

70 Years
of Strengthening
Transatlantic
Dialogue

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MISSION

The American Council on Germany (ACG) is an independent, nonpartisan nonprofit organization that was founded in 1952 to strengthen German-American relations. Today, the ACG works across generations to provide a deeper understanding about Germany, Europe, and the importance of the transatlantic partnership. Through a range of programs and activities, the ACG addresses the most pressing economic, political, and social challenges of the day to ensure better mutual understanding. The ACG's initiatives are designed to reach a broad range of individuals to strengthen German-American relations and deepen the U.S.-European partnership. This is achieved through a combination of outreach and events designed to reach different audiences on both sides of the Atlantic to make sure they are better informed about transatlantic issues.

VISION

The American Council on Germany is the leading U.S.-based forum for strengthening German-American relations. It delivers a nuanced understanding of why Germany matters, because the only way to understand contemporary Europe is to understand Germany's role within Europe and around the world. And, the only way to understand contemporary Germany is to put it in a European context.

The Council is committed to:

Forging Mutual Understanding to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

Through a range of activities, the ACG provides opinion leaders and decision-makers in a variety of fields with ideas and perspectives on important political, economic, and social developments on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world. Online programming and in-person events engage multipliers from government, business, nongovernmental organizations, academia, the military, and media on both sides of the Atlantic. The ACG conducts immersive programs on issues such as environmental sustainability, trade relations, digitalization and the future of work, as well as urban development to examine challenges facing our societies and to develop possible strategies and collaborative solutions for the future.

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders

The ACG invests in the future of the transatlantic relationship by helping the next generation of leaders in Germany and the United States learn about this indispensable partnership, exchange best practices, and build networks across the Atlantic. In 2022, innovative virtual formats brought together youth from both countries, and the ACG resumed the American-German Young Leaders Conference, fellowships, and Leadership Missions to bring together the next generation of German and American academics, journalists, and other professionals from diverse fields to deepen their understanding about transatlantic issues while forging lasting bonds with one another.

Addressing Global Issues Nationwide

The ACG recognizes the importance of presenting global issues not only to policymakers in Washington, DC, and business leaders in New York but also to decision-makers, practitioners, and the community at large at the local level. Through its online programming, the ACG has reached viewers in all 50 states and all 16 Bundesländer – and in more than 60 countries – for discussions on the most pressing economic, political, and social issues on the transatlantic agenda and affecting their communities. The Council remains committed to national outreach through its network of Eric M. Warburg Chapters.

Informing Members and the Community at Large

The Council reaches across generations, sectors, and regional boundaries to inform the community at large. The ACG keeps its alumni, members, and friends informed about important issues shaping the transatlantic partnership through a range of programs and activities. Online programming and regular updates have made the ACG a valued resource for news and information about the transatlantic relationship. Members receive the ACG's news digest with opinion pieces and analysis twice a week.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

What a difference a year makes.

In January of 2022, the world was emerging from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was widespread hope that we would be able to put the coronavirus behind us and move on and address the deep economic, public-health, and societal challenges left in its wake. The new German coalition government had an ambitious agenda for the country and for its yearlong rotating G7 Presidency. But, just weeks into the new year, these plans and an uneasy return to a post-pandemic norm were upset when Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24. This unprovoked act of aggression sent shockwaves around the world – and as the war continues, we are still feeling them.

As we have seen from developments in Germany over the past 14 months, the impact of Russia's invasion has shaken some of Germany's key policy positions to the core. Just days after the initial attack, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke before a special session of the Bundestag on February 27 and said that "We are living through a watershed era. And that means that the world afterward will no longer be the same as the world before." The symbolism of the Zeitenwende speech – which presented a major policy pivot on energy, foreign, and defense policy – cannot and should not be underestimated.

One must recognize that Germany has come a long way since the war began, but an open question is whether Germany will live up to the promises laid out in the Zeitenwende speech and how long that will take. The fundamental tenets of Ostpolitik and Wandel durch Handel have been called into question – and it has been widely acknowledged that the policy positions of the late 20th century are not suitable for today. Germany is still working through what this means and is mapping out a new security structure.

Giving credit where credit is due, on energy Germany has cut its dependence on Russian oil and gas and made a massive commitment to renewables. The war has given a new impulse for Germany's Energiewende and the goals outlined in the coalition agreement – despite ramping up the use of coal and other fossil fuels to power Germany's economy in the short term.

This volatile and uncertain environment set the backdrop for much of the American Council on Germany's policy programming during 2022. Over the course of the year, the ACG held more than 170 policy discussions in response to current developments – including

virtual events that reached almost 7,000 unique viewers. The ACG was also able to bring its immersive exchanges back (after a hiatus due to the pandemic) by holding its American-German Young Leaders Conference, conducting nine Study Tours, and funding the research trips of nine fellows.

At our German-American Conference, Allianz CEO Oliver Bäte shared the key findings of a study on the state of trust in the German-American partnership, and German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht delivered a keynote address. Other highlights in 2022 included an address by U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken; a dinner with Secretary John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy on Climate, on the periphery of the Munich Security Conference; discussions with German Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Emily Haber; several meetings with Atlantik-Brücke Chairman and former Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel; and a dinner with Bundestag member Dr. Norbert Röttgen.

