-Founder of TheNextWe, a Berlin based Startup driving mindset-change, kicked off a joint dialog on “Renewing deeply held leadership values in an ever faster changing world.” The result was a manifesto for a future leadership culture consisting of five core values that will adapt Germany’s competitiveness to upcoming challenges in times of big data, artificial intelligence, and automation.



**Aspen Leadership Class of November 2017
Meet & Greet
May 5, 2018**

On May 5, 2018, the Aspen Leadership class of November 2017 had its first Meet & Greet event in a special, non-traditional environment: on a boat! Dr. **Friedrich Kuhn** hosted the group on his boat and gave the group a tour of Berlin. This special location was perfect for giving this Seminar group room for personal talks and for their reunion.

**Joint Alumni Get-Together: “The Digital
Culture in the United States and Germany”
April 19, 2018**

On April 19, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a first-ever joint get-together with the alumni of the Aspen Leadership Program and the Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange. In a discussion with Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow at the Aspen Institute Germany, **Steven Hill**, Journalist-in-Residence, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), and **Stephan Humer**, Head of the Department of Internet Sociology, Hochschule Fresenius – University of Applied Sciences, discussed “The Digital Culture in the United States and Germany.” Steven Hill and Stephan Humer discussed the differences within German and American society regarding digitalization. The discussion particularly addressed the cultural reasons of the different development in both countries as well as the future vision of digitalization.



Leadership Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner November 23, 2017

On November 23, 2017, the day of American Thanksgiving, the Aspen Institute Germany, together with the Harvard and Stanford alumni associations, hosted a traditional American style Thanksgiving dinner with turkey, apple pie, and all the trimmings for Leadership alumni. A group of a hundred alumni gathered at the Schmelzwerk in Kreuzberg for a festive and joyful evening. Ambassador **John Kornblum** shared his thoughts on the future of higher education in times when technological progress is rapidly changing our lives. Kornblum noted: “During the past twenty years, we have entered a radically new era which is likely to change Western society as dramatically as did the industrial revolution or World War II. Digitalization and globalization are already pulling apart the social fabric of our societies. Once again, public education will be called upon to define the goals and values of a new era.” The Aspen Leadership Seminar strives to strengthen our inner compass to guide us in these times.

Leadership Alumni Workshop: “Insights in the Field of Leadership from a Female Perspective” October 5, 2017

Aspen Leadership Alumna **Julia Stamm** and **Irina Michalowitz** have developed a workshop format to promote young female talents. Together, the group looked at challenges for women in leadership positions and potential differences in value-based leadership between men and women. The two coaches worked with participants to identify the special qualities that characterize female leadership and analyze the use and impact of body language. The workshop combined impulse statements and group exercises but also left room for in-depth discussions.



Leadership Alumni Roundtable: “Life at the Extreme: Testing One’s Limits – Leadership from the Perspective of an Extreme Mountain Climber”
September 19, 2017

As part of the Leadership Alumni Program, the Aspen Institute Germany invited participants to a journey to alpine landscapes in unpredictable climates. Leadership Alumnus and extreme mountain climber **Florian Hill** guided us through a breathtaking multimedia show about his expeditions and discussed what life at the extreme can teach us about self-reflection and leadership in the corporate world. Visionary thinking, excellent performance, trust, and courage to cross borders – managers and mountain climbers share more qualities than one would initially think. Florian Hill offered insights into moral questions and discussed with us the connection between personal strength and values-based leadership.

Floating Dialog on Leadership: “Anchoring in Society – How Can We Live ‘Responsible Leadership’ in our Various Roles in Modern Society?”
September 12, 2017

Dr. **Friedrich Kuhn**, Global Head Transformational Leadership at Egon Zehnder, hosted a Floating Dialog on Leadership at Lake Tegel on September 12, 2017. No institution can blossom in the long-term without a “license to operate” – a shared understanding of how it contributes to social well-being. Staying connected to this long-term perspective is a real challenge in our daily managerial routine – regardless of what kind of institution we lead. How do we master it? Do we go back to our personal sense of purpose? Do we work on a collective greater good? Do we seek the help of others to stay centered?



**Leadership Alumni Roundtable: “The
Conductor’s Perspective: What Business
Can Learn from Orchestras!”
March 16, 2017**

The Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Dr. **Friedrich Kuhn** of Egon Zehnder International hosted its fourth Aspen Leadership Alumni roundtable featuring Dr. **Raphael von Hoensbroech**, Managing Director of the Konzerthaus Berlin, on the topic, “The Conductor’s Perspective: What Business Can Learn from Orchestras!” on March 16, 2017. The conductor is responsible for the performance of his team without actually contributing operatively to the outcome. He is the only musician who does not play a single note. At the same time, he is leading highly talented experts with skills he, himself, does not possess. What is his role in this constellation? How does he add value? Dr. von Hoensbroech discussed these and other questions with an engaged audience. The ability to provide creative space as well as a strong vision are major requirements for a good conductor. To provide a continuously productive work environment, a conductor should also show his appreciation for every single musician and be able to transfer responsibility to the orchestra to foster mutual trust.



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Michael J. Smart, Managing Partner, Rock Creek Advisors

Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany

Sumi Somiskanda, Senior News Anchor, Deutsche Welle News

Maritta Strasser, Executive Director, NaturFreunde Deutschlands e.V.

Dean Baker, Co-Director, Center for Economic Policy Research

*Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Department "External Economic Policy,"
Federation of German Industries (BDI);
Member of the Management Board, Aspen Institute Germany*

Tyson Barker, Program Director, Aspen Institute Germany

*Berlin Transatlantic Forum Oxford-style Debate on the Global Trade Order
October 15, 2018*



POLICY PROGRAM



Aspen NextGen Network AI-Workshop December 7, 2018

On December 7, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany – in partnership with The Aspen Institute and Microsoft – hosted a one-day December NextGen Network AI-Workshop in Berlin that brought together a group of Germany’s future leaders to examine opportunities and ethical challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence. Participants discussed what core values will be most important in the future when thinking about AI development and society and identified central principles shaping ethical AI policy in Germany, Europe, and globally. Building on the value sets and recommendations, the participants came up with four future scenarios in which they see practical benefit from AI in the lives of German citizens.



**Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange
Alumni Dinner in Washington, D.C.
November 27, 2018**

On November 27, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a fellowship dinner with a bipartisan group of 20 American alumni of its Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program at the Tabard Inn in Washington, D.C. The dinner brought past participants of the exchange program together to discuss the state of transatlantic relations with representatives from the German-Atlantic Society (Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft). Speakers at the off-the-record dinner were Lt. General **Jürgen Bornemann**, former Director General of NATO's International Military Staff and Member of the DAG Board, and **Werner Sonne**, longtime ARD correspondent, journalist, author, and member of the DAG Board. The wide-ranging discussion touched on the INF Treaty, NATO, trade relations, energy security, climate change, Russia, and the state of play in the new Congress. The dinner was a thank you to participants for their contributions over the 5-year history of the European Recovery Program-funded initiative.

**Discussion: "Roadblocks on the Way to EU
Enlargement – How Can the Reform
Processes in the Western Balkans Be
Reenergized?"
November 21, 2018**

To round up the annual Working Group Southeast Europe, the Aspen Institute Germany held a public evening event on "Roadblocks on the Way to EU Enlargement – How Can the Reform Processes in the Western Balkans Be Reenergized?". While the EU enlargement strategy clearly spells out that the EU's door is open to further accessions, it underlines the specific challenges the Western Balkans have to address and emphasizes the need for fundamental reforms. At the same time, progress of the Western Balkan countries in the accession process has been limited in the past years and the question remains how this can be reinvigorated. Dr. **Christian Hellbach**, Director for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey and the EFTA States at the Federal Foreign Office, and **Genoveva Ruiz Calavera**, Western Balkans Director in the European Commission's DG NEAR, discussed this with high-level government representatives from the Western Balkans Six. The discussion was moderated by Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of Aspen Germany, and tackled various topics. Among others, the EU accession prospects for the region, the name agreement between Macedonia and Greece, the election results of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and solutions for a normalization agreement between Kosovo and Serbia were discussed. The exchange turned out to be very lively, stressing the need for increased reform efforts, cooperation, and willingness to compromise within the region.



Aspen Working Group Southeast Europe November 20-22, 2018

To conclude this year's Aspen Southeast Europe program, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted its Southeast Europe Working Group on November 20-22, 2018. Under the overarching topic "Taking Stock of the EU Enlargement Strategy and its Impact on Reform Processes in the Western Balkans," the main goal was to develop concrete policy recommendations as a result of the issues discussed at the Aspen events throughout the year. The working group consisted of high-level government representatives from the Western Balkans Six, select experts as well as representatives from the German Government, Bundestag and the EU. The key topics during the Working Group evolved around the rule of law as well as political influence on independent institutions in the Western Balkans. Both aspects were discussed against the background of the European Commission's 2018 Enlargement Strategy and its implications for the reform processes. The Working Group identified concrete policy recommendations, discussed their advantages and inconveniences, and pointed out the respective steps that should be taken by Western Balkans, German, and EU decision-makers. To round up the discussions, the conference group met with members of the Parliamentary Group "Southeast Europe" in the German Bundestag.

Digital Dish: "Europe's Digital Single Market – Are We There Yet?" November 20, 2018

On November 20, 2018, Aspen Germany hosted its fifth Digital Dish examining the role of the European Union in bringing digital competitiveness to Germany. The wide-ranging conversation touched on the progress made in the Juncker Commission's signature initiative – the Digital Single Market – as well as national and EU-wide discussions of a digital tax. Speakers also talked about the role that tech policy would play in the 2019 European Parliament elections. The dynamic talk was driven by three speakers: Dr. **Matthias Bauer**, Senior Economist at the European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE), **Luukas Ilves**, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow at The Lisbon Council, Former Coordinator for Digital Strategy during the Estonian EU-Presidency in 2017, and **Simon Vaut**, designated Candidate of the SPD Brandenburg for the European Parliamentary Elections 2019. Aspen's Tyson Barker moderated the conversation. The off-the-record lunch discussion was attended by over 30 senior guests and was hosted in partnership with Telefonica Germany.



**Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange
Alumni Dinner in Berlin
November 14, 2018**

On November 14, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany invited alumni of its Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program to an exclusive dinner and discussion on the topic of “Brexit and the Future of the Transatlantic Relationship.” The evening’s speakers were Dr. **Amanda Sloat**, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, **Tom Nuttall**, Berlin Bureau Chief, The Economist, and **Rainer Rudolph**, Head of Division, European Policy Relations with EU Member States, EU Expansion, EU External Relations, European Council, Federal Chancellery. This off-the-record discussion with Staffers Program alumni touched on a variety of aspects of the Brexit negotiations and Britain’s process of leaving the European Union. The questions posed by participants spanned from what a possible compromise regarding the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland could look like, to British public opinion and the possibility of a second referendum, to the worries that other EU member states might follow in Britain’s footsteps. Finally, the speakers also talked about what these developments could mean not only for the UK and the EU, but also for the transatlantic relationship at large.

**Visegrád 4 - Germany Forum 2018: “Political
Economy of Central Europe”
November 5, 2018**

The Aspen Institute Germany hosted a closed conference on “Political Economy of Central Europe” in cooperation with The Aspen Institute Central Europe and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava. On November 5, 2018, a total of 28 participants from Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Germany engaged in discussions on the political economy of Central Europe, focusing on common interests of the Visegrád countries and Germany, but also highlighting the challenges in V4-German cooperation. Main focus of these discussions were topics such as brain drain, closer cooperation among the V4 as well as the further development of cooperation with Germany, particularly in the fields of knowledge transfer, joint research, etc. The purpose of this multilateral forum was to support new cooperative approaches to address the common challenges.



Scenario Workshop: “The Future of European Security and its Impact on Europe’s Center and Peripheries”
October 29-31, 2018

From October 29-31, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany organized a Scenario Workshop on the topic “The Future of European Security and its Impact on Europe’s Centers and Peripheries.” Participants included experts from a network of security think tanks from the Western Balkans as well as German experts and representatives of Federal Ministries. The workshop looked at potential future scenarios for European and in particular South and Southeast European security. It started off by discussing the main characteristics and threats of the emerging security environment. It was then taken into account which roles EU and non-EU countries will play in the future and which interests they might have in South and Southeastern Europe. Furthermore, it was analyzed how global trends, key drivers of change, and Black Swans (low probability, high impact events) might affect European security within the next decade. Based on these discussions, scenarios for 2028 for South and Southeastern Europe were developed.



*Brigitte Zypries, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy &
G20 Digital Ministers' Chairperson*

*Conference: "Transatlantic Digital Agenda: Bridging the Gap"
April 5, 2017*



Berlin Transatlantic Forum 2018: “Present at the New Creation? Tech. Power. Democracy.”
October 16, 2018

On October 16, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted its 5th annual Berlin Transatlantic Forum – “Present at the New Creation? Tech. Power. Democracy” – with the aim of exploring the nexus between digitalization, politics, and power and how Europe and the United States can shape a new international system that reflects the opportunities and challenges posed by AI, social media, quantum computing, and block chain.

The first panel took stock of the current status of the transatlantic relationship. Opening with a key note from **Andreas Michaelis**, State Secretary in the German Foreign Office, the panelists Ambassador **Wolfgang Ischinger**, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, **Julie Smith**, Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy, and **Terry McCarthy**, President of the American Academy, discussed whether “It’s Complicated” remains an accurate description for the transatlantic alliance in the Trump era and which strategies for leaders on both sides can help mitigate quarrels and reinstate previous levels of trust and partnership.

