Expert conference:

Russia & the West
Cold Peace? The Next Stage of the EU-Russia-Relations

Berlin, 22 April 2021

List of Speakers and Moderators

Marieluise Beck founded the Center for Liberal Modernity (LibMod) together with Ralf Fücks and is the director for East-Central and Eastern Europe at LibMod. Since she was first elected as a Member of the German Bundestag in 1982, she held many positions, including Parliamentary State Secretary and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees, and Integration. As a spokesperson for Eastern Europe of the Green Parliamentary Group (2009-2017), Marieluise Beck has been well-renowned for defending human rights especially in Russia, Ukraine, the Balkans and Belarus. From 2005-2017, she was also a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. There she joined the "Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe" (ALDE). Marieluise Beck is a board member of the "Petersburg Dialogue".

Franziska Brantner has been a Member of German Bundestag since 2013. Prior to that, she was a member of the European Parliament for four years. Born in Baden-Württemberg, she studied political science and economics, and completed her doctorate on the United Nations' capacity for reform in Mannheim. From 2013 to 2017 spokesperson for children and family policy, from 2014 to 2017 chair of the Subcommittee on Civilian Crisis Prevention; 2013 - 2017 deputy member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union. Since February 2018 she is European Policy Spokesperson and Parliamentary Director of the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group, member of the Committee on European Union Affairs and a deputy member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ambassador Markus Ederer Markus Ederer, born in 1957, graduated in Law at the University of Passau. Since Oct. 2017, he has been Ambassador of the EU to Russia. Until 2017, he held the post of State Secretary at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Until 2014, Markus Ederer was Ambassador of the EU to China. From Dec. 2005 to Dec. 2010, he was the Head of Policy Planning in the German Federal Foreign Office. His career in the German Foreign Office started in 1990 when he was the Personal Secretary to Minister of State H. Schäfer. He then served in the Economic Dept of the German Embassy in Moscow. In 1993 he returned to Germany where he served in the Press Department and later became Deputy Spokesperson for the German Foreign Office. In 1999 he moved to Brussels as Head of Cabinet of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. In 2002, he became the Director of Political/Economic Assessment in the Federal Intelligence Service in Germany.

Ralf Fücks – together with Marieluise Beck – is the founder of the Center for Liberal Modernity (LibMod). He is the managing partner of LibMod, following 21 years of work in the executive of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, the political foundation associated with the Greens. Before that he was co-chair of the Greens (1989/90) and Senator for Environment and City Development in Bremen. The primary focus of his work is on sustainable development, the future of liberal democracy and on foreign policy. Ralf Fücks is a regular contributor to major newspapers and political periodicals and author of numerous books. Recently, he published "Defending Freedom" (Freiheit verteidigen, 2017). Ralf Fücks is coordinator of the committee "Ecological Modernisation" within the "Petersburg Dialogue".

Evgeny Gontmakher graduated from Moscow State University. He is a Member of the expert group "European dialogue". 2012-2020 he held the position of Deputy Director at Kudrin's Fund for development of civil initiatives. 2009-2016 he was Deputy Director and chief researcher at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO). Between 1992-2003 he held positions as Head of Department at the Russian Ministry of Labor; Deputy Minister of Social Protection; Deputy Chair of Presidential Council for Social Policy; Head of Department, Russian Governmental Staff.

Lev Gudkov is director of the Levada Center (since 2006), Doctor of Philosophy (1996), Editor-in-chief of the journal "Bulletin of Public Opinion" and Professor of the Department of Social Sciences of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. His research interests include transformation processes in post-totalitarian society, ethnic and national conflicts and relations, sociology of culture and literature. Gudkov has authored and co-authored multiple bookas and articles on sociology, including "The Soviet Common Man" (1993 and 1994), "Literature as a Social Institution" (1994, 2020), "Metaphor and Rationality" (1994), "Intelligentsia: Notes on Literary and Political Illusions" (1994, 2009), "Negative Identity" (2004), "From Gorbachev to Putin" (2005, 2011), "Abortive Modernization" (2012) and others.

Michael Harms began his professional career in 1993 as sales engineer at Philips Medical Systems in Hamburg and Moscow. After a stopover at the Liaison Office of German Business in Berlin in 2000 he was a member of the Management of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations. From 2001-2003 he additionally worked in Brussels as Executive Secretary of the Business Advisory Council for South Eastern Europe. Since 2007 he worked in Moscow as the Delegate of the German Industry and Chairman of the German-Russian Chamber of Commerce. From 2012 to 2016 Michael Harms was World spokesman of the network of German foreign chambers of commerce (AHK). In April 2016 Michael Harms became the Executive Director of the German Eastern Committee (Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft) in Berlin, renamed German Eastern Business Association after the merger with the German Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations in 2018.