In December, the ACG was fortunate to be able to hold its annual John J. McCloy Awards Dinner. More than 320 people gathered to honor Ola Källenius, Chairman of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG, and ACG Board member Christiana Riley, CEO of Deutsche Bank USA Corp. and member of the Management Board of Deutsche Bank AG.

Each year as I reflect on what the small team at the ACG accomplished the previous year, I am impressed – and extremely proud. The number of events, their quality, timeliness, and relevance are remarkable. During a period of unprecedented uncertainty and volatility that has been described as a time of polycrisis, the ACG has risen to the challenge and served as a valuable source of news and information about the issues shaping the German-American partnership – and the transatlantic relationship more widely.

2022 was a very active year for the American Council on Germany. We are lucky to have incredible partners in carrying out our mission. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen the transatlantic partnership in the years to come.

Dr. Steven E. Sokol
President and CEO

April 2023

2022 GERMAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE



Atlantik-Brücke Chairman Sigmar Gabriel, former Federal Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor, and ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany



Omid Nouripour, Co-Chairman of Alliance 90/The Greens



Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, CEO and Managing Director of Food Systems for the Future; Jens Wiegmann (2002 McCloy Fellow in Journalism), Foreign Editor for *DIE WELT/WELT AM SONNTAG*; and Alexander Müller, Managing Director of TMG Think Tank for Sustainability

(Photo captions are top to bottom and left to right unless otherwise indicated.)

The American Council on Germany and Atlantik-Brücke hold a German-American Conference each year to analyze pressing issues on the transatlantic agenda, examine the tone and tenor of the times, and share perspectives on policy solutions to address the challenges of today and in the future.

The 2022 German-American Conference took place at the Allianz Forum in Berlin on June 13 and 14, with the theme of “Holding Together in Times of Crisis: A New Era for German-American Relations.” While the war in Ukraine has been a significant challenge, the crisis has united transatlantic partners in many ways. The state of the transatlantic relationship is strong, and personified by mutual trust and a confident outlook. ACG Chairman **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany; Atlantik-Brücke Chairman **Sigmar Gabriel**, former German Federal Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor; and **Woodward Clark Price**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, welcomed the 300 people in attendance. They noted the 70th anniversaries of the American Council on Germany and Atlantik-Brücke and remarked on how far transatlantic relations have come during that time. Ambassador Emerson said: “I am hopeful because young people in particular believe that the best days of the transatlantic relationship are still ahead of us.”

Oliver Bäte, CEO of Allianz SE, gave an opening address and set the stage for the conference by citing the key findings of a study on the state of trust in the German-American partnership by the opinion research institute Edelman Data & Intelligence (DxI), which was commissioned by Allianz SE, the ACG, and Atlantik-Brücke. The results of the survey of more than 4,000 Americans and Germans painted a positive picture of the partnership: 70 percent of Americans and 75 percent of Germans said the transatlantic partnership is needed more than ever. 76 percent of Americans and 80 percent of Germans said coordination among transatlantic partners on defense and economic challenges should improve. “Our partnership needs to be permanently renewed with a focus on achieving concrete positive outcomes for our citizens, such as access to quality education and good health care,” Mr. Bäte said.

[Read more about the survey](#)

In a keynote address, **Christine Lambrecht**, German Federal Minister of Defense, depicted the United States as nothing short of a life insurance policy for Germany and the rest of Europe. She underlined the ongoing importance of Article 5 of the NATO treaty for European security and said the Bundeswehr should be expanded and better equipped.

The main themes of the conference were:

- Will Germany's Zeitenwende Sustain Transatlantic Convergence on China?
- How Reliable Is the Transatlantic Partnership?
- Finding a Common Security and Defense Policy in Times of Crisis
- Food Security and the Economic Implications of the War in Ukraine
- Russia and the War in Ukraine
- The Economic and Social Impact of the Current Crises
- Energy Dependence vs. Independence: Conflict or a False Choice?
- Defending Against Cyberattacks: Trust and Technology
- Revitalizing Transatlantic Trade

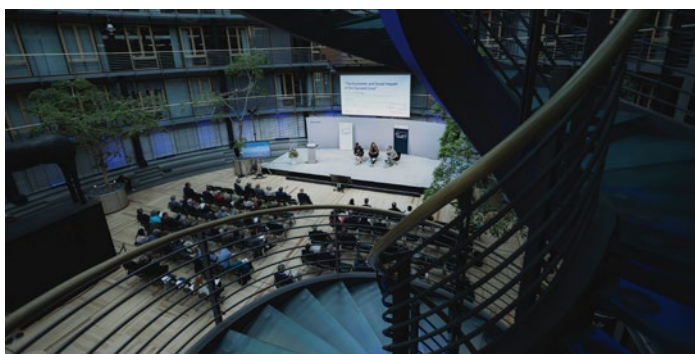
The speakers included **Professor Dr. Jutta Allmendinger**, President of the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and Professor of Educational Sociology and Labor Market Research at Humboldt University in Berlin; **Dr. Stefanie Babst**, Principal and Global Policy Advisor at Brooch Associates in London and former Chief Strategic Policy Analyst at NATO; **Ambassador Ertharin Cousin**, CEO and Managing Director of Food Systems for the Future and former Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme; ACG Board member **Dr. John Lipsky**, Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins University and former First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; **Dr. Christoph von Marschall** (1999 Kellen Fellow), Diplomatic Correspondent of the Editorial Board of *Der Tagesspiegel*; **Dr. John J. Mearsheimer**, R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Chicago; **Tracy McKibben** (2005 Young Leader), Founder and CEO of MAC Energy Advisors LLC; **Omid Nouripour**, Co-Chairman of Alliance 90/The Greens; **Christopher Painter**, President of The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies; **Dr. Norbert Röttgen**, member of the Bundestag (CDU/CSU) and a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; **Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar**, Director of the Digital Society Institute at the European School of Management and Technology in Berlin; and **Dr. Adam Tooze**, Shelby Cullom Davis Chair of History and Director of the European Institute at Columbia University.