In a frank discussion, **Philip D. Murphy**, Governor of New Jersey and former Ambassador to Germany, discussed the outlook for US politics and what the 2018 midterms could mean for the US-European relationship.

In the afternoon, the conversation moved to how technology is impacting relations with states and between states. On a panel addressing tech and democracy moderated by Die Zeit’s **Holger Stark**, local policy makers **Mike Signer**, former Charlottesville mayor, and **Nina Hachigian**, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, were

joined by **Alexander Graf Lambsdorff**, Member of the German Bundestag, to talk about the role of fake news, deep fakes, bots, social media and the role of the Internet as a digital commons. Panelists also shared best practices and maintained that the possibilities presented by technology can create positive outcomes by raising levels of transparency and accountability.

The conference concluded with a panel on technology and the changing geopolitical landscape. **Tobias Lindner**, Member of the German Bundestag, **Hakan Tanriverdi**, Süddeutsche Zeitung, **Aleksandar Stojanovic**, Chairman and Co-Founder of AVA, and **Wolfram von Heynitz**, Head of the Cyber Policy Coordination Staff at the German Foreign Office, discussed the role of AI and cybersecurity in the future of conflict.

Is this the dawn of a new international order or are we facing an era of disorder, Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, wondered in his opening remarks of the Forum. The Berlin Transatlantic Forum sought to bring some intellectual order in the chaos surrounding the impact of technology on society, trade, and the military. The forum brought together over 200 guests from various fields and disciplines, speakers, and panelists to advance new ideas and possible solutions for how to cope with the current situation and the future of democracy in a tech-driven world.





Berlin Transatlantic Forum Oxford-style Debate on the Global Trade Order October 15, 2018

On the evening of October 15, 2018, kicking off its fifth annual Berlin Transatlantic Forum, the Aspen Institute Germany held its first ever Oxford-style debate on the question of the global trade order. The debate around the assertion “The global trade order serves American and European democracies well” pit one German and one American on each side of the motion, each side arguing for audience support. Arguing for the motion were **Michael J. Smart**, former White House and Senate Trade Lead and Managing Partner, Rock Creek Global Advisors, and Dr. **Stormy-Annika Mildner**, Head of Department External Economic Policy, Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V. (Federation of German Industries). Arguing against were **Maritta Strasser**, Bundesgeschäftsführerin der NaturFreunde Deutschlands e.V., and **Dean Baker**, Co-Director, Center for Economic and Policy Research. During the four rounds of debate, moderated by **Sumi Somaskanda**, the two sides touched on a number of controversial trade issues including investor state dispute settlement, workers’ rights, wages, climate policy, GMOs, tariffs, services liberalization, transparency in negotiations of trade agreements, and the role of China. Audience opinion changed little over the course of the debate with 84% in favor of the motion at the beginning and 81% in favor at the end. The event held at the Telefónica BASECAMP was attended by approximately 60 friends and active supporters of the Aspen Institute Germany.



Workshop: “AI and National Security” October 15, 2018

On the morning of October 15, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Microsoft Germany, the Italian Embassy in Berlin, and the Aspen Initiative for Europe hosted an exclusive workshop on “AI and National Security.” About 30 high-level guests were able to discuss with **Wendy R. Anderson**, General Manager, Defense and National Security at SparkCognition, **Michael C. Horowitz**, Professor of Political Science, Associate Director of the Perry World House Center at the University of Pennsylvania and Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), as well as representatives of the German Federal Foreign Office, the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence in the realm of national security. In addition, the speakers also dealt with questions of how to keep AI-based weapons systems out of the hands of terrorists and rogue states, and whether the international system should work to provide rules, norms, and limitations on the use of AI in warfare at the level of the UN, NATO, and other multilateral fora. The off-the-record discussion was moderated by Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow, and Mareike Oldemeinen, Program Officer, from the Aspen Institute Germany.



**Fourth Aspen Transatlantic Workshop:
“Present at the New Creation? Tech. Power.
Democracy.”
September 27-29, 2018**

The Aspen Institute Germany hosted its fourth Aspen Transatlantic Workshop in Berlin from September 27-29, 2018, as part of the annual Berlin Transatlantic Forum. The workshop brought together experts and decision makers from Europe and the US from politics, business, think tanks, and media. The post-World War II order is on shaky ground. The rise of technology as the driving political, ethical, economic, and security factor of our day has been particularly slow to work its way into our strategic discourse. If technological advancements like AI and cryptocurrencies, revisionist powers, and the rise of populism are rendering the old order unfit for purpose, are we present at the new creation? And if so, how can transatlantic partners guarantee that a new tech-driven order does not emerge out of a fit of absentmindedness? The fourth Aspen Transatlantic Workshop 2018 grappled with these questions. Together, participants worked off the premise that there is a very narrow window of opportunity – 5 to 6 years – to get the ground rules right for a digital age.

**Conference: “Building Resilience in the
Eastern Partnership Region”
September 25-27, 2018**

The Aspen Institute Germany organized a closed conference on “Building Resilience in the Eastern Partnership Region” in cooperation with the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. On September 25-27, 2018, five Parliamentarians from the Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova respectively engaged in discussions and exchange with German and US experts. The focus of the seminar was on the oversight of the security and defense sector, Euro-Atlantic integration, good governance reforms, strategic communication, and regional cooperation. The purpose of this multilateral conference was to build capacity and support new cooperative approaches to address the common challenges. The seminar included lectures, discussions, and a public event, as well as meetings with representatives of the German Federal Chancellery, the Federal Foreign Office, and Bundestag.



**Exclusive Dinner: “NATO’s Future – Mobile, Fit, and Ready?”
September 24, 2018**

On September 24, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive dinner and discussion with General **Philip M. Breedlove**, 17th Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) of NATO, Commander, US European Command, on the topic “NATO’s Future – Mobile, Fit, and Ready?”. The July NATO Brussels Summit outlined a number of new institutions, capabilities as well as reinforcing commitments on spending, territorial defense, new threats, and ongoing operations like Afghanistan. The dinner provided an opportunity to assess NATO’s goals and priorities post-Brussels in a frank and off-the-record conversation with General Philip M. Breedlove and a small group of senior representatives and experts of the Berlin foreign policy community. This event was generously made possible by the Lockheed Martin Corporation.



H.E. Radmila Šekerinska, Minister of Defense of the Republic of North Macedonia

Alexander Kulitz, Member of the German Bundestag

H.E. Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia

H.E. Bujar Osmani, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia

Mitko Andreevski, Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia

Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany

H.E. Nikola Dimitrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia

Dr. Dane Taleski, Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia

*Ambassador Dr. Christian Hellbach, Special Envoy for South-Eastern Europe,
Turkey and the EFTA States, Federal Foreign Office*

*Bojan Maricik, Deputy Chief Negotiator for Macedonia's Accession Negotiations at the
Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia*

Exclusive Dinner: "Macedonia's Road towards a Future in the EU and NATO"

February 21, 2018



Conference: “Curbing Political Influence on Independent Institutions in the Western Balkans”

September 3-6, 2018

On September 3-6, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany with the support of the Federal Foreign Office and in cooperation with the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a conference on “Curbing Political Influence on Independent Institutions in the Western Balkans” in Skopje.

The conference was kicked off with a welcome dinner hosted by Foreign Minister H.E. **Nikola Dimitrov**. The aim of the conference was to offer a platform for high-level participants from the Western Balkans, Germany, as well as international organizations to discuss central challenges the Western Balkan countries and their partners are facing. Among the conference participants were Members of Parliament and Foreign Ministry representatives from the region, as well as experts from civil society and representatives of the German and other EU governments. Over the course of two days, the participants discussed the current situation of institutional independence in the Western Balkans, the independence of public administration, the judiciary, media and the private sector, and how to strengthen their respective institutional independence overall.

After two days of debates, a number of key themes emerged, including the appropriate role for the EU, given its relative influence and the multiple demands on its significant resources and the common challenge of high youth migration in the region. In general, political interference in independent institutions remains a major issue in the Western Balkans. The problems are complex, and how to best package the solutions remains up for debate. However, despite all the difficulties being debated, the conference was often optimistic that, slowly but surely, progress is being made on these fronts every day.

Meetings with the Macedonian Prime Minister H.E. **Zoran Zaev** as well as a reception hosted by the German Ambassador in Skopje **Thomas Gerberich** complemented the conference program.





Discussion: “A Euro-Atlantic Future for Macedonia” **September 3, 2018**

In cooperation with the Macedonian Think Tanks “Center for Economic Analyses,” “European Policy Institute (EPI),” and “Institute for Democracy ‘Societas Civilis,’” the Aspen Institute Germany organized a panel discussion on “A Euro-Atlantic Future for Macedonia?” in Skopje. The discussion was moderated by Valeska Esch, Program Director of the Aspen Institute Germany. The June 2018 signing of the agreement for the resolution of the name dispute between Skopje and Athens has created an opening for Macedonia’s EU and NATO accession prospects. Yet, the process ahead of formalizing the agreement in both countries is crucial for its long-term success. In the run-up to the referendum on the name agreement on September 30, 2018, the Macedonian Foreign Minister H.E. **Nikola Dimitrov**, the Federal Foreign Office’s Special Envoy for Southeast Europe, Turkey, and the EFTA States, Ambassador Dr. **Christian Hellbach**, **Nikola Poposki**, President of the National Council for European Integration and former Macedonian Foreign Minister, and **Ruslan Stefanov**, Director of the Economic Program at the “Center for the Study of Democracy” in Bulgaria, engaged in a lively debate. The discussion evolved around the „now or never“-opportunity that the name agreement could bring for Euro-Atlantic integration for Macedonia and around the hope that the agreement could serve as an example for the possibilities of peace and stability in the region and across Europe.



Background Briefing on the London Summit and the Berlin Process **July 12, 2018**

On July 12, 2018, Bundestag staffers and civil society experts were invited to the Aspen Institute Germany for an informal evaluation of the London Summit and the Berlin Process. **Matthias Lüttenberg**, Deputy Head of Division 212 (Bilateral Relations with the States of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus) at the Federal Chancellery, and **Christiane Hullmann**, Deputy Head of Division 209 Western Balkans in the Foreign Office, gave an overview of recent developments. At the end, **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Senior Fellow and Balkans Project Director at the Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE), evaluated the five summits in the context of the Berlin Process from a civil society perspective. The background briefing was moderated by Valeska Esch, Program Director of the Aspen Institute Germany.



**Lunch Discussion: “Macedonia One Year After the Political Crisis: Progress and Remaining Challenges on its Way to Euroatlantic Integration”
June 15, 2018**

On June 15, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a roundtable discussion with **Simonida Kacarska**, Director of the European Policy Institute, and **Sabine Stöhr**, Head of the Western Balkans Division of the German Foreign Office. The topic of the roundtable discussion was “Macedonia One Year After the Political Crisis: Progress and Remaining Challenges on its Way to Euroatlantic Integration.” Speakers provided insights into Macedonia’s current EU accession prospects as well as the country’s current political and economic situation, and the implementation of reform priorities, one year after the Macedonian government came to office. A prominent topic of the discourse was the compromise in the name dispute with Greece that was found just a few days before the event and the road ahead for its implementation. The lunch discussion was moderated by Valeska Esch, Program Director of the Aspen Institute Germany.

**Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program in Berlin
May 27-June 2, 2018**

The Aspen Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program celebrated its five-year anniversary this year. During their stay in Berlin, the participants met with experts in the field of urban development and mobility as well as multilateral organizations and visited various governmental and private institutions of Germany’s capital city. As part of their cultural program, the staffers visited Cecilienhof Castle and discovered downtown Berlin by boat. The Program is supported by the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany with funds from the European Recovery Program of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.



Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program in Washington, D.C.
April 29-May 5, 2018

For the fifth straight year, Aspen Germany brought together a group of 10 Congressional staffers and 10 Bundestag staffers in an exchange program to discuss pressing issues in the US-German relationship. Starting in Washington, D.C. the program focused on two important topics – political polarization and counterterrorism. Exchange participants focused on a series of values necessary to unwind polarization including greater cross-cultural communication, trust, fairness, greater understanding and empathy; incrementalism and pragmatism; contextualization of frictions; and common spaces like organizations. On terrorism, they addressed the anthropology of terrorism as well as social and policy-oriented approaches to address it. The conversation focused on community-based Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) that would better integrate groups into broader communities and provide a sense of belonging. In addition to their closed workshops, the group spoke to experts from the Pew Research Center, New America, the Hudson Institute, the State Department, Department of Homeland Security, and United States Institute of Peace among others. They were also welcomed by the program's alumni at a reception hosted by the Representative of the German Industry and Trade and key noted by **Boris Ruge**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the German Embassy in Washington.

Digital Dish: “Digital Policy in 2018: Priorities and Challenges”
April 18, 2018

On April 18, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Digital Dish examining Germany's Digital Policy in 2018: Priorities and Challenges. About 30 high-level guests were able to discuss with Members of the Bundestag **Dieter Janecek** (Alliance 90/The Greens) and **Thomas Jarzombek** (CDU) the opportunities and challenges that digitalization holds for Germany and how they intend to ensure technological change will benefit society. The off-the-record discussion touched on a wide array of topics, ranging from artificial intelligence to data protection, the GDPR, digital infrastructure, and digital education in schools and in the workplace. The conversation was moderated by Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow at the Aspen Institute Germany. The event was co-hosted by Telefónica Germany.



