



ZEITENWENDE:

The Changing Role of Germany in the Baltic

This 1-day conference, organized by the Baltic Geopolitics Programme of the University of Cambridge's Centre for Geopolitics and the University of Greifswald's Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research (IFZO) and supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), will investigate Germany's changing geopolitical orientation in the wake of the *Zeitenwende* and its impact on the relationships between Germany, the other Baltic Sea states, and the security of the region as a whole.

In recent years, Germany has had to reevaluate its position following a series of transformative events from the fall of the Berlin Wall, German re-unification, the eastwards expansion of NATO and the EU, to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This conference focuses on the impact of this reassessment for international security and relationships in the greater Baltic Sea region.

The event will take place on 11 July 2024 in the Howard Building Assembly Room of Downing College, Cambridge, and the preliminary programme is as follows:

09.15 – 09.30

Introduction and welcome

- **Prof. Brendan Simms**, *Director, Centre for Geopolitics*
- **The Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke**, *Joint Programme Leader, Baltic Geopolitics Programme, Centre for Geopolitics*

09.30– 10.15

Keynote: The relationship between Germany and the Baltic since 1914

- **Prof. Kristina Spohr**, *Professor of International History, London School of Economics and Political Science*

10.15 – 11.30

Panel 1: The evolution of German approaches to the Baltic

- **Christian Schlaga**, *German Ambassador to Estonia (2015-2019)*
- **Prof. Jörg Hackmann**, *Professor at the Institute of History and Director of the International Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Szczecin*
- **Prof. Karolina Wigura**, *Senior Fellow at the Center for Liberal Modernity and Associate Professor at the Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw*
- **Dr. Anita Bunyan**, *College Lecturer at Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge*
- Chair: **Dr. Alexander Drost**, *Scientific Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research (IFZO), University of Greifswald*

11.30 – 11.45

Coffee break

11.45 – 13.00

Panel 2: Russia, Ukraine and Germany's new era of military engagement: Domestic attitudes, regional reactions, NATO responses

- **Maira Mora**, *Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (2016–20) and Head of the EU Delegation to Belarus (2011-15)*
- **Matthias Sonn**, *German Ambassador to Lithuania (2019-2023)*
- **Brig. Gen. Torsten Gersdorf**, *German Defence Attaché, German Embassy, London*
- **Dr Timo Graf**, *Scientific Senior Councillor, Centre for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr*
- Chair: **Dr. Andris Banka**, *Senior Researcher and Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research (IFZO), University of Greifswald*

- 13.00 – 14.00 Buffet lunch
- 14.00 – 15.15 Panel 3: From *Energiewende* to *Zeitenwende*: The energy crisis, transition, and new visions for German-Baltic energy security
- **Sven Egenter**, *Editor in Chief and Executive Director, Clean Energy Wire (CLEW)*
 - **Dr. Izabela Surwillo**, *Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies*
 - **Dr. Katja Yafimava**, *Senior Research Fellow, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies*
 - Chair: **Trevelyan Wing**, *Baltic Fellow, Centre for Geopolitics*
- 15.15 – 15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30 – 16.30 Panel 4: Rethinking the Baltic: Contemporary German discourses
- **Dr. Tobias Cremer MEP**, *Member of the European Parliament and former Baltic Desk Officer, German Federal Foreign Office*
 - **Dr. Benjamin Tallis**, *Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Action Group Zeitenwende, German Council on Foreign Relations*
 - **Prof. Wolfgang Wagner**, *Professor of International Security, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*
 - Chair: **Prof. Margit Bussmann**, *Professor of International Relations, Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research (IFZO), University of Greifswald*

16.30 – 17.30

Roundtable: The impact and future of the *Zeitenwende*

- **Maira Mora**, *Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (2016–20) and Head of the EU Delegation to Belarus (2011-15)*
- **Matthias Sonn**, *German Ambassador to Lithuania (2019-2023)*
- **Dr. Benjamin Tallis**, *Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Action Group Zeitenwende, German Council on Foreign Relations*
- **Dr. Victoria Vdovychenko**, *British Academy/Cara Fellow, University of Cambridge*
- Chair: **Prof. Brendan Simms**, *Director, Centre for Geopolitics*