The American Council on Germany expresses its great thanks to Allianz SE for the generous support of this conference.

[Read more about the conference](#)



Michael Laha (2019 McCloy Fellow on Global Trends), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation German Chancellor Fellow at the Mercator Institute for China Studies; Noah Barkin, Visiting Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States; and Ambassador Petra Sigmund, Director General for Asia and the Pacific in the German Federal Foreign Office



The 2022 German-American Conference



Christine Lambrecht, German Federal Minister of Defense, and Julia Friedlander, CEO of Atlantik-Brücke

GERMANY'S G7 PRESIDENCY DISCUSSION SERIES



Dr. Emily Haber, German Ambassador to the United States, and ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson



Germany began its yearlong Presidency of the G7 on January 1, 2022, with the motto “Progress towards an equitable world.” The German Presidency endeavored to boost cooperation on long-term global issues, such as climate change and environmental protection, as well as economic stability and post-pandemic recovery, while safeguarding democracy and the rules-based international order. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the World Health Organization’s objective of improving the international health architecture and pandemic prevention stood at the center of Germany’s initial agenda. However, its Presidency took an unexpected turn when Russia’s invasion of Ukraine reset Germany’s carefully crafted agenda. The conflict shifted the priorities to tackling the war’s wide-ranging consequences, from global food and energy security to the maintenance of international peace and stability. The G7 took a joint stance to support Ukraine, raising billions of dollars in aid and implementing coordinated sanctions against Russia.

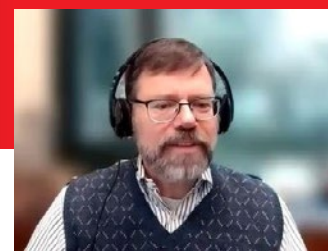
The American Council on Germany and the German Embassy in Washington, DC, organized a series of four online events to highlight Germany’s priorities and to engage Americans in dialogue about the issues Germany hoped to address during its G7 Presidency.

Dr. Jörg Kukies, State Secretary for Economics, Finance, and European Affairs at the German Federal Chancellery – one of Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s key advisors – spoke about priorities for Germany’s G7 Presidency in a virtual discussion on May 5. He noted that the relevance of the Presidency’s priorities had only been magnified by the conflict. Germany is committed to strengthening democracies and democratic values, and the war in Ukraine underlines the importance of resilient democracies. The West has also demonstrated unity in its response to the invasion – something that Russian President Vladimir Putin had not been anticipating.

On June 3, a virtual discussion looked at the G7 Summit and gave a forecast for the future of global health featuring **Dr. Nicole Lurie**, U.S. Director of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and former Assistant Secretary for Preparedness



Jennifer Lee Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action in the German Federal Foreign Office, and Dr. Jonathan Pershing, Program Director of Environment at the Hewlett Foundation



and Response in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and **Professor Dr. Veronika von Messling**, Director-General for Life Sciences at the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

As the G7 Summit in Bavaria approached, a virtual discussion on June 22 featured a conversation between **Dr. Emily Haber**, German Ambassador to the United States, and **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, Chairman of the American Council on Germany and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, analyzing the war in Ukraine. The invasion prompted Germany to ask itself how, when, and where it went wrong in the years leading up to this moment. The Wandel durch Handel (change through trade) theory assumed that greater interdependence with countries like Russia would eventually prompt the illiberal country to adopt more and more liberal democratic values. However, Germany’s overreliance on Russia for its energy needs demonstrated the potential danger of this relationship.

After COP27 – the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – the final discussion in the series looked at the G7 and the Global South with climate experts **Jennifer Lee Morgan**, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action in the German Federal Foreign Office, and **Dr. Jonathan Pershing**, Program Director of Environment at the Hewlett Foundation, on December 12. [Watch here](#)

Other events also looked at Germany’s G7 Presidency and broader issues in the G7 throughout the year. Viewers received an assessment of the G7 and NATO Summits from **Fabian Reinbold**, a political journalist in Berlin and a former White House Correspondent in Washington, and **Andrea Shalal**, Senior Correspondent for Reuters, in a virtual discussion on July 1. And on November 15, Germany’s G7 Presidency in a period of crisis was the focus of a Breakfast Briefing with **Dr. Florian Toncar**, Bundestag member (FDP) and Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Finance. The event was held in partnership with the German Consulate General in New York.