**Conference: “Rule of Law in the Western Balkans: Exploring the New EU Enlargement Strategy and Necessary Steps Ahead”
April 16-19, 2018**

On April 16-19, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a conference on “Rule of Law in the Western Balkans: Exploring the New EU Enlargement Strategy and Necessary Steps Ahead” with support of the Federal Foreign Office. The aim of this conference was to offer a platform for high-level participants from the Western Balkans, Germany, as well as international organizations to discuss central challenges the Western Balkan countries and their partners are facing. Among the conference participants were the Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament from the region, as well as experts from civil society and representatives of the German federal government and the EU. Over the course of two days, the participants discussed the current situation of rule of law in the Western Balkans and the implications of the new enlargement strategy for rule of law reforms. Issues addressed in this context included the independence of the judiciary, depoliticization of public institutions, the fight against corruption, and safeguarding fundamental rights. Meetings with the Deputy Head of Division “Foreign and Security Policy” within the German Federal Chancellery, Dr. **Joachim Bertele**, and the Head of Division “Europe” within the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Dr. **Christoph Hübner**, as well as with Members of the German Parliament complemented the informal discussions.

**Digital Dish with Dr. Natalia Jaekel and Christian Rickerts
April 6, 2018**

On April 6, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany held its third Digital Dish focusing on state and local digital strategies with **Christian Rickerts**, State Secretary at the Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises, and Dr. **Natalia Jaekel**, Digital Special Envoy for the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg. The event compared efforts to tackle digitalization in two of Germany’s top Federal States – the urban, funky, startup-driven city of Berlin and the innovative, manufacturing, and healthcare-powerhouse Baden-Württemberg. Together, the discussants addressed the strategies and challenges of expanding digital infrastructure and fostering innovation ecosystems. Digital education was also a central point of the discussion. The off-the-record conversation was moderated by Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow at the Aspen Institute Germany, and was hosted in cooperation with Telefónica Germany.



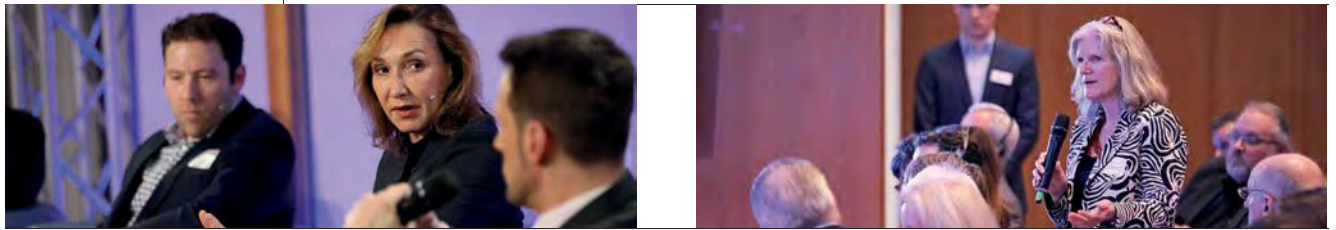
**Background Discussion: “Political Challenges for the German Government: The Western Balkans and the New Enlargement Strategy of the European Commission”
March 21, 2018**

On March 21, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany together with the Democratization Policy Council (DPC) hosted a background discussion on “Political Challenges for the German Government: The Western Balkans and the New Enlargement Strategy of the European Commission.” The aim of this closed event was to discuss political challenges in the region with representatives from government and parliament and experts after the new European Commission’s enlargement strategy was published and before the new German government will take office. The discussion was opened with statements by **Gunther Krichbaum**, MP, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee, **Josip Juratovic**, MP, **Sabine Stöhr**, Head of Western Balkans Division in the Federal Foreign Office, as well as **Bodo Weber**, board member of the Democratization Policy Council. The discussion was moderated by Valeska Esch, Program Director of the Aspen Institute Germany.



*Ambassador Kurt Volker, Executive Director, McCain Institute for
International Leadership, Arizona State University*

*Berlin Transatlantic Forum 2017:
"The World in 2025 – Germany's Role and Partners in a Shifting World Order"
October 26, 2017*



**Conference: “Humanity Disrupted: Artificial Intelligence and Changing Societies”
March 14-15, 2018**

2018 was a boom year for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML). Bigger data sets, stronger algorithms, and faster computers are bringing breakthroughs in voice and visual recognition, language analysis, sensors, robotics, and data processing. This confluence of AI-enabled technologies will transform all corners of life from insurance underwriting to notaries, sports refereeing, loan offerings, advertising, policing, and even national security.

The AI innovation race is on. The US leads. Countries like China, Canada, Japan, and the UK are ambitiously investing in cutting-edge research, education, talent acquisition, and regulatory framework development. The EU is attempting to get its footing with Macron, Merkel’s CDU, and the European Commission all calling for new forms of enhanced R&D cooperation – even a Euro-DARPA with AI/ML at its heart.

Against this backdrop, the Aspen Institute Germany’s first annual Berlin AI conference – Humanity Disrupted: Artificial Intelligence and Changing Societies – brought together more than 350 top policy-makers, entrepreneurs, computer scientists, academics and representatives from business as well as media at the Baden-Württemberg State Representation in Berlin on March 14-15, 2018. Throughout the two days of the conference, topics such as AI and economics, ethics, autonomous driving, and politics and democracy were discussed in panel debates as well as smaller breakout sessions. The audience engaged with the experts over the challenges as well as the opportunities that AI has to offer regarding transportation, private home assistance, medical care, warfare, and many others.

Speakers included **Nicola Beer**, Member of the Bundestag, former Minister of State and Secretary General of the FDP; **Pedro Domingos**, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Washington; and **Renata Jungo Brünnger**, Member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG. The conference was generously supported by the Heinz und Heide Dürr Stiftung, the State Representation of Baden-Württemberg, Daimler, the Aspen Initiative for Europe, Microsoft, Lockheed Martin, Pfizer, and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.





**Exclusive Dinner: “Macedonia’s Road towards a Future in the EU and NATO”
February 21, 2018**

On February 21, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive dinner with the Macedonian Prime Minister H.E. **Zoran Zaev** and his delegation, comprising the Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister H.E. **Radmila Shekerinska**, the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs H.E. **Bujar Osmani**, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. **Nikola Dimitrov** at the China Club Berlin. Invited to the dinner were members of the European and Foreign Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag. The open exchange and lively discussion centered around the topic “Macedonia’s Road towards a Future in the EU and NATO.”

**Staffers Exchange Alumni Roundtable: Discussion with Guest Lecturers from the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin
December 19, 2017**

On December 19, the Aspen Institute Germany invited three guest lecturers from the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin to discuss the mechanisms and tools of the Trump Administration in an intimate setting with the German alumni from the Aspen’s Bundestag and US Congress Staffers Exchange Program. The alumni had the chance to exchange their views with **Vincent Michelot**, Professor for American Politics at Sciences Po, Lyon, **Markus B. Siewert**, Academic Fellow at the Department of Social Sciences at the Free University, and **Justin S. Vaughn**, Director of the Center for Idaho History and Politics at Boise State University. In a lively discussion moderated by Mirijam Koch, Program Officer at the Aspen Institute Germany, the participants talked about the state of the Trump administration, the possible fragmentation of the Republican Party, the differences and similarities to French President Macron, and the long-term political consequences the Trump Presidency can have on the US governmental system.



**Discussion: “The EU in Disarray – What Will Become of the Western Balkans?”
November 30, 2017**

**Background Briefing on Croatia with Boris Grigić
November 14, 2017**

To conclude its Southeast Europe Program 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a public evening event with a discussion between **Bernd Hüttemann**, Secretary General of the European Movement Germany, **Sonja Licht**, President of Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, **Sabine Stöhr**, Head of Division 209 Western Balkans in the Federal Foreign Office, and **Helge Tolksdorf**, Head of the Division for EU Enlargement, Southeast Europe and Turkey in the Directorate-General for European Policy of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, on “The EU in Disarray – What Will Become of the Western Balkans?”. The main topics of discussion were the effects of the political situation inside the EU on the Western Balkans, the return of geopolitics to the region, and the expectations for the European Commission’s new enlargement strategy.

On November 14, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic Croatia, organized a confidential background briefing with **Boris Grigić**, Assistant Minister in the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Croatia. The topic of the discussion was the Croatian perspective on the EU integration process of the countries of the Western Balkans.



**Conference: “Responding to Populism, Nationalism, and Authoritarianism in the Western Balkans and Beyond”
November 7-10, 2017**

On November 7-10, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany co-hosted a conference with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the support of the Federal Foreign Office. The topic of the conference was “Responding to Populism, Nationalism, and Authoritarianism in the Western Balkans and Beyond.” The conference took place in Sarajevo. It brought together a wide range of high-level government representatives, members of parliament, and civil society experts from the Western Balkans, Germany, and the EU.



**Berlin Transatlantic Forum: “The World in 2025 – Germany’s Role and Partners in a Shifting World Order”
October 26, 2017**

Just four weeks after the German national election, on October 26, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted its fourth annual Berlin Transatlantic Forum. The conference participants looked at the state and future of the liberal order and discussed what role Germany is able and willing to play. Brexit and the election of Donald Trump are signs of underlying tectonic shifts in Western societies and give rise to the question of the very existence of the post-war liberal order. While countries like Russia and China have long been dissatisfied with a system that they see as dominated by Western powers, other challenges have emerged from within Western societies. In this situation, high hopes have been placed on German leadership, and Chancellor Merkel has even been celebrated as the new leader of the free world. The program consisted of intro-statements, panel discussions, and a concluding statement. In addition, we presented worst and best-case scenarios of the future of the liberal order, which were developed during an Aspen scenario workshop in May 2017.



Digital Dish: “American Democracy in the Digital Age”
October 4, 2017

On October 4, 2017, a group of 50 senior and next generation experts from politics, business, academia, and civil society came together to attend the Aspen Institute Germany’s second Digital Dish luncheon with **Howard Dean**, former Governor of Vermont, candidate for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, and former DNC chair. The event was held in the Telefónica Germany Representation and the conversation focused on the role of technology in American democracy and the changing attitude toward institutions. The wide ranging, off-the-record discussion touched on topics from freedom of speech to slacktivism to the state of the two-party system in the United States. The conversation was moderated by Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow at the Aspen Institute Germany, and was held in partnership with Telefónica Germany.

Workshop: “The Transatlantic Digital Agenda – Defining A Digital Social Contract”
September 26-27, 2017

The Aspen Institute Germany, the Atlantic Council, and the Internet Economy Foundation organized the first workshop of their project on the Transatlantic Digital Agenda. The project explores how shared values in the transatlantic partnership can be transposed into effective policy for the digital age. Over the next three years, the partners will organize a series of seminars and workshops examining different elements of the transatlantic digital agenda. The Brussels Workshop addressed the fundamental question: “Should there be a digital social contract? If so, what could it look like?” In this context, the discussion of digital policy was rooted in the values of the Enlightenment to discuss ways to guarantee that digital transformation reinforces free trade, free markets, and free peoples. The Brussels workshop consisted of six sessions and a dinner discussion over two days and attracted senior policy experts and decision-makers from both sides of the Atlantic.



Digital Dish: “Lunch Debrief on the German G20 Presidency and a Look Ahead at Global Governance”
September 19, 2017

On September 19, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany opened its Digital Dish luncheon series, a regular gathering that features provocative thinkers for an intimate, off-the-record lunch to discuss a special issue related to the most pressing tech policy debates. Hosted in cooperation with the Embassy of Spain, the first Digital Dish was a debrief of the 2017 Hamburg G20 Summit and an outlook on global governance with **Lars-Hendrik Röller**, Chancellor Merkel’s top economic advisor and G7/20 Sherpa. The conversation focused on trade, climate change, women’s empowerment, Africa, and digital transformation in the context of Germany’s 2017 G20 chairmanship under the heading of ‘Shaping an Interconnected World.’ Argentinian Ambassador **Luis María Kreckler** provided the response commentary and a look ahead toward Argentina’s G20 priorities in Buenos Aires in 2018. Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, and Spanish Ambassador **Maria Victoria Morera Villuendas** hosted the luncheon. The conversation was off-the-record and held in English with 30 senior representatives from politics, business, academia, and the diplomatic community.

The 25th Anniversary of the State Department-German Federal Foreign Office Exchange Program: “Discussion on the State of Transatlantic Relations”
September 14, 2017

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the State Department-German Federal Foreign Office Exchange program, the US Embassy in Berlin and the Federal Foreign Office hosted a conversation on the state of transatlantic relations with **Conrad Tribble**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe and top US diplomat to Western Europe and the EU, and **Andreas Michaelis**, State Secretary in the German Federal Foreign Office. The off-the-record discussion was moderated by Aspen’s Executive Director Rüdiger Lentz and included many diplomatic exchange alumni. The wide-ranging conversation touched on topics including the EU, North Korea, Iran, Turkey, climate change, TTIP, Russia, Ukraine, and energy. Kent Logsdon, acting US Ambassador to Berlin, provided introductory remarks.



Background Briefing on the Outcomes of the Trieste Summit and the Future of the Berlin Process
July 19, 2017

Following the fourth summit within the Berlin Process in Trieste, the Aspen Institute Germany organized an informal background briefing with Bundestag staffers to evaluate the outcomes of the summit. **Matthias Lüttenberg**, Deputy Head of Division “Bilateral Relations to the Countries of Central, Southeastern and Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia” within the German Federal Chancellery, and **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Senior Fellow and Balkans Project Director, Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE), discussed the implications of the Trieste Summit and the future of the entire Berlin Process for the Western Balkans region and engaged in a fruitful discussion with the Bundestag staffers. The background briefing was moderated by Valeska Esch, Program Director of the Aspen Institute Germany.

Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program in Washington, D.C.
July 2-8, 2017

For the fourth time, the Aspen Institute Germany invited 20 staffers from US Congress and German Bundestag to participate in two one-week programs in Berlin and in Washington, D.C. After the first part of the Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program in Berlin, the participants focused on the topics digitalization and trade in Washington, D.C. The Program included opportunities for informal exchange and networking as well as an alumni event with former participants from the United States. In addition to roundtable discussions, the participants had the opportunity to visit the July 4th Parade and enjoyed a fireworks cruise as well a tour of the Capitol including its dome. The Program is supported by the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany with funds from the European Recovery Program of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. This program was made possible by a grant from the Federal Ministry for Economy and Energy (BMWi).



Background Briefing: “The Current Situation in Serbia and its Regional Implications”
June 28, 2017

On the occasion of a Berlin visit of **Sonja Licht**, President of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, the Aspen Institute Germany organized an informal roundtable discussion with Bundestag staffers on the topic “The Current Situation in Serbia and its Regional Implications.” Sonja Licht was part of the Yugoslav dissident movement and among the founders of numerous local and international civic organizations, including the Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly. She received numerous honors including the Council of Europe Pro Merit, Star of Italian Solidarity, the French Legion of Honor, and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for promoting democracy and civic activism in Serbia and South East Europe. Sonja Licht presented her assessment of the current situation in Serbia and the implications this may have in the region in an off-the-record debate. The informal discussion was moderated by Valeska Esch, Program Director of the Aspen Institute Germany.

Western Balkans Conference: “Improving Perspectives for the Youth: Economic Development and Job Creation in the Western Balkans”
June 19-22, 2017

On June 19-22, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany with support of the Federal Foreign Office hosted a conference on “Improving Perspectives for the Youth: Economic Development and Job Creation in the Western Balkans” in Alt Madlitz. Participants, coming from the region as well as from several EU member states, were composed of high-ranking officials and experts from politics, economics, and academia. Over the course of two days, they discussed current economic developments in the Western Balkans, especially with regard to job creation. Issues addressed in this context included the role of education and vocational training reforms, the role of digitalization for the economic development of the region, the EU enlargement agenda and its support for economic development, as well as regional economic relations. Meetings with Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy **Uwe Beckmeyer**, Members of the German Parliament, and the Managing Director of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations **Michael Harms** complemented the informal discussions.



Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program in Berlin May 28-June 2, 2017

For the fourth time, the Aspen Institute Germany invited 20 staffers from US Congress and German Bundestag to participate in two one-week programs in Berlin and in Washington, D.C. During the first part in Berlin, the participants delved into the topics of populism and trade. In addition to roundtable discussions, the participants learned about the history of Germany by taking part in a seminar with students from the John F. Kennedy Institute at the Free University of Berlin, and visited the Cecilienhof Palace, the historic site of the Potsdam Conference. They also enjoyed a tour of the Bundestag, including its cupola, led by alumni of the program. The program included opportunities for informal exchange and networking as well as an alumni event with former German participants. The Program is supported by the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany with funds from the European Recovery Program of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.



Aspen Southeast Europe Foreign Minister's Conference May 31, 2017

Aspen Germany's Eighth Southeast Europe Foreign Ministers' Conference took place in Berlin on May 31, 2017. The conference was hosted by the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office and the Czech Embassy in Berlin. The Foreign Ministers and high-level diplomats from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia, as well as members of the German government, Bundestag, representatives of the EU and regional organizations, and delegates from Austria, France, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and Turkey discussed current security, political, and economic issues as well as progress and challenges of the individual countries in the EU integration process in a closed session preceding a public event at the Czech Embassy in Berlin.

The public event in the Czech Embassy in Berlin began with a panel discussion on the economic development of the Western Balkans. Moderated by Dr. **Dagmar Linder**, Managing Director, Regional Management Central and Eastern Europe, Deutsche Bank AG, the panel consisted of **Caroline King**, Global Director, Business Support Digital Government, **Bojan Predojević**, Managing Director, Profine doo, Vice-President, Board of Directors, German-Serbian Chamber of Commerce, and Member of the Board of Forum Serbia-Germany, **Anita Richter**, Program Manager for Economic Reforms, South East Europe Division, OECD, **Goran Svilanović**, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council, and **Mark Vasic**, Senior Manager of International Regulatory Affairs Deutsche Telekom AG.

The subsequent Foreign Ministers' panel was introduced by opening remarks from Federal Minister **Sigmar Gabriel** and the Czech Deputy Foreign Minister **Jakub Dür**. The focus was on a clear commitment by the EU to membership perspectives for Western Balkan countries. Regional cooperation, communication, and interchange would benefit both Western Balkan countries and the EU, according to the ministers.

In his introductory remarks, Federal Minister Gabriel compared the reconciliation process of the Czech Republic and Germany after World War II to an ideal scenario for countries in the Western Balkans. He called for all parties involved, including the EU, to work harder for a peaceful, prosperous and European future for the Western Balkans. He continued to reaffirm the strategy laid out at the Thessaloniki summit, stating that the goal has not changed: EU membership for the six countries in the Western Balkans. Conceding that the prospect of membership has lost some of its appeal recently, he pointed out several key issues that need to be addressed in order to change the narrative of EU accession in the Western Balkans' peoples' everyday lives: Youth unemployment, regional cooperation, infrastructure projects, and the IT sector. He highlighted the Berlin Process as a step in the right direction and called for a "Berlin Process Reloaded": A strategy aimed at strengthening European funds to make possible reforms that take aim at improving the mentioned key issues in the region. Throughout the following discussion among the ministers, the panelists addressed the mentioned EU accession fatigue in the region. **Andreas Michaelis**, the Political Director in the German Foreign Office, underlined Germany's support of the Western Balkan countries on their path to EU accession.





**Workshop: “The Future of the Liberal International Order: The World in 2025”
May 15-17, 2017**

The Aspen Institute Germany hosted its third Aspen Transatlantic Workshop in Berlin from May 15-17, 2017. The workshop brought together 26 experts and decision makers from Europe and the US from politics, business, think tanks, and media. It explored the future of the liberal international order that has been serving as framework for peace, stability, and prosperity for so long – not only in Europe and the US but also in (and for) many other world regions. The liberal international order gained legitimacy largely because of two facts: It was morally superior to oppressive systems and, probably more importantly, it delivered better results. With the rise of new powers (and cultures), normative hegemony is fading. The workshop employed methods of strategic foresight analysis and scenario thinking. Workshop participants generated four to five scenarios that captured the range of plausible alternative futures. Foresight analysis is most useful when a situation is complex and the outcomes too uncertain to trust a single prediction. It has proven highly effective in helping analysts, decision makers, and policymakers contemplate multiple futures, challenge their assumptions, and anticipate surprise developments by identifying “unknown unknowns” – i.e. factors, forces, or players that one did not realize were important or influential before commencing the exercise.



**Aspen German-American Dialog: “Learning from Each Other”
May 7-13, 2017**

On May 7-13, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted the third Aspen German-American Dialog under the auspices of the Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation, **Jürgen Hardt** (MP, CDU). The program aimed to revitalize the German-American partnership, strengthen mutual understanding, and provide a platform for finding common answers to pressing problems of the 21st century at the civil society and parliamentary levels. At a conference hosted at the Federal Foreign Office, **Annalena Baerbock** (MP, Alliance 90/The Greens) and Congressman **David McKinley** (R-WV 1st District) discussed future challenges regarding climate change and electromobility and, together with Jürgen Hardt, addressed the shared values in the transatlantic relations. On the invitation of the participating Members of Parliament **Katharina Dröge** (Alliance 90/The Greens), **Volkmar Klein** (CDU), and **Annalena Baerbock** (Alliance 90/The Greens), the civil society representatives deepened the exchange by traveling to Cologne, Siegen, and Potsdam. On site, participants learned about companies and projects in the areas of work/training, renewable energies, mobility, digitalization, and political education/media at the municipal level. The Dialog is funded by the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany with funds from the European Recovery Program of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and is supported by the American Council on Germany.



Digital Dish: “Cyber-Risk and Cyber-Insurance”

April 25, 2017

On April 25, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the Brandenburg Institute for Security and Society (BIGS) hosted a Digital Dish on cyber risk management and the rise of cyber insurance with speakers **Beau Woods**, Deputy Director of the Cyber Statecraft Initiative at the Atlantic Council, and Dr. **Constance Baban**, Senior Research Fellow at BIGS. The discussion focused on liability localization, as risk begins to move from an environment in which data breaches are the main cause of worry to one where the Internet of Things makes actual physical disruptions, property damage, and bodily harm more likely. Participants asked about how insurance could incentivize the adoption of state-of-the-art technologies, norms, and standards as well as drive certification. They also pointed out differences in tort systems in the United States and Germany, the nature of cyber insurance payouts, and whether or not new laws like the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the NIS Directive will drive the development of cyber insurance policies in Europe.



Conference: “Transatlantic Digital Agenda: Bridging the Gap” April 5, 2017

On April 5, 2017, on the eve of the first ever G20 Digital Ministers’ meeting, the Aspen Institute Germany, in conjunction with the Internet Economy Foundation and the Atlantic Council of the United States, launched a 3-year joint project – Transatlantic Digital Agenda: Bridging the Gap – at a high-level conference at the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) in Berlin.

The conference was kicked off by German Economic Minister and G20 Digital Chairwoman **Brigitte Zypries**. She noted that transatlantic interdependency would grow as the industrial internet and Internet of things come online: “In a way, we could say that the US has the internet and we have the things.” Speakers noted that the common set of values between Europe and the United States like freedom, equality, democracy, openness, and the rule of law are under strain. This translates over to the digital world as well. “The digital economy is a factor in growing income inequality in advanced economies,” warned **Cameron Kerry**, former Acting Secretary of Commerce under President Obama.

Other speakers defined the areas in which the US and Europe should work together – creating a policy architecture to manage the digital transformation, pushing the risk culture to encourage innovation; building more diverse, representative business leadership; and guaranteeing that the wins from digitalization benefit everyone. They included **Thomas Jarzombek**, CDU/CSU Spokesperson on Digital Agenda in the German Bundestag; **John Frank**, Vice President EU Government Affairs at Microsoft; **Linda Griffin**, Head of Public Affairs at King & Co-Founder, EU Tech Alliance; Prof. Dr. **Justus Haucap**,

Founding Director, Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics (DICE); **Magnus Graf Lambsdorff**, Partner at Lakestar. The conference was followed by a high-level reception and dinner at Rocket Internet, Europe’s largest tech investor.

The conference will be followed up with working groups that will meet semi-regularly over the life of the three-year project. Together they will tackle a diverse set of issues including: cross border data flows, digital trade, copyright, competition, platforms, Internet of things, cloud computing, AI, innovation, labor market impacts, startups, data protection and privacy, finance, political action online, fake news, surveillance, cybersecurity, and global Internet governance.





**Spring Meeting of the Youth Officers 2017:
“The United States after the Elections –
A Shift in the Transatlantic Relation?”
March 27, 2017**

At the Spring Meeting of the Youth Officers 2017 in Strausberg, Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow of the Aspen Institute Germany, started off the transatlantic panel on March 27, 2017, with **Julia Obermeier** (MP, CSU), **Christian Thiels**, Managing Editor of Tagesthemen and Defense Expert at Tagesschau, and Dr. **Tobias Bunde**, Head of Policy and Analysis at the Munich Security Conference and Research Associate at the Center for International Security Policy, Hertie School of Governance. The panel was presented by Thorsten Freers, Senior Program Officer at the Aspen Institute Germany.

**Background Briefing: “Uncertainty in the
Western Balkans: Is Nationalism on the
Rise?”
February 13, 2017**

On the occasion of a Berlin visit of **Roland Gjoni**, Balkan Affairs Advisor at the Center of Excellence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania and Researcher in Political Science and International Relations at the University College Dublin, the Aspen Institute Germany organized an informal roundtable discussion with Bundestag staffers on the topic “Uncertainty in the Western Balkans: Is Nationalism on the Rise?” Building on his experience from previous positions within the UN, the EU, the World Bank, and USAID, Mr. Gjoni has in-depth knowledge of political advisory within international institutions and was able to share interesting insights on the current situation within the Western Balkans region. Nationalist developments in the Balkans region were discussed and together with Mr. Gjoni, the staffers engaged in a fruitful debate, moderated by Valeska Esch, Program Director of the Aspen Institute Germany.

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*Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger,
Chairman of the Munich Security Conference*

*Book Presentation and Discussion:
"Welt in Gefahr – Deutschland und Europa in unsicheren Zeiten"
October 23, 2018*





PUBLIC PROGRAM



China Club Event with H.E. Jeremy Issacharoff December 3, 2018

On December 3, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive discussion with H.E. **Jeremy Issacharoff**, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Germany, on the topic “Iran and War Games in the Middle East: An Israeli Perspective.” In a discussion with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director at the Aspen Institute Germany, H.E. Jeremy Issacharoff shared his thoughts on the current situation in the Middle East and Israel. The discussion first addressed the geostrategic situation and conflicts between the countries in the region as well as the influence of other international players in the area. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the German-Israeli relationship, and the German perception of Israel were addressed as well. At the end of the discussion, participants were able to ask the Ambassador further questions.