Fiona Hill is the Robert Bosch senior fellow in the Center on the United States and Europe in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings. She recently served as deputy assistant to the president and senior director for European and Russian affairs on the US National Security Council from 2017 to 2019. From 2006 to 2009, she served as national intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia at The National Intelligence Council. She is co-author of "Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin" (Brookings Institution Press, 2015). Prior to joining Brookings, Hill was director of strategic planning at The Eurasia Foundation in Washington, D.C. From 1991 to 1999, she held a number of positions directing technical assistance and research projects at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, including associate director of the Strengthening Democratic Institutions Project, director of the Project on Ethnic Conflict in the Former Soviet Union, and coordinator of the Trilateral Study on Japanese-Russian-U.S. Relations.

Vladislav Inozemtsev is Russian economist, Director of the Center for Post-Industrial Studies in Moscow and Special Advisor to Russian Media Studies Project at the Middle East Media Research Institute in Washington. He chaired the Department for World Economy and International Trade at the Moscow State University's School of Public Governance and taught at various universities including MGIMO and the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. He is a member of the Russian International Affairs Council and its Scientific Committee. From 2003 to 2011, he was Editor-in-Chief of the journal Svobodnaya Mysl. Since 1994 he has authored 17 books (the latest one, Russia: An Everlasting Empire). He regularly contributes to Project Syndicate, The Independent, Gazeta Wyborcza, Novaya Gazeta, La Razon, Le Monde and other international media outlets.

Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger has been Chairman of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) since 2008. A German career diplomat, he was State Secretary (Deputy Foreign Minister) from 1998 to 2001. From 2001 to 2006, he was the Federal Republic of Germany's Ambassador to the U.S., and from 2006 to 2008, to the Court of St James's. He is a Senior Professor at the Hertie School, Berlin, and serves on the boards of companies as well as non-profit-institutions, including Atlantik-Brücke/Berlin, the American Academy/Berlin, and the Atlantic Council of the United States/Washington D.C.

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Vladimir Kara-Murza is a Russian democracy activist, politician, author, and filmmaker. He was a longtime colleague of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov and chairs the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom. Kara-Murza is a former deputy leader of the People's Freedom Party and was a candidate for the Russian State Duma. He has testified before Parliaments in Europe and North America and played a key role in the adoption of the Magnitsky mechanism that imposed sanctions on Russian human rights violators in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, and the European Union. He is a contributing writer at the Washington Post and has previously worked for the BBC, RTVi, Kommersant, and others. Kara-Murza serves as vice president at the Free Russia Foundation, as senior advisor for human rights accountability at Human Rights First, and as senior fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights. He is a recipient of several awards, including the Sakharov Prize, the Magnitsky Human Rights Award, and the Geneva Summit Courage Award.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky is a social activist, a successful entrepreneur, CEO of the oil company YUKOS. In 2001 he founded Open Russia Foundation to promote establishment and consolidation of civil society in Russia. In 2003 as a supporter of democratic changes in Russia, he criticized the rampant corruption in the country. Khodorkovsky was subsequently arrested, charged with embezzlement and tax evasion crimes he always denied and insisted on his innocence and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Amnesty International declared him prisoner of conscience. After his release in 2013 he was exiled on political grounds due to threat of renewed persecution. Khodorkovsky is currently fighting for his vision of Russia as a strong and just state, where human rights are protected, free and fair elections as well as the rule of law are guaranteed.

Pavlo Klimkin is a Ukrainian diplomat, who served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine from June 2014 to August 2019. A Moscow-educated physicist, he has worked in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry since 1993. For almost 20 years, he has been in charge of various aspects of European integration, including leading Ukrainian delegations in negotiations on an Association Agreement and a visa-free regime between Ukraine and the EU. His previous positions there included director of the department for the European Union, as well as deputy foreign minister in the First Azarov Government. In that capacity, he played a central role in negotiating the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement. Klimkin is also a former Ukrainian Ambassador to Germany (2012-14)

Tatiana Lanshina Ph.D. in Economics, CEO and Co-Founder of Goal Number Seven Association, Senior Research Associate at RANEPA. Tatiana has many years of research experience in the field of renewable energy economics and policies and energy transition. Since 2013, she has been working at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), since 2018 - as a senior research associate. In 2018, she defended her Ph.D. thesis in International Economics and acted as a co-founder and the CEO of the Association of Energy Markets Participants "Goal Number Seven". In 2020, she initiated and organized the launch of International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-RECs) in Russia. Tatiana is an author of more than 50 articles in leading scientific journals and media outlets.

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Edward Lucas is a writer and consultant specializing in European and transatlantic security. His expertise also includes energy, cyber-security, espionage, information warfare and Russian foreign and security policy. Formerly a senior editor at The Economist, he is now a senior vice-president at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). In 2008 he wrote “The New Cold War”, a prescient account of Vladimir Putin’s Russia, followed in 2011 by “Deception”, an investigative account of east-west espionage. His latest book is “Cyberphobia”. He is a regular contributor to BBC, NPR, CNN and Sky News. For many years a foreign correspondent, he was based in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Moscow and the Baltic states.