DEMOCRACIES UNDER PRESSURE: CHALLENGES FOR THE GLOBAL LIBERAL ORDER



Dr. Katja Wiesbrock Donovan, 1014 Executive Director; Sarah Pagung, Associate Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP); and Dr. John Glenn, Senior Director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies

The American Council on Germany and 1014 Inc. launched a series of virtual discussions in 2022 to look at today's global challenges through the prism of their impact on democratic institutions. Each event under the umbrella of Democracies Under Pressure: Challenges for the Global Liberal Order featured experts from either or both sides of the Atlantic sharing their insights.

The severity of global challenges like climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have warranted cooperation between liberal democracies and autocratic regimes. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has placed an additional strain on the liberal, rules-based order. This series looked at this blatant breach of sovereignty and humanitarian law and other challenges to multilateral organizations.

The inaugural event on May 24 featured **Dr. Liana Fix**, Program Director in the International Affairs Department of the Körber Foundation in Berlin, and **Dr. Michael Kimmage**, Professor of History at the Catholic University of America. They discussed the trajectory of the war in Ukraine after the first 90 days of conflict while analyzing the effects it could have on European security architecture and the general relationship between democracies and autocracies going forward.

The "folly of regime change" was the topic of a discussion on June 7 with **Dr. Benjamin Denison**, a data scientist and Nonresident Fellow with Defense Priorities. Dr. Denison talked about President Joe Biden's statement in Warsaw in late March that Russian President Putin "cannot remain in power." While this statement was subsequently walked back by the administration, Dr. Denison shared his insights on the nature and potential dangers of regime change. [Watch here](#)

With energy prices surging in Europe in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Germany faced additional challenges because of its heavy reliance on Russian gas. The conflict also threatened to delay Germany's planned transition to renewable energies. **Samantha Gross**, Director of the Energy Security and Climate Initiative at the Brookings Institution, and **Dr. Rainer Quitzow** of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) discussed these issues and more in a virtual discussion on June 21.

On October 11, a virtual discussion looked at the "democratic fallout" of the war in Ukraine featuring **Dr. Alexander Cooley**, Claire Tow Professor of Political Science and Vice Provost for Academic Centers and Libraries at Barnard College and Academy Adjunct Faculty at Chatham House, and **Professor Dr. Gwendolyn Sasse**, Director of the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) and Einstein Professor for the Comparative Study of Democracy and Authoritarianism at Humboldt University in Berlin.

Anti-democratic trends – including but not limited to authoritarian interference in elections – and democratic backsliding were the focus of a virtual discussion featuring **Dr. John Glenn**, Senior Director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies, and **Sarah Pagung**, Associate Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP), on November 15. They analyzed these conditions, noting that for 16 years in a row, Freedom House has observed a global democratic decline. [Watch here](#)

Food security and the economic implications of the war in Ukraine were the focus of a virtual discussion with **Ambassador Ertharin Cousin**, CEO and Managing Director of Food Systems for the Future, and **Alexander Müller**, Founder and Managing Director of TMG, on November 16. They outlined the food crisis and described the nexus between food insecurity, climate change, economic development, and peace and security. They also charted a path toward a new, sustainable agricultural system.



German and U.S. policies toward China, both countries' complex relations with China, and Chinese domestic politics were the subjects of a virtual discussion with **Dr. Kristin Shi-Kupfer** (2022 McCloy Fellow on Global Trends), Professor of Sinology at the University of Trier and a Senior Associate Fellow at MERICS, and **Yun Sun**, Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the East Asia Program and Director of the China Program at the Stimson Center, on December 7. [Watch here](#)



As the tumultuous year was drawing to a close, a virtual discussion on December 14 looked at the challenges of COVID-19, war, and energy issues – and the economic and social impact of these simultaneous crises. **Professor Dr. Jutta Allmendinger**, President of the WZB Berlin Social Science Center, and **Dr. Adam Tooze**, Shelby Cullom Davis Chair of History and Director of the European Institute at Columbia University, shared their insights, and **Ines Pohl**, Washington Bureau Chief for Deutsche Welle, moderated the discussion. [Watch here](#)



Dr. Kristin Shi-Kupfer (2022 McCloy Fellow on Global Trends), Professor of Sinology at the University of Trier and a Senior Associate Fellow at MERICS; Yun Sun, Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the East Asia Program and Director of the China Program at the Stimson Center; Professor Dr. Jutta Allmendinger, President of the WZB Berlin Social Science Center; Ines Pohl, Washington Bureau Chief for Deutsche Welle; and Dr. Adam Tooze, Shelby Cullom Davis Chair of History and Director of the European Institute at Columbia University



KAFFEPAUSE SERIES

The American Council on Germany continued its weekly online discussion series titled “Kaffeepause: What’s Abuzz in Berlin?” in 2022. Launched in 2021, the series features a Berlin-based journalist at the start of every week to help members and friends stay up to date on political, economic, and social developments in Germany. Speakers share their insights about the headlines shaping political discourse there. The themes covered included Germany’s new foreign and national security strategy, defense cooperation in Ukraine, the economic outlook after COVID-19 and during the war in Ukraine, energy security, inflation, party and coalition politics, and Germany-China relations.