Exclusive Breakfast with Ambassador Kurt Volker November 28, 2018

On November 28, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive breakfast discussion with Ambassador Kurt Volker, Executive Director of the McCain Institute for International Leadership and former US Ambassador to NATO, on the topic “Partnership in Peril? Transatlantic Relations and Germany’s Role in a Shifting Global Order.” Triggered by a number of developments on both sides of the Atlantic, participants discussed the centrality of the transatlantic partnership as well as the role of US leadership in a shifting global order. Germany’s future role in global politics in a post-Merkel era was also addressed. Ambassador **Kurt Volker**, a leading expert in US foreign and national security policy, assessed the current state of transatlantic relations and shed light on the challenges and opportunities arising out of these pressing issues. An outlook by each participant regarding the further development of transatlantic affairs concluded the discussion.



Background Briefing on the US Midterm Elections November 8, 2018

On November 8, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Background Briefing on the US Midterm Elections with **Benjamin Wolfmeier**, Member of Republicans Overseas Germany e.V., and **Diego Rivas**, Chapter Chair of Democrats Abroad in Berlin. The discussion examined the election outcomes and opportunities arising out of the election results for both the Democratic and the Republican Party as well as for the Trump administration. In addition, current trends, such as the significantly higher voter turnout in comparison with 2014 and the increased proportion of women in Congress, were discussed. After input statements by Benjamin Wolfmeier and Diego Rivas, **Jacob Schrot**, Chief of Staff to Dr. Stephan Harbarth (Member of Bundestag, CDU/CSU) and Dr. Dietlind Tiemann (Member of Bundestag, CDU/CSU) and Founder of the Young Transatlantic Initiative, moderated the discussion with all participants.



**Brown Bag Lunch: “Inside AfD: A Critical Analysis of the New People’s Party”
October 30, 2018**

On October 30, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Brown Bag Lunch on the topic “Inside AfD: A Critical Analysis of the New People’s Party” with **Franziska Schreiber**, author and former member of the board of the Junge Alternative (JA), the youth organization of the Alternative of Germany (AfD). Especially the events that unfolded in Chemnitz weeks prior nourished the debate on whether the German Federal Office for Protection of the Constitution should monitor the party. A political assessment of the situation is still ongoing. Simultaneously, accusations of party radicalization and its potential threat to democracy are increasingly voiced. In an interview with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, Franziska Schreiber presented the main theses of her recently published book “Inside AfD: Der Bericht einer Aussteigerin” and discussed the structures and motives of the AfD with all participants. The event also addressed current questions. For example, whether the AfD is weakened by Angela Merkel’s gradual farewell from politics and to what extent the party will be able and necessary to form a government in state parliaments in the future.



**Book Presentation and Discussion with
Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger
October 23, 2018**

On October 23, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Dussmann das KulturKaufhaus hosted a book presentation and discussion with Ambassador **Wolfgang Ischinger**, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference and Senior Professor for Social Policy and Diplomatic Practice at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. Ambassador Ischinger spoke about his new book “Welt in Gefahr: Deutschland und Europa in unsicheren Zeiten” (The world in danger: Germany and Europe in uncertain times). In an interview with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, and after words of welcome by **Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann**, Ambassador Ischinger discussed the need for a reorientation of German and European foreign policy, the art of diplomacy, and the necessity of an inclusive public debate on current global hotspots.



**Exclusive Dinner: “Digital China: Rise of the Silicon Middle Kingdom”
October 16, 2018**

On October 16, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive dinner and discussion on the topic “Digital China: Rise of the Silicon Middle Kingdom” with Dr. **Edward Tse**, Founder and CEO of Gao Feng Advisory Company and former Chairman for Greater China of Booz & Company. The dinner provided for ample opportunity to assess how China is presenting an alternative model to the United States and Europe in the development and deployment of new tech in artificial intelligence, blockchain, and quantum computing. It also focused on the strengths and challenges of China’s digital disrupters such as Alibaba, Tencent, and Baidu. Participants were interested in China’s perception of the current trade conflict with the US as well as its approach towards cryptocurrencies. The geostrategic dimension of China’s tech rise was also addressed.

**China Club Event: “Powder Keg Middle East: Israel and Palestine – Obstacles on the Road to Peace”
September 27, 2018**

On September 27, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive evening event with Minister **Abdallah Frangi**, European affairs advisor to President Mahmud Abbas and former Governor of Gaza, on the topic “Powder Keg Middle East: Israel and Palestine – Obstacles on the Road to Peace” at the China Club Berlin. In a discussion with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, Minister Frangi shared his insights on the region. The discussion addressed the current situation in the Palestinian territories, the chances of a peaceful conflict solution between Israel and the Palestinians, and the geostrategic situation in the Middle East.



**Brown Bag Lunch: “After Helsinki:
Reassessing US Policy Toward Russia
and Ukraine”
September 6, 2018**

On September 6, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the Center for Liberal Modernity and the Embassy of the United States of America in Berlin hosted a Brown Bag Lunch with **Alina Polyakova**, David M. Rubenstein Fellow – Foreign Policy, Center on the United States and Europe, The Brookings Institution, on the topic “After Helsinki: Reassessing US Policy Toward Russia and Ukraine.” The Brown Bag started with a short input statement by Alina Polyakova and a response by **Marieluise Beck**, Director for East-Central and Eastern Europe, Center for Liberal Modernity. In the following discussion with moderator Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow at the Aspen Institute Germany, all participants discussed the current US Policy toward Russia and Ukraine, how it corresponds to German and European interests, and what potential developments can be expected in the future.

**Brown Bag Lunch: “NATO Summit 2018 –
What’s on the Agenda?”
June 26, 2018**

On June 26, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Brown Bag Lunch on the topic “NATO Summit 2018 – What’s on the Agenda?” with **Mark Simakovsky**, Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Eurasia Center of the Atlantic Council. In a conversation with Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow of the Aspen Institute Germany, Simakovsky and all participants discussed the upcoming NATO summit in Brussels, possibilities for reinforcing our collective defence, and the future of national defence spending arrangements.



**Assembly of the “Verein der Freunde des
Aspen Instituts e.V.” 2018
June 19, 2018**

On June 19, 2018, the members of the “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts” met prior to the summer party to hold the annual assembly in the Mendelssohn-Remise in Berlin. The Management Board presented the development of members as well as their activities and financial reports and invited all members to discuss the future of the “Verein der Freunde.” Dr. Roland Hoffman-Theinert, Chairman of the “Verein der Freunde,” and Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, both gave a positive summary of the past year and its successful events. Moreover, Eva Katharina Deininger was elected as a new member of the Management Board.

**Aspen Summer Party 2018 of the Aspen
Institute Germany and the “Verein der
Freunde”
June 19, 2018**

On June 19, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany and the “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts” hosted the annual Summer Party at the Mendelssohn-Remise in Berlin. Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, Dr. **Roland Hoffmann-Theinert**, Chairman of the “Verein der Freunde,” and **Eckart von Klaeden**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aspen Institute Germany, welcomed the guests and briefly discussed the activities and future of the Institute. This year’s guest of honor was Minister of State **Niels Annen** of the Federal Foreign Office, who discussed transatlantic relations, the upcoming NATO-Summit in Brussels, and German foreign policy in a Late-Night-Talk with Rüdiger Lentz. Afterwards 150 guests enjoyed the summer evening in the courtyard of the historic Remise.



Social Reception with H.E. Richard Grenell June 12, 2018

On June 12, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive social reception in honor of H.E. **Richard Grenell**, Ambassador of the United States of America to Germany. After welcome remarks by Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, and H.E. Richard Grenell, the participants had the opportunity to meet and greet the new Ambassador of the United States of America as well as discuss transatlantic relations.



Exclusive Lunch with Tina Hassel May 30, 2018

On May 30, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with GÖRG Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten mbB and Dr. **Roland Hoffmann-Theinert**, Chairman of the Friends of the Aspen Institute Germany and member of the Board of Trustees, hosted an exclusive lunch as part of the Board of Trustees meeting with guest of honor **Tina Hassel**, Editor in Chief and Chief Correspondent at ARD. The participants discussed German politics from the perspective of the editor in chief and head of the ARD television studio in Berlin, current political challenges, and the role of media.



**Presentation and Panel Discussion:
“Christian Identity and (In)Tolerance in
Secular Western Europe”
May 29, 2018**

On May 29, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Pew Research Center hosted an evening event for the release of a major new survey on “Christian Identity and (In)Tolerance in Secular Western Europe.” The results of the study were presented by Dr. **Neha Sahgal**, Associate Director of Research at Pew Research Center, and **Alan Cooperman**, Director of Religion Research at Pew Research Center. Following the presentation, the survey results were discussed by Dr. **Dirck Ackermann**, Office of the Protestant Chaplaincy of the German Armed Forces, **Volker Beck**, Associate Lecturer at the Center for Religious Studies (CERES) of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Dr. **Jan Schneider**, Head of Research Unit at the Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration, **Viola van Melis**, Head of the Centre for Research Communication, Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics,” at the University of Münster, and Minister **Gregor Hohberg**, Chairman of the Board, House of One. The discussion was moderated by **Martin Klingst**, Political Correspondent of the Editorial Department, Die Zeit.

**Exclusive Discussion: “Faster, Cheaper,
Cleaner, Safer – the Future of Mobility”
April 26, 2018**

On April 26, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Daimler and the Embassy of the United States in Berlin hosted an exclusive Public Program event with **Derek Pankratz**, Senior Research Manager, Deloitte Center for Integrated Research, on the topic “Faster, Cheaper, Cleaner, Safer – the Future of Mobility.” In a discussion moderated by Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow of the Aspen Institute Germany, Mr. Pankratz talked about the future of mobility and the possible societal changes that this will bring. More specifically, they discussed advancements and challenges in new technologies such as electric and autonomous vehicles.



**Exclusive Discussion with Dr. Johannes Bohnen in Hamburg
April 18, 2018**

On April 18, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the members of the “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts” Britt Eckelmann, Heike Fölster, Ulrich Plett, and Christine Wolff, as well as the Hanse Lounge hosted a first Public Program event in Hamburg on the topic of corporate political responsibility (CPR). In a discussion with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, Dr. **Johannes Bohnen**, Managing Partner at BOHNEN Public Affairs, presented his concept on corporate political responsibility and explained how corporations can use it to strengthen their business. It was primarily discussed to what extent corporations should think and act more politically and how this affects their business.



**Willy Brandt Award for Contemporary History
April 10, 2018**

On April 10, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany, the Allied Museum Berlin, and the Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt Foundation hosted the presentation of the Willy Brandt Award for Contemporary History. The Willy Brandt Award for Contemporary History is awarded every two years by the Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt Foundation for outstanding academic work. This year's awardee was the German-American historian Dr. **Scott Krause**, Fellow at the Center for Contemporary History Potsdam. He received the award for his thesis “Outpost of Freedom,” in which Shepard Stone, founder of the Aspen Institute Germany, plays a prominent role. **Wolfgang Thierse**, former President of the German Bundestag and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Willy Brandt Foundation, presented the award to Dr. Scott Krause after welcome remarks by **Jürgen Lillteicher**, Director of the Allied Museum Berlin, and Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany. The laudation was held by the historian Prof. Dr. **Jürgen Kocka**.



China Club Event with H.E. Shi Mingde April 5, 2018

On April 5, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive discussion with H.E. **Shi Mingde**, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, on the topic "Influence and Responsibility – China's Role in the World." In a discussion with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, Ambassador Shi talked about China's economic relations, growing digitalization, the domestic policy of China, and its international relations. The discussion particularly addressed China's growing importance and responsibility in the world.

China Club Event with Sabine Adler and Dr. Stefan Meister March 19, 2018

On March 19, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive discussion on the topic of the recent Russian presidential election. **Sabine Adler**, Deutschlandradio Correspondent covering Eastern Europe, and Dr. **Stefan Meister**, Head of Program on Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia at the Robert Bosch Center of the German Council on Foreign Relations, discussed the significance of the election results for Russia's future role in the world as well as Russian-German relations in particular and EU-Russian relations in general. More specifically, Ms. Adler and Dr. Meister, in a discussion moderated by Rüdiger Lentz, shared their thoughts on the possible effects of Putin's re-election on Russia's future trade and security policies.



**Brown Bag Lunch: “The Trump Administration’s Trade Policies in Theory and in Practice”
February 28, 2018**

On February 28, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Brown Bag Lunch on “The Trump Administration’s Trade Policies in Theory and in Practice” with **Peter S. Rashish**, Senior Fellow and Director of the Geoeconomics Program at AICGS, and **Fabian Wendenburg**, Deputy Head of the Department Strategic Planning and Coordination at the Federation of German Industries. After a welcome by moderator Tyson Barker, Program Director and Fellow at the Aspen Institute Germany, and introductory statements by the two speakers, the participants discussed the current US trade policies under the Trump administration in general as well as their implications on international trade and on transatlantic trade relations in particular.



**Background Briefing: “The Current Protests in Iran and the Future of the Iran Deal”
February 22, 2018**

On February 22, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Background Briefing on Iran with **Charlotte Wiedemann**, journalist and author of the book “Der neue Iran: Eine Gesellschaft tritt aus dem Schatten,” and **Dr. Ali Fathollah-Nejad**, Associate Fellow in the Program Middle East and North Africa at DGAP, Visiting Fellow at Brookings Doha, Associate of the Iran-Project Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center and Scientific Researcher at the Center of International Cooperation and Development Research of the ULB - Université libre de Bruxelles. After input statements by Ms. Wiedemann and Dr. Fathollah-Nejad on the current situation in Iran, the participants engaged in a lively discussion on the current protests in Iran and the future of the Iran deal.



