

Agenda

High-Level Strategy Group

Bertelsmann Stiftung Berlin

Werderscher Markt 6,

Berlin, Germany 10117

17. April 2023

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Opening Lunch and Introductions

Welcoming Remarks (Ralph Heck)

Overview of Bertelsmann Stiftung's Europe programming (Stephan Vopel and Malte Zabel)

Short Break

WORKING MEETING

1:30pm – 2:15pm

Economic and Social Cohesion (Reiner Hoffmann)

2:15pm – 3:00pm

External Relations (Arancha González Laya and Christoph Heusgen)

3:00pm – 3:15pm

Coffee Break

3:15pm – 4:00pm

Instruments and Resource Allocation in Times of Transformation (Eva Maydell)

4:00pm – 4:30pm

Strategic Outlook

Summary Discussion and Next Steps

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Social and Economic Cohesion (Hoffmann)

Is there a trade-off at work between external capacity and internal cohesion and if so, how should the Union's institutions and policy makers balance these priorities?

How can we succeed in ensuring that as many regions as possible benefit from the green and digital transformation – not just those that are already strong, such as service-oriented metropolitan regions? Is there a trade-off between the fastest possible transformation (Green Deal, Digital Decade) and regional cohesion?

How should we conceptualize social equity and redistribution in times of rapid transformation such that societies are not just resilient (in terms of an ability to return to relative stability) but are – in fact – able to bounce forward?

External Relations (Heusgen and González Laya)

What criteria should inform the re-examination of the European Union's external relations?

Which decisions in foreign policy and economic statecraft will need to be prioritised to enable coherent responses to current and near-term challenges?

How can the EU balance the simultaneity of challenges in times of polycrises and accelerating changes to the global environment? What role for the nation-state versus the European level?

How should the EU adjust its definition of sovereignty considering concurrent challenges?

Resource Allocation and Instruments (Maydell)

What instruments of economic statecraft and trade should be revisited considering current urgency?

How should the European Union rethink its allocation of financial, economic and industrial resources to meet the challenges of deep transformation?

What new instruments – and resources – need to be made available to support the expansion and implementation of Europe's geopolitical agenda?

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Reiner Hoffmann



Reiner Hoffmann is a German trade union official and served as chairman of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) between 2014 and 2022. Previously, Hoffmann served as head of the North Rhine regional district of IG BCE, director of the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), and deputy general secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). He also worked for the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) of the European Community, the Wuppertal Comprehensive

University, and served as head of the Research Promotion Department at the Hans Böckler Foundation. Hoffmann received a degree in economics from the Gesamthochschule Wuppertal.

MEP Eva Maydell



Eva Maydell is a member of the European Parliament. She is the president of European Movement International, the largest organization of associations and civil societies in Europe, as well as the initiator and a co-founder of Education Bulgaria 2030. In the European Parliament she is a member of the Committee on Industry and Energy. Maydell's priorities focus on enhancing skills-creation and quality education, implementation of innovation and technologies, supporting entrepreneurs and investment in Europe. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards, including "MEP of the Year" twice and rankings on the Forbes European 30 under 30 list and by the Financial Times and Apolitical, as one of the most influential young people in government. She holds a

bachelor's degree in international affairs and business administration from the American University John Cabot in Rome, Italy and a post-graduate qualification in leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Ambassador Christoph Heusgen



Ambassador Christoph Heusgen has been Chairman of the Munich Security Conference since 2022. Heusgen served as permanent representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations in New York from 2017 to 2021 and chaired the UN Security Council in April 2018 and July 2020. Starting in 2005, he advised Chancellor Merkel on foreign and security policy issues and headed the Foreign Policy Department in the Federal Chancellery as Ministerial Director. Previously, he headed the Political Staff of the European Union's High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana. Heusgen also worked in the ministerial office of Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and later headed the Europe subdivision at the Federal Foreign Office. Heusgen's earlier diplomatic assignments included senior posts in the U.S. and

France. Heusgen studied at the University of St. Gallen, Georgia Southern College and the Sorbonne in Paris. He received his doctorate from the University of St. Gallen, where he currently teaches political science.