The speakers included **Melanie Amann**, Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Der Spiegel*; **Matthias Deiss** (2008 Young Leader), Editorial Director of ARD-Politikmagazin Kontraste; **Melissa Eddy**, Berlin Correspondent for the *New York Times*; **Stephan Detjen**, Chief Correspondent for Deutschlandradio; **Sonja Gillert** (2019 Young Leader and 2019 Kellen Fellow), Head of Audio for *DIE WELT*; Bloomberg Opinion columnist **Andreas Kluth**; **Stefan Kornelius**, Political Editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*; **Miriam Hollstein** (2008 McCloy Fellow in Journalism), Chief Reporter for T-Online in Berlin; **Rob Schmitz**, International Correspondent for NPR, Berlin; **Malte Lehming**, opinion writer for *Der Tagesspiegel*; **Petra Pinzler** (2010 Kellen Fellow), Berlin Correspondent for *Die Zeit*; **Sumi Somaskanda**, Senior News Anchor at DW News (Deutsche Welle); **Gabor Steingart**, Founder and Publisher of Media Pioneer Publishing and former Head of the Management Board of Handelsblatt Media Group; **Anja Wehler-Schoeck**, International Editor at *Der Tagesspiegel*; and **Jens Wiegmann** (2002 McCloy Fellow in Journalism), Foreign Editor for *DIE WELT/WELT AM SONNTAG*.



Melanie Amann, Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Der Spiegel*; Matthias Deiss (2008 Young Leader), Editorial Director of ARD-Politikmagazin Kontraste; Melissa Eddy, Berlin Correspondent for the *New York Times*; Stefan Kornelius, Political Editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*; and Sumi Somaskanda, Senior News Anchor at DW News (Deutsche Welle)

GERMAN-AMERICAN WORKING GROUP ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY

As awareness for social justice rises both in the United States and Europe, the American Council on Germany conducted a German-American Working Group on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) from September 2021 to March 2022 with support from the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius. A group of 24 young professionals in the public and private sector from a variety of backgrounds from Germany and the United States convened virtually twice a month to discuss the challenges of achieving DEIA and to address the key public debates around minority rights in a transatlantic context. The working group explored the underrepresentation of minorities in transatlantic affairs and developed recommendations for promoting diversity and inclusion in the field. They also produced a paper on the critical importance of DEIA in transatlantic relations. The working group drew on the expertise of group members as well as external speakers from the United States and Germany on challenges facing Communities of Color and minority groups, including but not limited to LGBTQI+, individuals with disabilities, and migrants.

The participants were individuals in the media, academia, and civil society, including Persons of Color, LGBTQI+, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, immigrants, neurodivergent, and others. Together they explored complex issues such as gender inequality, systemic racism, antisemitism, xenophobia, and ableism (i.e., discrimination against people with disabilities). The sometimes uncomfortable debates on these subjects often revealed the tension between the protection of disadvantaged groups and other important liberal, democratic values, such as freedom of expression and the right to privacy.

The discussions culminated in the creation of a policy paper highlighting current challenges in the advent of DEIA and its importance for the transatlantic relationship. The group proceeded in a systematic manner, approaching each thematic section (representation, gender equality, LGBTQI+ rights, discrimination against religious minorities and xenophobia, people with disabilities, and data collection) by exploring the current situation in the United States and Germany, and in some cases more widely. They continued by explaining the key challenges and debates around each topic, before making recommendations for the public and private sector, civil society, and nonprofit organizations.

2022 DEIA WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

January 13 – Virtual discussion on **“Regroup and Refocus: Inclusive Transatlantic Relations”** with **Sascha Suhrke**, Director/Head of Politics and Society at the ZEIT-Stiftung

January 27 – Virtual discussion on **“Culture of Remembrance – Can the U.S. Learn from Germany?”** with **Jacob Sebastian Eder**, Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the Barenboim-Said Akademie

February 10 – Virtual discussion on **“Critical Race Theory in Education”** with **Dr. Nicholas Boston** (2006 McCloy Fellow in Art), Associate Professor of Media Sociology at CUNY Lehman College

February 24 – Virtual discussion on **“War in Europe. Does DEIA Still Matter?”**

March 10 – Virtual discussion: **“Wrapup Session. Where Do We Go from Here?”**



[Read the report](#)

GERMAN-AMERICAN SISTER CITIES YOUTH FORUM



The American Council on Germany convened the German-American Sister Cities Youth Forum from September 2021 to March 2022 to give German and American civic leaders from the age of 14 to 21 the opportunity to analyze issues in their communities, exchange concerns with government officials, share ideas, and propose policy prescriptions. A series of interactive virtual meetings gave representatives from local youth councils and youth leadership programs in five pairs of U.S.-German sister cities the chance to discuss issues including climate change and sustainability; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and the importance of civic engagement and youth participation in their communities.

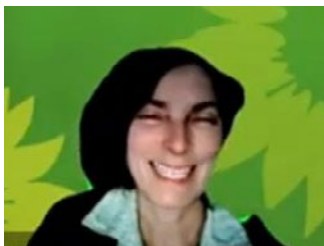
In 2022, the German-American Sister Cities Youth Forum convened a meeting with **Mayor Steve Adler** of Austin and **Oberbürgermeister David Langner** of Koblenz on January 27 and a discussion with **Deputy Mayor Elizabeth Ball** of Buffalo and **Bürgermeisterin Barbara Brunsing** of Dortmund on March 27.