**Brown Bag Lunch: “The Munich Security Conference 2018 and the New US National Security Strategy”
February 19, 2018**

On February 19, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Brown Bag Lunch with Dr. **Amanda Sloat**, Robert Bosch Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and **Metin Hakverdi**, Member of the German Bundestag (SPD), to discuss the Munich Security Conference 2018 and the new US National Security Strategy. After a quick recap of the Munich Security Conference by Dr. Sloat, Metin Hakverdi, and Aspen’s Executive Director Rüdiger Lentz, the participants engaged in an honest discussion about the new US National Security Strategy and its implications for the transatlantic community in a fragmenting world. What particularly stood out about the discussion was the unused potential for collaboration and the need to recommit to the transatlantic relationship.

**Exclusive Breakfast Discussion on the Ukraine on the Sidelines of the Munich Security Conference
February 18, 2018**

On February 18, 2018, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a breakfast side meeting at the Munich Security Conference with **Natalie Jaresko**, Chairwoman of the Aspen Institute Kyiv, and Ambassador **Kurt Volker**, US Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations and former US Ambassador to NATO under President George W. Bush. The discussion touched on all aspects of Ukraine’s internal and international struggle as well as on the role that Europe and the US have in assisting Ukraine on its path to democracy, stability, and European integration.



**Book Presentation: “Die Illusion der Unbesiegbarkeit: Warum Manager nicht klüger sind als die Incas vor 500 Jahren”
January 22, 2018**

On January 22, 2018, **Andreas Krebs**, Managing Director at CologneInvest, and **Paul Williams**, Managing Partner at Paul Williams & Associates, presented their new book “Die Illusion der Unbesiegbarkeit: Warum Manager nicht klüger sind als die Incas vor 500 Jahren” at Dussmann das KulturKaufhaus. In a conversation with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, the two internationally experienced managers discussed the crucial components of lasting business success, the reasons for sudden failures, and how leaders can succeed in keeping organization on course for further success.



**China Club Event: “Germany and America: On the Future of Transatlantic Relations. A New Foreign Policy after Jamaica?”
December 6, 2017**

On December 6, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a panel discussion on the future of transatlantic relations. Focus was laid on the transatlantic manifest “In Spite of it All, America”, an essay written by experts of different Berlin transatlantic think tanks, aiming to revitalize and redefine transatlantic relations. Dr. **Tobias Lindner** (Alliance 90/The Greens), **Michael Link** (FDP), and **Norbert Röttgen** (CDU), all members of the newly elected German Bundestag, as well as **Jan Techau**, Director of the Richard C. Holbrooke Forum at the American Academy in Berlin, discussed the manifest with regards to US and German trade, security, climate, energy, and digital policies. In an open and interesting discussion, it became apparent that all panelist agreed on the matter that the geopolitical situation is changing drastically, and that Germany has a responsibility to solidify its position not only as a nation but also as a member of international institutions such as the European Union and NATO.

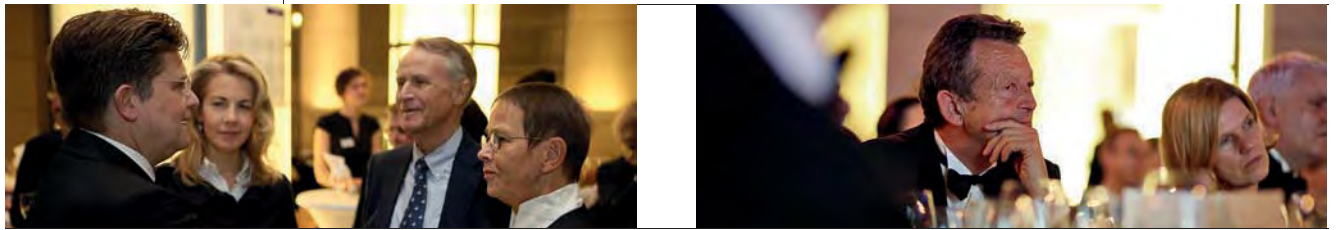


Helga M. Schmid, Secretary General, European External Action Service

Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany

*Aspen Summer Party 2017 of the Aspen Institute Germany
and the "Verein der Freunde"*

June 19, 2018



Aspen Gala 2017 October 26, 2017

On the evening of the Transatlantic Conference, October 26, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted its third Aspen Annual Gala, honoring **Wolf Biermann**, German poet, composer, and singer, and Dr. **Guido Goldman**, founder of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, with the Shepard Stone Award. About 190 guests attended the gala dinner at the “Atrium” of the Deutsche Bank in Berlin. Following a champagne reception, the guests were greeted by Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany. Welcome remarks were also made by **Till Staffeldt**, Managing Director of Deutsche Bank and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aspen Institute Germany, and **Eckart von Klaeden**, Vice President and Head of External Affairs of Daimler AG and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aspen Institute Germany. Mr. von Klaeden read a welcome note written for the occasion by Chancellor **Angela Merkel**. **Sawsan Chebli**, Secretary of State for Civil Engagement and International Affairs in Berlin, and **Elliot Gerson**, Executive Vice President of the Aspen Institute (USA), addressed the guests with words of welcome as well.

After an introduction of the Shepard Stone Award and of the two awardees by Rüdiger Lentz, author **Peter Schneider** held a laudatory speech on Dr. Guido Goldman, highlighting his achievements for the transatlantic partnership and for German-American relations in particular. He then passed the microphone to author and journalist **Hannes Stein**, who held a laudatory speech on Wolf Biermann and his activism for freedom and against oppression in the GDR. The two awardees accepted the Shepard Stone Award,

emphasizing the importance of the role of the United States in the 20th century for Germany and the need for a strong partnership between the two countries. Wolf Biermann recalled memories from his childhood during World War II, when American soldiers liberated Germany from the Nazi regime and paved the way, together with their allies, for a better future in freedom. The gala ended shortly before midnight with a recitation of a poem and two songs by Wolf Biermann.

The Aspen Institute Germany thanks its generous supporters for making this event possible:

Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann
Cerberus Deutschland Beteiligungsberatung GmbH
Deutsche Bank
Shepard Stone Foundation
UPS Deutschland





**Book Presentation and Discussion:
“Abenteuer Freiheit – Ein Wegweiser für
unsichere Zeiten”
September 26, 2017**

On September 26, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany, Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann, and Dussmann das KulturKaufhaus hosted a lecture and discussion with Professor Dr. **Carlo Strenger**, author and professor of psychology and philosophy at Tel Aviv University. Prof. Strenger presented his newest book “Abenteuer Freiheit – Ein Wegweiser für unsichere Zeiten,” in which he argues that freedom and happiness are often taken for granted in our society even though these are valuable privileges that we should constantly fight for. In a conversation with Dr. Anna Kuchenbecker, Deputy Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, and the audience, Prof. Strenger also discussed the meaning of Western values, misconception in our society, and the challenges of an increasingly interconnected, digitalized, and complex world.



**China Club Event: “Germany before the
Election 2017 – A View from the Outside
on the German Election. Four Foreign
Correspondents on Merkel & Co.”
September 20, 2017**

On September 20, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany and Deutschlandfunk hosted a panel discussion with four foreign correspondents from the US, Great Britain, Poland, and France, moderated by Deutschlandfunk Editor **Burkhard Birke**. **Jeremy Cliffe**, Berlin Bureau Chief for The Economist, **Matthew Karnitschnig**, Chief Europe Correspondent at Politico, **Rosalia Romaniec**, Polish Journalist and Managing Editor East-Central Europe at Deutsche Welle, and **Pascal Thibaut**, Correspondent at Radio France Internationale, elaborated on central topics, challenges, and figures of the German election campaign from the perspectives of their respective countries. The debate revolved around the potential outcome of the election, Angela Merkel’s role in international politics, possible government coalitions, and the implications of an entry of the AfD into the German Bundestag.



Exclusive Dinner with Mayor Rahm Emanuel July 14, 2017

On July 14, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany together with the American Academy in Berlin and the German-American Fulbright Commission hosted an exclusive dinner discussion with **Rahm Emanuel**, Mayor of the City of Chicago, at the Restaurant Einstein Stammhaus. The confidential discussion centered around current transatlantic topics such as the G20 Summit and its implications for the future of the transatlantic relationship.

Kennedy Breakfast with Mayor Eric Garcetti July 6, 2017

On July 6, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive ‘Kennedy Breakfast’ with the Mayor of Los Angeles, **Eric Garcetti**, at Schöneberg’s city hall. In a conversation with **Annette Riedel**, Senior Editor at Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Mayor Garcetti discussed the role of mayors on the national and international level, the importance of the digital and creative sectors for his city, and the pioneering role cities play in preventing climate change. The interview was broadcast in German on Saturday July 8, 2017 as part of the program ‘Tacheles’ and is available online in the Deutschlandfunk Kultur media library. Following the interview, Mr. Garcetti engaged in a discussion with guests. The event was made possible by the generous support of visitBerlin and the Motion Picture Association. The Aspen Institute Germany thanks the Senate of Berlin and the Sister Cities of Los Angeles for their support in organizing this event.



Assembly of the “Verein der Freunde” 2017 June 12, 2017

On June 12, 2017, the “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts” met prior to the summer party to hold its annual assembly in the Mendelssohn Remise in Berlin. The board presented their activity and financial reports and assessed that the year 2016 and its events had been a great success. Moreover, Arno Heuermann, Helmut Kranzmaier, and Jan Losemann were reelected for three more years on the Board of the “Verein der Freunde.”



Aspen Summer Party 2017 of the Aspen Institute Germany and the “Verein der Freunde” June 12, 2017

On June 12, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany and the “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts” hosted their annual summer party at the Mendelssohn Remise in Berlin. The evening’s guest of honor was **Helga M. Schmid**, Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS). In a conversation with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, Ms. Schmid shared her thoughts on “Powerful Alliance or Lame Duck? What Can We Expect from European Foreign Policy?”. The discussion primarily focused on the EU’s role in security and development policy matters, its role in international conflict prevention and resolution as well as on the importance of combining European resources. Following the discussion, over 100 guests spent a lovely summer night with piano music in the historic Mendelssohn Remise court yard.

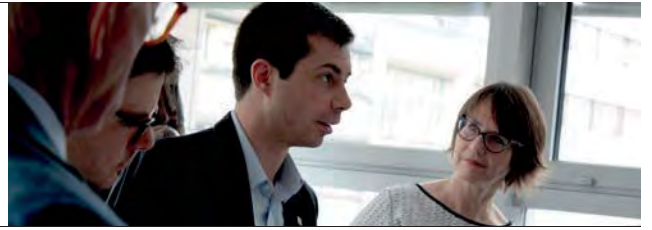


Conference: “Next Europe” June 8, 2017

What will Europe’s future look like? On June 8, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg and the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Berlin hosted a conference on the topic “Next Europe.” The conference began with a keynote speech by **Elmar Brok**, Member and former Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament. The first panel debate on the topic of “Good Governance – Bad Governance: Does Europe need to reinvent itself?” focused on current challenges like the developments in Poland and Hungary and the handling of criticism of the European Union. In a second discussion, the digital transformation, its impact on Europe’s society and economy, and the opportunity for European cooperation in this field were discussed. The conference ended on a very positive note as **Richard Kühnel**, Head of Representation of the European Commission in Germany, noted that it was worth defending the European dream with self-confidence and trust.

China Club Event: “4 Months Down, 44 Months to Go – Two American Perspectives on President Trump” May 24, 2017

On May 24, 2017, the Aspen Institute hosted a discussion and subsequent reception at the China Club Berlin on the topic “4 Months Down, 44 Months to Go – Two American Perspectives on President Trump.” Four months after the inauguration of Donald Trump as 45th president of the United States, the effects of his presidency have not only been felt in the United States, but also by its allies in Europe and outside the western hemisphere. The Aspen Institute Germany’s distinguished trustees **David Knowler**, Chief Operating Officer of Cerberus Deutschland GmbH, and **Frank Sportolari**, President of United Parcel Service Deutschland, engaged in a rich and fruitful debate and shared their personal insights from distinctive perspectives. It was argued that Donald Trump constitutes an interesting subject for analysis due to his unconventional style of governing. Topics included Trump’s electoral campaign, US-trade relations, US-German relations, and the administration’s approach to the US federal budget.



**Discussion and Book Presentation:
“Qualitative Freedom: Self-Determination
in Cosmopolitan Responsibility – Questions
about Sociological and Ecological
Sustainability”
April 4, 2017**

On April 4, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany and the Liberal Club Berlin-Brandenburg hosted a book presentation and discussion with Professor Dr. **Claus Dierksmeier**, Director of the Global Ethic Institute at the University of Tübingen. The center of discussion was his new book “Qualitative Freedom: Self-Determination in Cosmopolitan Responsibility.” In a discussion with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute, Professor Dierksmeier explained his book’s five core theses and outlined his understanding of freedom. The participants further talked about different concepts of freedom, their consequences, and what freedom means in the context of contemporary issues like terrorism, climate change, or digitalization.