Marie Mendras is a political scientist in the field of Russian studies and Europe-Russia relations. She is professor at the Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po, and researcher with the National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris. In 2019, she was a visiting professor at Hong Kong Baptist University. In 2016-17, she served as Kennan Institute Expert at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC. She was Associate Fellow at Chatham House in 2011-2016 and professor at the London School of Economics in 2008-10. In previous years, she served as a part-time consultant at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Defense. She has been an electoral observer in key votes in Russia, Ukraine, and Armenia. Mendras is the author of "Russian Politics. The Paradox of a Weak State (2012)"; "The Rising Cost of Russia's Authoritarian Foreign Policy" (2015); Russian Elites Worry. The Unpredictability of Putinism (2016); and many more.

Jerzy Pomianowski took the leadership of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) after two years as Deputy Foreign Minister of Poland. As the director of OECD-UNDP's Partnership for Democratic Governance (2008-2011), Pomianowski supported countries destabilized by armed conflict or natural disasters. This followed his launch of Poland Aid (2006-08) and work as Director General of the Polish Foreign Service (2005-06). Pomianowski began his career as a civil servant in 1990, just after the fall of communism, first in the Ministry of Education, and then in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After being in charge of Poland's relations with Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, he was Ambassador to Japan from 1997-2002. From 1980-89, Pomianowski was an active member of the democratic opposition in Poland.

Gwendolyn Sasse is the Director of the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) and Einstein-Professor in the Comparative Study of Democracy and Authoritarianism at Humboldt University. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at Nuffield College, University of Oxford and a non-resident Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe. Her research interests include post-communist transitions and the dynamics of war, migration and protest. Her current research focuses on the war in eastern Ukraine, mobilization in Belarus, youth attitudes in Russia, and the social and political remittances of migrants. Her book The Crimea Question: Identity, Transition, and Conflict (Harvard University Press 2007; paperback 2014) won the Alexander Nove Prize of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies. She is currently writing a monograph on migrant political remittances (Oxford University Press).

Irina Scherbakova is Director of the Project "Russian Annual Historical Competition for High School Students" run by the Memorial Society (Moscow) and Chairwoman of the Board of Memorial's Research, Information and Public Enlightenment Center. She was visiting professor at the Universities of Bremen and Jena. She is a member of the Advisory Boards of the Gedenkstätte Buchenwald, Aktion Sühnezeichen, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies and the Educational Programs Council Memorial center of Auschwitz-Birkenau. She has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit of Germany, the Medal of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia, the Prize of the Moscow Helsinki Group, the Carl-von-Ossietzky-Prize and the Goethe Medal.

Lilia Shevtsova is a member of the Liberal Mission Foundation, Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy, member of the Boards of Finnish Centre for Excellence in Russian Studies, Andrei Sakharov Center on Democratic Development (Lithuania), Liberal Mission Foundation (Moscow); member of the Editorial Boards of the journals "American Purpose", "Journal of Democracy" and "New Eastern Europe"; Honorary Doctor of St.Gallen University (Switzerland). Shevtsova was a Senior Associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, founding chair of the Davos World Economic Forum Council on Russia's Future, and Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy. Shevtsova is the author of "Yeltsin's Russia: Myths and Reality"; "Putin's Russia"; "Russia–Lost in Transition: The Yeltsin and Putin Legacies"; "Lonely Power".

Susan Stewart is currently Acting Head of the Eastern Europe and Eurasia Research Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin, where she has worked since 2007. She specializes in the foreign and domestic policy of Ukraine, as well as focusing on EU-Russia and German-Russian relations and developments in the Eastern Partnership context. She holds a B.A. in Slavic Studies from Harvard University, an M.A. in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a Dr. rer. soc. from the University of Mannheim (Germany). Her recent and upcoming publications deal with the politics of history in the Russian context and the evolution of Ukrainian foreign policy, as well as EU-Ukraine relations.

Johann Wadephul is Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the Bundestag for Foreign Affairs, Defense Policy and Council of Europe. Member of the German Bundestag since the 17th electoral term (October 2009). Since 2018 Deputy chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the Bundestag responsible for foreign affairs, defense, Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), Council of Europe. Substitute member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Substitute member of the Defense Committee; Substitute member of the Committee on European Union Affairs; Chairman of the Bundestag group of CDU parliamentarians from Schleswig- Holstein. Member of the executive committee of the Petersburg Dialogue German-Russian discussion forum; Member of the German-Japanese Forum; Member of the German Council on Foreign Relations.

Celeste Wallander is President and CEO of the U.S.-Russia Foundation. She served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia/Eurasia on the National Security Council (2013-2017), as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia (2009 to July 2012), professor at American University (2009-2013), visiting professor at Georgetown University (2006-2008), Director for Russia/Eurasia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (2001-2006), Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (2000-2001), and professor of Government at Harvard (1989-2000). She is the author of over 80 publications on European and Eurasian security issues, focused on Russian foreign and defense strategy. She received her Ph.D. (1990), M.Phil. (1986) and M.A. (1985) degrees from Yale University, and her B.A. (1983 – summa cum laude) from Northwestern University. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Atlantic Council of the United States, and the International Institute for Strategic Studies.