The project was held under the auspices of Wunderbar Together USA 2021, a comprehensive and collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by the Goethe-Institut.

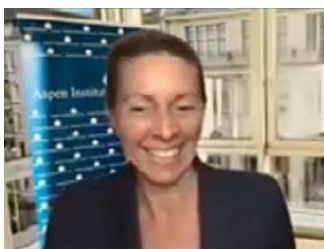
Participants in the German-American Sister Cities Youth Forum meeting with Mayor Steve Adler of Austin and Oberbürgermeister David Langner of Koblenz



STATE-TO-STATE: GERMAN-AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATOR DIALOGUE SERIES



Kerstin Celina, member of the State Parliament of Bavaria (Alliance 90/The Greens); Jan-Marcus Rossa, member of the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein (Alliance 90/The Greens); and State Senator John S. McCollister of Nebraska (R)



Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, and Rob Fenstermacher, ACG Chief Content Officer

The American Council on Germany and the Aspen Institute Germany continued the State-to-State: German-American State Legislator Dialogue Series in 2022 to give German and American state legislators an ongoing forum for discussing common challenges and how best to address them on a local level. The series was launched in 2021, at a time when political polarization and partisan gridlock were hampering efforts to address these challenges at a national level, leaving subnational actors to fill the void.

On March 2, a virtual discussion looked at immigration and integration through both a federal and state lens featuring **Kerstin Celina**, member of the State Parliament of Bavaria (Alliance 90/The Greens); **State Senator John S. McCollister** of Nebraska (R); and **Jan-Marcus Rossa**, member of the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein (Alliance 90/The Greens).

State leadership on affordable housing and sustainable urban development were the subjects of a virtual discussion with **Dr. Anke Frieling** (CDU) of the Hamburg Parliament, **Mathias Schulz** (SPD) of the Berlin House of Representatives, and **Marvin E. Holmes Jr.** (D) of the Maryland House of Delegates on October 5.

The war in Ukraine underlined the importance – and precarious nature – of food security. A virtual discussion on November 30 looked at how states can contribute to a sustainable agricultural future. The featured speakers were **Representative Sydney Carlin** (D) of the Kansas House of Representatives, **Senator Russ Goodman** (R) of the Georgia State Senate, **Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo** (D) of the New York State Assembly, and **Elrid Pasbrig** (SPD), member of the State Parliament of Saxony-Anhalt.

ERIC M. WARBURG CHAPTERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

The American Council on Germany launched its Eric M. Warburg Chapters to promote a greater understanding of German and European affairs beyond the business community in New York City and the policy community in Washington, DC. Since their inception in the early 1990s, the Chapter network has grown to include 22 cities across the United States. The Warburg Chapters have created a forum for open dialogue on German and wider transatlantic political, economic, and social issues. Each Chapter fosters an exchange of ideas about the local impact of challenges on the transatlantic agenda. In 2022, the Chapters began hosting more events as the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic began to ease.

In September, journalist **Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger** (1985 Legislative Affairs Fellow) – who previously served as Foreign Editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* – spoke about “Putin’s War in Ukraine: A Shock for Germany?” with audiences at the ACG’s Chapters in Charlotte, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh. In mid-October, former German diplomat **Stefan Schlüter**, Program Officer at the Diplomatic Academy of the German Foreign Office in Berlin, discussed “Germany’s Zeitenwende: Setting New Priorities in Foreign, Security, and Energy Policy” with audiences at the Chapters in Charlotte, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Phoenix, and Seattle. He also discussed the Zeitenwende and setting new priorities in foreign, security, and energy policy at a discussion on October 16 at the Houston Consul General’s residence then again in New York City on October 31. The event in Texas was held in partnership with the German Consulate in Houston and the American Jewish Committee Houston, and the event in New York was hosted by Phillips Nizer LLP. On October 14, Mr. Schlüter also spoke on history and remembrance, and specifically dealing with Germany’s past. The event was held at the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center at Queens University of Charlotte. In addition, he met with a student panel on October 21 to discuss diplomacy, youth civic engagement, and the impact of Russia’s war in Ukraine. The event was organized by the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth and held at Hillcrest High School in Dallas, with approximately 75 students from the International Baccalaureate program.

[Read more about the Warburg Chapters](#)

OTHER WARBURG CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022

April 5 – Chicago Eric M. Warburg Chapter virtual discussion on Ukraine with **Wolfgang Moessinger**, German Consul General of Chicago

June 10 – Charlotte Eric M. Warburg Chapter Breakfast Briefing on “**The War in Ukraine and Germany’s Zeitenwende: New Transatlantic Priorities**” with **Thomas Silberhorn**, member of the German Bundestag and CDU/CSU Spokesman for Transatlantic Relations. Held in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the N.C. Zeitgeist Foundation

June 23 – Nashville Eric M. Warburg Chapter discussion and reception on “**Kissinger at 99: Historical Reflections on 20th-Century America’s Most Famous Diplomat**” with **Dr. Thomas A. Schwartz** (1989 Young Leader), Distinguished Professor of History at Vanderbilt University

August 23 – Indianapolis Eric M. Warburg Chapter hybrid discussion on “**Global Supply Chains in a Post-Pandemic World**” with **Stephan Hulfeld**, Route Development Manager of Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Southeast Europe for Schenker, Inc., and **Mark Tomkins**, President and CEO of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc.