**Exclusive Brunch with Mayor Pete Buttigieg
April 2, 2017**

The Aspen Institute Germany hosted **Pete Buttigieg**, the Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and recent candidate for Chairman of the Democratic National Committee on Sunday, April 2, 2017, for an off-the-record brunch to talk about American progressivism after the 2016 elections and US foreign policy in the Trump era. The 35-year-old openly gay veteran is considered one of the rising stars of the Democratic Party and a champion for the role of cities in driving state and national policy-making.



**Brown Bag Lunch: “A Shifting International Order: New Challenges and Opportunities for Canada’s and New Zealand’s Relations towards Europe”
March 29, 2017**

On March 29, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Brown Bag lunch discussion featuring H.E. **Marie Gervais-Vidricaire**, Ambassador of Canada in Berlin, and H.E. **Rodney Harris**, Ambassador of New Zealand in Berlin. The discussion under Chatham House Rule focused on the challenges and opportunities for Canada’s and New Zealand’s relations towards Europe in a shifting international order. The participants discussed current joint challenges such as the changing role of the US in the international order, international trade relations, and the impact of the Brexit. A special emphasis was placed on the implications of these developments for Canada’s and New Zealand’s political and economic relations towards Germany and other European countries.

**Exclusive Breakfast with Robby Mook
March 14, 2017**

On March 14, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany’s Public Program hosted an exclusive discussion with **Robby Mook**, veteran Democratic political operative and former campaign manager for the 2016 Hillary Clinton presidential campaign. In a conversation with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, the main themes of the 2016 election campaign were discussed, as well as how the Clinton team attempted to respond to alleged Russian interference in the US election. The discussion highlighted questions about how to tackle fake news, especially in election contexts like the 2016 presidential campaign and the German Federal Election in September 2017.



Brown Bag Lunch: “From Reluctant to Destructive: How Will the Leaders of the Free World Shape the Liberal Order in 2017 and Beyond?”
March 9, 2017

On March 9, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted a Brown Bag lunch discussion featuring Dr. **Michael J Mazarr**, Associate Director of RAND Arroyo Center’s Strategy, Doctrine, and Resources Program and Senior Political Scientist at RAND Corporation, and Professor Dr. **Joachim Krause**, Academic Director at the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University. The discussion addressed the question: “From Reluctant to Destructive: How Will the Leaders of the Free World Shape the Liberal Order in 2017 and Beyond?”. The participants discussed today’s state of the liberal order, its future organization and development as well as current and future challenges under Chatham House Rule. A special emphasis was placed on the future international role of China and Russia as well as on the role of the new US administration, the European Union, and Germany in shaping the international order.



Exclusive Discussion on the Sidelines of the Munich Security Conference: “Strategic Upheaval and Security Strategy Formation”
February 17, 2017

On February 17, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany and Goethe University Frankfurt hosted a high-level off-the-record lunch and discussion at the 2017 Munich Security Conference addressing the question of whether or not strategic planning is still possible in an age of uncertainty and upheaval. The lunch included impulse statements by **Charlie Kupchan**, former Senior Director for Europe at the National Security Council under President Barack Obama, and Ambassador **Kurt Volker**, former US Ambassador to NATO under President George W. Bush. Following these presentations, the participants discussed the role of domestic politics in driving foreign policy decision-making, the role of strategic planning institutions, the general purpose of strategies as well as possible barriers to the development of strategies.



**Exclusive Discussion on the Sidelines of the
Munich Security Conference with US Governor
John R. Kasich
February 17, 2017**

On Friday, February 17, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany organized an exclusive background meeting with US Governor **John R. Kasich** from Ohio, a presidential candidate for the Republican Party in 2016, as a side event to the Munich Security Conference at the offices of Rückel & Collegen. The dialog with members of the German Bundestag, transatlantic think tanks, and representatives of the German business community mainly focused on the expectations of German transatlanticists regarding the new US administration and possible consequences of Trump's announcements to radically change the course of US policies. Both sides agreed that the new administration could not be judged on grounds of mere election rhetoric and the first statements of some of the incoming Trump appointees.

**China Club Event: "The Strong Man on the
Bosporus: What Does President Erdoğan
Want?"
January 24, 2017**

On January 24, 2017, the Aspen Institute Germany hosted an exclusive discussion at the China Club in Berlin with Ambassador **Martin Erdmann**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Turkey. The topic of the event was "The Strong Man on the Bosporus: What Does President Erdoğan Want?". In a conversation with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, current topics pertaining to EU-Turkey relations were discussed, with special emphasis on the German-Turkish relationship. The discussion focused equally on the collaboration in managing the refugee crisis and on the future cooperation within NATO, as well as on the significance of the trade relationship and the present national and global political developments.



*Transatlantic Workshop
May 16, 2017*



KEY STAFF



Jan an Haack | Program Officer

– Jan an Haack was a Program Officer in the Digital Program of the Aspen Institute Germany from March 2017 until June 2018. He studied Cultural Anthropology and American Studies in Berlin, Buenos Aires, and Potsdam. For his PhD dissertation, he used an

affect theory approach to examine the intersections of US evangelicalism and a globalized economy. He was a visiting graduate research fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University and won a PhD scholarship from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Prior to his university training, Jan worked in tech as a System Administrator and Web Developer, which built the foundation for his ongoing engagement with all things digital.



Kerstin Bacher | Program Officer

– Kerstin Bacher joined the Aspen Institute Germany as Program Officer in May 2018. She previously served as Project Manager at adelphi, a Berlin based think tank in the field of energy, climate, and international cooperations. Prior to that she

worked as a consultant for a management consulting firm focusing on energy companies for three years. Kerstin also interned at then-Senator Obama's office in 2008 as well as at the French Presidential Palace in 2011. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Economics from Berlin's Humboldt University and spent an exchange year at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Kerstin holds a master's degree in International Affairs from Sciences Po Paris and spent a semester abroad studying at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) as well as at the Harvard Kennedy School.



Tyson Barker | Acting Deputy Director, Program Director and Fellow

– Tyson Barker is Program Director and Fellow at the Aspen Institute Germany responsible for the Institute's Digital and Transatlantic Program. Barker comes to Aspen from the Brandenburg Institute for Society

and Security (BIGS). Prior to that, he served as Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs at the US State Department in Washington, D.C. from 2014 to 2015. Prior to joining State, he worked for 6 years at the Bertelsmann Foundation, most recently as the Director for Trans-Atlantic Relations. Barker has a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and a master's degree from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University.



Tina Bories | Program Assistant

– Tina worked at the Aspen Institute Germany as a Program Assistant from August 2018 to November 2018 supporting the Aspen Berlin Transatlantic Forum. She holds a B.A. in German Literatures and Media Studies from the University of Paderborn with a semester

abroad at the University of Lorraine in Metz, France. During her studies, she completed an internship at the local newspaper in Hamm and gained subsequent work experience as a freelancer for the newspaper. Tina started her M.A. in Media and Culture Analysis: Theatre and Media Cultures in a Transnational Space in 2016. The integrated, bilingual German-French study program was run during the first semester at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, during the second semester at the University of Vienna, Austria, and during the third semester at the University of Nantes, France.



Alexandra Dinkler | Program Officer – Alexandra joined the Aspen Institute Germany in 2016. Since June 2017, Alexandra is a Program Officer in the Public Program. Alexandra recently completed her master's degree at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies of the

Freie Universität Berlin, focusing her thesis on the convergence of character narratives in Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. She received her bachelor's degree from the Freie Universität Berlin in 2015. Prior to studying in Berlin, she lived in Canada and in the United States, where she worked for the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Alexandra speaks English, German, French, and Spanish.



Valeska Esch | Acting Deputy Director and Program Director – Valeska works as Acting Deputy Director and Program Director for Europe with the Aspen Institute Germany. She is responsible for Aspen Germany's activities on Southeast Europe, the Visegrad, and Eastern Partnership countries.

Valeska has a longstanding experience working on the Western Balkans and has published on the Western Balkan policies of the EU and Germany. She joined Aspen in February 2009. She holds an M.A. in Political Science and International and European Law with a focus on European politics and Southeast Europe, for which she studied at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn and the University of Birmingham. Prior to joining Aspen, she worked for an event management firm and the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNUEHS) in Bonn.



Thorsten Freers | Senior Program Officer – Thorsten joined Aspen in June 2015. From January 2017 until April 2018, Thorsten was the Senior Program Officer in Aspen's transatlantic exchange programs – the Aspen German-American Dialog and the Bundestag and Congress Staffers

Exchange Program. Prior to that, he had been a Political Advisor in the German Bundestag and Project Manager with INPOLIS UCE GmbH. Thorsten holds a B.A. in Social Sciences from the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He gained further professional experience as freelance Liaison Officer, among others for the Federal Foreign Office. Thorsten started his professional career as soldier and officer in the German Armed Forces and today serves as First Lieutenant of the Reserve at the Bundeswehr Command and Staff College in Hamburg.



Miriam Heß | Contact Management – Miriam Katharina Heß worked as a student assistant at the Aspen Institute Germany from August to December 2018 and was responsible for contact management. Born in Lower Saxony, she studied political science at the Universities of

Greifswald and Hamburg. Currently she is doing a master's degree in "National and International Administration and Policy" at the University of Potsdam. Miriam also works at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) as a student research assistant. Because of her position at the DGAP, an internship at the German society for Eastern European studies (DGO), and various stays in Russia, Miriam has comprehensive knowledge in working with Russian foreign policy and Eastern Europe in the EU in a scientific manner. Miriam is fluent in Russian and English and is currently learning Bulgarian.



Tobias Jerzewski | Program Officer – Tobias is a Program Officer in the Aspen Institute Germany's Digital Program. He recently finished a dual master's degree in European Affairs at Sciences Po Paris and the Free University Berlin. Prior to that, Tobias completed his bachelor's

degree in Political Science at Otto-Suhr-Institut of Political Science at the Free University Berlin and HEC Paris. Tobias' research interests include European integration, Poland's role within the EU, the European neighborhood policy, and Franco-German Relations. He also has a particular passion for Hannah Arendt's work with a special emphasis on her case for Federalism. Tobias volunteers as Head of Partnerships & Development with The Policy Corner.



Sonja Kaufmann | Program Officer – Sonja joined the Aspen Institute in June 2018 as part of the Transatlantic Program and is responsible for the Aspen Berlin Transatlantic Forum. She holds an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Potsdam as well as a Graduate Certificate in Foreign

Policy from the American University in Washington, D.C.. Before joining Aspen, she was a Research Associate at the Hertie School of Governance and Associate Editor for 'The Governance Report' publication series. During her studies, Sonja has gained work experience with AICGS, the German Federal Foreign Office, and the US Embassy in Berlin.



Carina Kempf | Senior Program Officer – Carina Kempf is a Senior Program Officer at the Aspen Institute Germany where she heads the Leadership Program. Prior, she worked for the Aspen Southeast Europe Program and the Aspen Berlin Transatlantic Forum. Carina holds a bachelor's degree

in Political Science and Law from the Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena and received her master's degree in International Security with Distinction from the University of Leicester. She completed her second master's degree in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin, where she is currently a doctoral candidate. Her dissertation is about security, migration, and social urban space. Due to her strong focus on questions regarding security, peace, conflict studies, and questions of governance, she interned with the Research and Documentation Service of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Embassy in Helsinki as well as with the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK). She gained working experience in international conference management as Project Assistant at the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS). In addition, Carina is a member of the United Nations Association of Germany (DGVN) and the German Atlantic Association (DAG).



Lena Kieseewetter | Chief of Staff – Lena joined the Aspen Institute Germany in 2012. She was the head of the Public Program and in charge of board relations, fundraising, budgeting, and membership coordination. Lena studied political science and peace research at the universities of

Freiburg, Oslo, Toronto, and at ETH Zurich, where she graduated with an M.A. Before joining the Aspen Institute, she worked at the German Embassy in Oslo

and conducted field research on human rights activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Swedish NGO Civil Rights Defenders. Her further experience includes university research and teaching as well as adult education. Besides working at the Aspen Institute Germany, she is a research associate and lobbying activist at the German human rights organization Genocide Alert. In July 2017, she became the Managing Director of the Willy Brandt School of School of Public Policy.



Martin Klingst | Senior Fellow
– Martin Klingst is a Senior Political Correspondent with DIE ZEIT in Berlin, Germany. Before, he served as his paper's Bureau Chief in Washington, D.C. (2007-2014) and as DIE ZEIT's Senior Political Editor and Managing Editor of the political section in Hamburg

(1998-2007). Mr. Klingst studied law in Freiburg, Geneva, and Hamburg and worked for the Institute of International Affairs at the University of Hamburg. There he also taught German Constitutional Law. In 2006, he was a fellow at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, where he lectured on the German reform process, on the Transatlantic relations, terrorism, and Europe's engagement in the Middle East. Before assuming his position with DIE ZEIT in 1996, Mr. Klingst worked as a journalist for the North German Public Broadcasting Corporation NDR and the weekly paper *Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt*. He wrote on domestic topics as well as on international affairs. He covered the Balkan wars, the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Transatlantic relations and lately also the refugee crisis. In 2012 he was honored with the George F. Kennan editorial award and in 2016 with the German Reporter Award. In 2016 his book "Menschenrechte" (human rights) was published by Reclam.



Mirijam Koch | Program Officer
– Mirijam Koch was a Program Officer for the Transatlantic Exchange Programs from February 2017 to December 2018, where she managed the Bundestag and Congress Staffers Exchange Program and the German-American Dialog. She combines

an in-depth knowledge of political processes with several years of experience in project management, political campaigns, and public relations. Currently, she is finishing her doctorate degree in political science with a focus on US foreign policy with Iran and interest group research. Prior to joining the Aspen Institute Germany, she cooperated with the United States Studies Center at the University of Sydney, Australia, where she lived for over two years.



