

Conference: "Russia and the West"

Turning Point: How to deal with an repressive and confrontational Russia?

24 March 2022

AXICA Congress Zentrum (Pariser Platz 3, 10117 Berlin) & ZOOM

With the war against Ukraine, Vladimir Putin has brutally attacked the European order. The political and humanitarian catastrophe currently unfolding in Ukraine, which is fighting a desperate struggle against a far superior adversary, marks a turning point. This does not come as a surprise. For years, the Russian leadership has pursued a revanchist and militaristic course.

Russia's systematic rearmament, the military intervention in Ukraine that has been ongoing since 2014, the bombing campaign in Syria, the deployment of Russian mercenary troops in other countries - all these were clear signs of an aggressive forward strategy by the Kremlin. Its goal is to re-establish Russia as a great power and adversary of Western democracies. Putin's blunt threat of nuclear war demonstrates that he is willing to gamble big to achieve these goals.

The recent wave of repression against Russian civil society, independent media and the democratic opposition is the flipside of the same coin. In recent years, the Putin system has increasingly evolved into a dictatorship that barely hides behind a pseudo-democratic facade.

How should the West deal with a Russia that is increasingly repressive internally and aggressive externally? Are the countermeasures taken so far sufficient to contain the Kremlin's neo-imperial ambitions? Are our societies ready to bear the cost for a joint European security? How can we isolate Russia politically and economically and still cooperate with Russian civil society?

Conference languages: English, German and Russian.

Preliminary Program

9:30 – 10:00

Registration. Coffee, Snacks

10:00-10:15

Opening / Welcome

10:15 – 11:15

Flashlight: Europe in the war. The current political and security crisis.

Input:

- **Marie Mendras**, Paris School of International Affairs at the SciencePo
- **Vladislav Inozemtsev**, Center for Post-Industrial Studies, Moscow
- **Sergey Lagodinsky**, Member of European Parliament, Committee on Legal Affairs

11:15-11:30 - *Coffee break* -

11:30 – 13:00

Session One: How to Deal with the Military Challenge?

- *Assessment of the Russian military build-up*
- *Do we have to go back to deterrence?*
- *Security with or against Russia? Do we need a new collective European security order?*
- *How can the West back Ukraine's security?*
- *Strategies for the Black Sea Region?*

Input:

- **Christian Mölling**, German Council on Foreign Relations
- **Justyna Gotkowska**, Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw
- **Pavlo Klimkin**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Ukrainian Institute of the Future (tbc)
- **Carlo Masala**, Bundeswehr University, Munich

Moderation: **Constanze Stelzenmüller**, Brookings Institution

13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch break -

14:00 – 15:15

Session Two: Boosting Democratic Resilience

- *How can liberal democracies become more resilient to destabilizing attempts such as hybrid warfare and disinformation?*
- *How to counter corruption and money laundering by Russian elites?*

Input:

- **Edward Lucas**, Center for European Policy Analysis, London
- **Daniela Schwarzer**, Open Society Foundations, Berlin
- **Dmitri Teperik**, International Center for Defence and Security, Tallinn
- **Nicolas Tenzer**, Paris School of International Affairs at SciencesPo, and Desk Russie

15:15 – 15:30 - Coffee break -

15:30 – 16:45 CET

Session Three: Potential Trouble Spots and Scenarios of Change in Russia

Input:

- **Mikhail Khodorkovsky**

Comment:

- **Masha Gessen**, journalist and writer (tbc)
- **Nikolai Petrov**, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House, London

16:45 – 17:00 CET

Closing remarks

Evening Public Event

19:00 – 21:00

Turning Point: How to deal with a repressive and confrontational Russia? (in cooperation with the Munich Security Conference)

- *Where do we need more willingness to engage in conflict with the Kremlin?*
- *The scope and design of sanctions.*
- *How do we avoid sliding into a spiral of military escalation?*
- *What are areas of potential cooperation with Russia?*
- *How can we support democratic civil society in Russia despite growing repression?*

Introductory remarks:

Mikhail Khodorkovsky

Keynote:

- **Annalena Baerbock**, Federal Foreign Minister (tbc)

Discussion:

- **Michael Roth**, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, SPD
- **Roderich Kiesewetter**, Member of Parliament, Spokesman for Crisis Prevention, CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group
- **Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann**, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Defense Committee, FDP
- **Agnieszka Brugger**, Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairwoman of the "Alliance 90/ the Greens" Parliamentary Group

Moderation: Ralf Fücks, Center for Liberal Modernity

Change in Perspective:

Talk with Amb. **Daniel Fried**, Atlantic Council (tbc) and **Pavlo Klimkin**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (tbc)

Moderation: **Boris Ruge**, Vice-Chairman, Munich Security Conference