October 3 – Pittsburgh Eric M. Warburg Chapter discussion and luncheon on “**Building Resilient Societies in Germany and the United States**” with welcoming remarks by **Muhterem Aras**, President of the Baden-Württemberg State Parliament, and **David Gill** (1992 Young Leader), German Consul General in New York, followed by thoughts from **Winfried Kretschmann**, Minister-President of the State of Baden-Württemberg, and a panel discussion with **Dr. Danyal Bayaz**, Minister of Finance for the State of Baden-Württemberg; **Sabrina Saunders Mosby**, President and CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh; **Lisa Schroeder**, President and CEO of The Pittsburgh Foundation; and others. Hosted by the State of Baden-Württemberg with support from the American Council on Germany and the German Consulate General in New York

October 3 – Pittsburgh Eric M. Warburg Chapter dinner and discussion for “**Tag der Deutschen Einheit**”/**German Unity Day** with **Minister-President Winfried Kretschmann**. Held in partnership with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the German American Chamber of Commerce

October 4 – Chicago Eric M. Warburg Chapter Breakfast Briefing on “**Germany’s Zeitenwende – and What It Means for Europe**” with **Metin Hakverdi**, member of the Bundestag (SPD)

November 28 – Los Angeles Eric M. Warburg Chapter discussion and luncheon on “**Thoughts and Hopes: The Transatlantic Partnership in Turbulent Times**” with ACG Chairman **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, Vice Chairman of Capital Group and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany

December 7 – Los Angeles Eric M. Warburg Chapter discussion and luncheon on “**Bridge Over Troubled Water: The Transatlantic Relationship in an Era of Insecurity**” with **Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner**, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany

POLICY DISCUSSIONS IN GERMANY



ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman of Capital Group and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany; Secretary John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy on Climate; and Oliver Zipse, Chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG



Dr. Friedrich Merz, Chairman of the Christian Democratic Union; Karen Donfried, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; and Lars Klingbeil, Co-Chairman of the Social Democratic Party



Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire) and Omid Nouripour, Co-Chairman of Alliance 90/The Greens

As the COVID-19 pandemic began to ease, public officials, experts, and journalists gathered for the 58th Munich Security Conference in February 2022 to discuss climate change, supply-chain security, and economic recovery in the aftermath of the pandemic. However, mere days later Russia would launch its invasion of Ukraine, kickstarting a series of significant geopolitical considerations for the transatlantic relationship, ranging from energy independence to the *Zeitenwende*. Especially in Germany, the American Council on Germany's discussions focused on the reinvention of German foreign policy and stronger coordination with the Biden administration on the Ukraine war, and also on diversity and inclusion in a broader societal context.

The American Council on Germany held three events on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. On February 18, the Council held a Breakfast Briefing on the German-American relationship – and the first stress test for President Biden and Chancellor Scholz – with ACG Chairman **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, Vice Chairman of Capital Group and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and **Kimberly Emerson**, a Board member of Human Rights Watch. The event was held in partnership with the Freunde des American Council on Germany e.V. and hosted by Dechert LLP. The same evening, the ACG and Atlantik-Brücke held a dinner with **Secretary John Kerry**, Special Presidential Envoy on Climate, looking at the path ahead for aligning U.S. and European climate policy. On February 19, an official side event looked at how transatlantic partners can rethink priorities for the Biden-Scholz era, featuring **Karen Donfried**, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; **Lars Klingbeil**, Co-Chairman of the Social Democratic Party; **Dr. Friedrich Merz**, Chairman of the Christian Democratic Union; **Omid Nouripour**, Co-Chairman of Alliance 90/The Greens; **Senator Rob Portman** (R-Ohio); and **Senator Jeanne Shaheen** (D-New Hampshire). The event was held in partnership with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS).

The ACG also convened discussions in Germany throughout the year to look at the state of transatlantic relations, including

six events held in partnership with the Freunde des American Council on Germany e.V. **Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook**, Non-Resident Fellow with the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI), looked at the implications of the war in Ukraine at a discussion and reception on April 4 in Berlin. The Council held a hybrid event on June 9 to analyze the risks and consequences of geopolitical developments for transatlantic relations featuring Ms. Ashbrook; **Joel Brenner**, Senior Research Fellow at MIT's Center for International Studies; and **Paul Taylor**, Non-Executive Director for Morgan Stanley International and Non-Executive Director in the United Kingdom's Federal Ministry of Defense. The event was hosted by Monarch. Disruption and the economic impact of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine were the subjects of a discussion with **Dr. Adam Tooze**, Director of the European Institute and Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Chair of History at Columbia University, on June 14 in Berlin. **Dr. Meike Zwingenberger**, Executive Director of the Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus GmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations, shared her insights at a discussion and reception on September 15 in Munich. The transatlantic partnership after the beginning of the *Zeitenwende* and before the U.S. midterm elections was the focus of a discussion and networking reception with **Michael Georg Link**, Bundestag member (FDP) and Transatlantic Coordinator in the German Federal Foreign Office, on September 19 in Berlin. **Timothy E. Liston**, U.S. Consul General in Munich, and **Stefan Kornelius**, Foreign Editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, gave a midterm assessment of transatlantic relations at a discussion and reception on November 17 in Munich.