Monika Kreutz | Senior Program Officer
– Monika joined the Aspen Institute Germany in December 2018. She is responsible for board relations as well as fundraising activities and the Public Program. She came to Aspen from the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, where she managed

the Chamber's signature events as well as the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for 6 years. Prior to that, she worked for the American Academy in Berlin in the Development Department and PR Agency Amend. From 1999 – 2009 she worked as Executive Assistant to the Director, Liaison to the Board of Trustees, and Program Officer at the Aspen Institute Germany. During her four-year tenure in Boston, she worked in the research department of the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, Boston, MA. After her university studies in Bonn she started her career as research assistant and speech writer for the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the German Bundestag.


Dr. Anna Kuchenbecker

Deputy Director – Dr. Anna Kuchenbecker served as the Institute's Deputy Director from 2015 to 2018. Now she is Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships at ECFR. Based in the Berlin office, she is responsible for ECFR's strategic partnerships and

development operation. Prior to Aspen, Anna spent more than thirteen years in Washington, D.C., working in various executive positions in the nonprofit sector and higher education. She was a Senior Partnership Adviser at the Institute for Inclusive Security, a foundation promoting the participation of women in peace processes. Moreover, she worked for Washington's local NPR station, The Brookings Institution, George Washington Law School, American University's Career Center, and Brucerius Law School, establishing its Washington Office. Anna started her career as an Assistant Professor at the history department at Hamburg University, until she moved to the US in early 2002. She holds a Ph.D in History and a Master of Arts in History and Slavic Languages. In addition, she is a Deputy Chair at Women in International Security Germany and Trustee of Berlin's English speaking radio station, KCRW Berlin. She also serves as global ambassador for SameSky, a nonprofit organization empowering women genocide survivors in Rwanda.


Isabelle Kues | Program

Assistant – Isabelle was a Program Assistant in the Aspen Institute's Southeast Europe Program until December 2018. She attained her B.A. in Ethnology and Political Science at the Ruprecht-Karls University Heidelberg in 2016, with a semester abroad at the

Gajah Mada University Yogyakarta, Indonesia. During the time of her study, she completed internships at the Institute

for the Advancement of Education and Integration, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Bonn. Isabelle started her M.A. study program National and International Administration and Policy, at the University of Potsdam, in the fall of 2016. She gained further work experience at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York in the winter of 2017.


Christina Lahr | Finance &

Controlling – Christina joined the Aspen Institute as Financial Officer in September 2018. Prior to that, Christina has gained broad experience in Financial Accounting and Controlling when working for more than 20 years in an international pharmaceutical

Company. Christina is a Foreign Language Correspondent and studied Business Administration (Diplom-Betriebswirt) focussing on international business. Before joining the Aspen Institute, she worked as a Controller at the American Academy in Berlin.


Rüdiger Lentz | Executive

Director – Rüdiger Lentz is the Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany. From 2009 until 2013, he served as the Executive Director of the German-American Heritage Foundation and Museum in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, he worked as a TV correspondent

and magazine journalist for Der Spiegel, ARD Television, Rias Berlin, and Deutsche Welle for over three decades. During his time as Bureau Chief for Deutsche Welle in Washington, D.C., he was a Visiting Lecturer at Harvard University, the School of Foreign Service in Washington and a regular guest on CNN and C-Span. Mr. Lentz has been a long-time member of the Atlantik-Brücke and a founding member of the German American Business Council (GABC) in Washington, D.C.



Charlotte Mencke | Program Assistant – Charlotte is a Program Assistant in the Aspen Institute's Leadership Program. Prior to that, she was active in the Institute's Digital Program. Charlotte completed a dual B.A. in political science at Sciences Po Paris and Freie Universität Berlin with a focus

on political theory in the fall of 2018. During her studies, she gained work experience with the Hessian Education Ministry, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Washington, D.C. office, and the German Foreign Ministry. She was also a board member of Model United Nations (Nancy) and Young Democrats Abroad (Berlin). In the spring of 2019, she will co-organize a student seminar on American Grand Strategy and US foreign policy.



Marvin Nowak | Program Officer – Marvin Nowak joined Aspen as a Program Officer in the Public Program in September 2018. His exchange year in Springfield, Oregon, as part of the Congress-Bundestag-Youth-Exchange (CBYX), laid the foundation for his transatlantic

profile. Following his bachelor's degree in English/American and Romance Studies in Aachen, he took on a master's program in North American Studies at the University of Bonn in 2016. Over the course of the latter, he interned at the European Parliament in Brussels, the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. as well as for a member of the German Bundestag.



Mareike Oldemeinen | Program Officer – Mareike Oldemeinen was a Program Officer in Aspen Germany's Digital Program until December 2018. She was born in Lower Saxony but spent many years of her life in Scotland. There, she obtained her master's degree in International Relations at the

University of St. Andrews, focusing on US foreign- and defense-policy and terrorism studies. Afterwards, Mareike worked for Deutsche Bank AG in Corporate Finance as a Relationship Manager (Assistant Vice President). In this role, she gained extensive experience in the coverage of international corporates. In order to further build and strengthen her transatlantic profile, Mareike most recently pursued a second master's degree in transatlantic studies at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Humboldt-University Berlin, from which she graduated in September 2018.



Yannic Remme | Program Officer – Yannic is a Program Officer at the Aspen Institute Germany. Although he was born in London, England, he grew up in Germany and the United States of America. After graduating from the German International School Washington D.C., he obtained

his Bachelor's degree in International and European Law (LL.B.) from the European Law School at Maastricht University in 2015. Having worked with the Colombian Ministry of Education and the Heart for Change Foundation in Colombia throughout 2016, he joined Aspen's Southeast Europe Program in January 2017. In September 2018, he started his Master of International Affairs at the Hertie School of Governance and continues to work in his position at Aspen.


Tanja Treysse | Office Manager

Tanja joined the Aspen Institute in March 2014. Tanja is a bilingual secretary also holding a business degree. During her studies, she worked as an assistant to the Sales and Marketing Director of Transrapid International (marketing of trains

with magnetic levitation) among other positions. Afterwards she worked for the Head of Electricity Trade of the BDEW (German Association of Energy and Water Industries) before she became Managing Assistant of IZ Klima, an association for the distribution of information about climate friendly power generation, for six years.


Yvonne van Diepen | Program

Officer – Yvonne was responsible for the Public Program of the Aspen Institute Germany from August 2015 to January 2017. Yvonne is specialized in international politics as well as public international law. Prior to joining Aspen, Yvonne worked as

a program coordinator in the Public and Economic Policy Program at the American Academy in Berlin. As a research associate at the German Council on Foreign Relations, she managed a project on transatlantic security cooperation and conducted research in the field of German and European foreign and security policy. Yvonne holds a Diploma in Latin American Area Studies from the University of Cologne and of the Universidad Central del Ecuador in Quito.


Olga van Zijverden | Program

Officer – Olga van Zijverden joined Aspen in February 2018 and works as Program Officer with the Institute's Southeast Europe Program. She holds an MA in European Studies focusing on Central and Eastern Europe from the University of Leipzig and the

Kliment Ohridski University in Sofia. In her bachelor's she pursued a French-German Degree in International Economics. Prior to Aspen, Olga worked at the policy research institute Rand Europe in Brussels on diverse projects for European institutions. Later she managed a European Commission's project at TÜV Rheinland Consulting in the field of digitalization. Olga speaks German, English, and French.


Wiebke Wartenberg | Program

Officer – Wiebke Wartenberg joined the Aspen Institute Germany as a Program Officer in the Public Program in February 2017. She is responsible for the “Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts e.V.” and its members. Prior to Aspen, she completed her

master's degree in North American Studies at Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena. For her master's thesis about American public diplomacy towards West Germany during the Kennedy administration, she conducted research at the National Archives in College Park, MD. Wiebke worked as an intern for both the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the US Consulate General in Leipzig. Prior to her master's, she completed a bachelor's degree in psychology at Jena University and Michigan State University.



Dr. Klaus Wittmann | Senior Fellow — Dr. Klaus Wittmann retired from the Bundeswehr in 2008 after 42 years of service that included battalion and brigade command, academic phases at Hamburg University and at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, military policy assignments

in the Ministry of Defence, Bonn, and at NATO Headquarters, Brussels, as well as higher officer education at the Führungsakademie, Hamburg, and the NATO Defense College, Rome, where he concluded his career as Director Academic Planning and Policy. He is a security policy and NATO expert, has lectured and published widely on history, strategy, and arms control topics, and teaches contemporary history at Potsdam University. Since 2011, he has been supporting Aspen Germany as a Senior Fellow.

PROGRAM 2019

JANUARY

January 15

Discussion: “Alliance ou Mésalliance? Europe Waits for Macron & Merkel”

H.E. Anne-Marie Descôtes, Ambassador of the French Republic in Berlin

Dr. Almut Möller, Head of the Berlin office of the European Council on Foreign Relations

Eckart von Klaeden, Vice President and Head of External Affairs at Daimler AG

January 21

Background Briefing on the Current Situation in the Western Balkans for Staffers from Bundestag

Alexander Jung, Deputy Head of Division 212 Bilateral Relations to the Countries of Central, Southeastern and Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia at the German Federal Chancellery

Thomas Motak, Deputy Head of Division E12, EU External Relations (EU Enlargement, European Neighborhood Policy, Migration) at the Federal Foreign Office

Dirk Schattschneider, Head of Division 302, Eastern Europe, Southeast Europe and Caucasus at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Sabine Stöhr, Head of Division 209 Western Balkans at the Federal Foreign Office

Helge Tolksdorf, Head of Division EU-Enlargement, Southeastern Europe, Turkey at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

January 24

Brown Bag Lunch: “China’s Tech Strategy: Priorities, Challenges and Ties with Europe”

Jennifer Zhu Scott, Founding Principle of Radian Partners
Donata Hopfen, Digital Change Driver

January 29

Roundtable Discussion: “A European Future for Kosovo?”

Fisnik Korenica, Senior Research Fellow at Group for Legal and Political Studies

Peter Beyer, Member of the German Bundestag, Rapporteur for Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation in the Federal Foreign Office

Sabine Stöhr, Head of Western Balkans Division at the Federal Foreign Office

FEBRUARY

February 12

Exclusive Breakfast Discussion with Montenegro’s Foreign Minister H.E. Srđan Darmanović

Montenegro’s Foreign Minister H.E. Srđan Darmanović

February 15-17

Side Events at the 2019 Munich Security Conference

Niels Annen, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office
Peter Beyer, Member of the Bundestag and the German Government’s Transatlantic Coordinator

François Heisbourg, Senior Advisor for Europe at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and Special Advisor at the Paris-based Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique

Prof. Dr. Gunther Hellman, Professor for International Relations at the Goethe-University Frankfurt

John Hickenlooper, former Governor of Colorado (2011-9)

Charles Kupchan, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University

Dr. Daniela Schwarzer, Director of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Dr. Nathalie Tocci, Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali and Special Advisor to HRVP Mogherini
Ambassador Kurt Volker, Executive Director of the McCain Institute for International Leadership

February 18
Debrief on the 2019 Munich Security Conference

Peter Beyer, Member of the Bundestag and the German government's Transatlantic Coordinator

Jim Townsend, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Security Program, Center for a New American Security (CNAS), former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD)

February 21-24
Aspen Leadership Seminar "Philosophy and Practice"

February 25
Visegrad Workshop "Research, Innovation, and Technology" in Budapest

MARCH

March 5-7
Strategic Foresight Workshop: "How to Achieve Economic Competitiveness in the Western Balkans by 2030?"

March 11
Book Presentation and Discussion: "Trumps Amerika: Reise in ein weißes Land"

Martin Klingst, Political Correspondent of the Editorial Department, Die Zeit

March 14
Workshop: "AI & the Future of Work"

March 19
Exclusive Discussion: "Pick and Choose? Großbritanniens Abschied aus Europa"

Metin Hakverdi, Member of the German Bundestag

Damien McGuinness, Correspondent, BBC

Ambassador Dr. Peter Wittig, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in London

Bettina Vestring, independent journalist and author

March 19
Panel Discussion: "Is Illiberalism Epidemic? Lessons for Europe"

Prof. Dr. Tanja Börzel, Chair for European Integration at the Otto-Suhr-Institute for Political Science of the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Prof. Dr. Katerina Kolozova from Macedonia, Executive Director at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities in Skopje, Macedonia

Ass. Prof. Dr. Anton Shekhovtsov, Research Associate at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in Kiev, Ukraine

March 27-29
Aspen Institute International Committee Meeting in Berlin

March 28-29
Conference on Artificial Intelligence: "Humanity Defined: Politics and Ethics in the AI Age"

APRIL

April 24
China Club Event with Janina Kugel

Janina Kugel, Chief Human Resources Officer, Member of the Managing Board of Siemens AG

MAY

May 7-10

Conference: “Strengthening Parliaments and Their Role in the Western Balkans Reform Processes”

May 16-17

Cyber Security Forum

JUNE

June 5

Summer Party 2019 of the Aspen Institute Germany and the “Verein der Freunde”

June 5

Assembly of the “Verein der Freunde” 2019

June 13-16

Aspen Leadership Seminar “Philosophy and Practice”

OCTOBER

Berlin Transatlantic Forum

NOVEMBER

November 7-10

Aspen Leadership Seminar “Philosophy and Practice”

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