Arancha González Laya



Arancha González is the third Dean of PSIA at Sciences Po and first woman to lead the world's third school for Politics and International Studies. Prior to joining PSIA, González served as Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (2020-2021). Previously she served as Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (2013-2020). Between 2005 and 2013 she was Chief of Staff to the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy. Before that she held senior positions at the European Commission in the areas of international trade and development. González started her career as a lawyer in the private sector. She has been a member of PSIA's Strategic Committee since 2017. A Spanish national, Ms. González holds a degree in law from the University of Navarra and a Postgraduate Degree in European Law from the University Carlos III of Madrid.

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

Ralph Heck



Ralph Heck joined the Bertelsmann Stiftung in 2019 as CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board. He was a Partner and Senior Director at the management and strategy consulting firm McKinsey & Company. He has also worked for the International Monetary Fund and as an independent consultant and supervisory board member for the Formel D Group, Klöckner & Co SE, and the Würth Group. Heck studied industrial engineering at the University of Karlsruhe and completed his doctorate in economics on the effects of exchange rate changes on trade flows within the European Union.

Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook



Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook is senior advisor in the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Europe's Future Program. Previously, she served as director and CEO of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). For over a decade prior, Clüver Ashbrook served as the executive director of the Future of Diplomacy Project at the Harvard Kennedy School, a research program she co-founded and led the university's research on Europe and India. Before that, she served on the management board of the European Policy Centre (EPC) in Brussels and in Germany, France and China for Roland Berger Strategy Consultants. She holds degrees in European policy and public administration from Brown University (BA), London School of Economics (MSc) and the Harvard Kennedy School (MPA).

Stephan Vopel



Stephan Vopel works as director of the Bertelsmann Stiftung in Berlin and as co-director of the Europe's Future Program. During his many years at the Bertelsmann Stiftung, he has focused on German-Israeli relations, social cohesion and the role of religious and cultural diversity, adaptive leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship. He studied sociology, social anthropology and history and is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (BA) and Bielefeld University (MA).

Malte Zabel



Malte Zabel is the co-director of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Europe's Future Program, which pursues projects on the EU's sovereignty, a coherent internal market, and European public opinion. Before joining the Europe team in mid-2021, Malte headed the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Office of the Executive and Supervisory Boards and worked as advisor to its CEO on several strategy related topics. Prior to the Bertelsmann Stiftung, he worked as an advisor for a member of the German

Bundestag for three and half years. Zabel studied political science and European studies and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Bonn. His dissertation focused on the development of Euroscepticism over the course of European integration and contextualized it with the EU's increasing politicization.

Matthias Meis



Matthias Meis has been Head of the Liz Mohn Center of the Bertelsmann Foundation since July 2022. Prior to that he served as a Senior Advisor to the German Executive Director at the World Bank. From 2014-2018 he was deputy head of political staff and head of political planning and strategy in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Matthias served as an advisor on Development Policy, United Nations, Foreign Cultural Policy in the Federal Chancellery from 2012-2014. He started his career at the German International Cooperation Agency GIZ in the Representation in Berlin and in the Africa-Department in the GIZ-Headquarters.

Brandon Bohrn



Brandon Bohrn works as a project manager for the Europe's Future Program at the Bertelsmann Stiftung. His work centers around U.S.-German affairs and transatlantic relations. Previously, he worked for the Bertelsmann Foundation (North America), Inc. in Washington, D.C., where he oversaw the German-American relations portfolio and other projects focused on strengthening transatlantic ties. As a Fulbright and DAAD scholar, he interned with the foreign policy team of a U.S. senator and in two U.S. diplomatic missions in Germany. Bohrn completed the TransAtlantic

Masters Program (TAM) in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.