Advocating for a more inclusive transatlantic partnership was the subject of a panel discussion in Hamburg on April 10 with **Timothy Rivera**, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisor for World Learning, and **Maryum Saifee**, Senior Policy Advisor in the Secretary's Office for Diversity and Inclusion at the U.S. State Department, moderated by **Robin Cammarota**, Program Director and Digital Strategist for the American Council on Germany. The event was held as part of the ZEIT-Stiftung EuropaCamp.

AMERICAN-GERMAN YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE



The American Council on Germany's American-German Young Leaders Conference brings together up-and-coming thought leaders from the public and private sector, from the fields of finance, law, academia, the military, media, startups, and more, for a week of intensive dialogue about the state of transatlantic relations and today's global challenges. The conferences provide a forum for rising stars to discuss the current international agenda while building a network of influencers from the United States and Germany. Young Leaders meet with high-level officials to hear their behind-the-scenes perspectives and engage in working groups and plenary sessions to discuss solutions to complex political, economic, and social challenges. The Young Leaders Conference was inaugurated by the ACG in 1973.

The 42nd Young Leaders Conference brought together about 35 Germans and Americans for a packed agenda in July in Berlin with the overarching theme of "Die Kuh auf dem Eis: Building a Reliable Transatlantic Partnership." The title refers to a German expression about the precarious process of retrieving a cow that finds itself on the ice – a nod to the delicate nature of the transatlantic alliance in navigating today's global challenges.

Together the Young Leaders analyzed issues from the war in Ukraine to the rise of China and from disruption in the global economy to energy dependence. In the ACG's first Young Leaders Conference since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the group took a close look at COVID's ongoing impact. They considered Germany's

The 2022 Young Leaders and ACG President and CEO Dr. Steven E. Sokol meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

Photo by Sandra Steins

groundbreaking Zeitenwende policy, the latest G7 Summit, the future of NATO, climate change, cybersecurity, and intelligence cooperation. They looked at the core principles Germany and the United States committed themselves to in the post-World War II period and the ongoing implications. Lastly, the Young Leaders crafted mission statements and vision statements for the German-American partnership.

The 2022 Young Leaders not only had policy briefings at the Federal Chancellery but also had the opportunity to meet German **Chancellor Olaf Scholz**. They had discussions with speakers including **Dr. Franziska Brantner**, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action; **Klaus Deutsch**, Head of the Department of Research, Industrial, and Economic Policy at the BDI (Federation of German Industries); **Klara Geywitz**, Federal Minister for Housing, Urban Development, and Building; **Dr. Amy Gutmann**, U.S. Ambassador to Germany; **Steffen Hebestreit**, State Secretary and Spokesperson of the German Federal Government; **Professor Dr. Luise Hölscher**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Finance; **Eckart von Klæden** (1997 Young Leader), Vice President and Head of External Affairs at Mercedes-Benz Group AG; **Andreas Michaelis**, State Secretary at the German Federal Foreign Office;



The 2022 Young Leaders discussing pressing issues and visiting the Chancellery and Reichstag

Lieutenant General Kai Rohrschneider (1998 Young Leader), Director General for Armed Forces Policy at the Federal Ministry of Defense; and **Wolfgang Schmidt**, Head of the Chancellery and Minister for Special Affairs.

Young Leaders looked at the following topics throughout the conference, among others:

- What Is the Transatlantic Agenda Today?
- The West and the Rest
- Mind the Gaps: Economic Development and Social Challenges
- Operating in the Gray Zone: China, Russia, and Cold War 2.0
- Infection Points: Lessons from the Pandemic and the Future of Work
- Energy Security, Energy Politics
- On the Frontline: NATO, the EU, and the Future
- Media, Social and Otherwise
- Deal With It: Economics of Friendship, Economics of Rivalry
- A Grand Reset? Imagining a Transatlantic Strategy for the Next 75 Years

The weeklong conference is only the beginning; Young Leaders continue to meet over time to exchange ideas and reinforce the bonds forged during the conference.

The ACG is greatly appreciative to the members of the Young Leaders Conference Steering Committee for the significant time and efforts they devoted to the conference:

- **Dr. Ronald J. Granieri** (2000 Young Leader), Associate Professor of History at the United States Army War College
- **Sarmad Hussain** (2005 Young Leader), Director of Government Affairs in the Biotechnology Sector at Arcensus Diagnostics – Biotechnology
- **Edward S. McFadden** (2002 Young Leader) (Steering Committee Chairman and ACG Board member), SVP for Communications & Marketing at the American Financial Services Association

The Council is also very grateful to the following for their support of the 2022 Young Leaders Conference:

- Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation
- Mercedes-Benz
- Noerr
- Pfizer

[Read the conference report](#)

XLII AMERICAN-GERMAN YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

American Young Leaders

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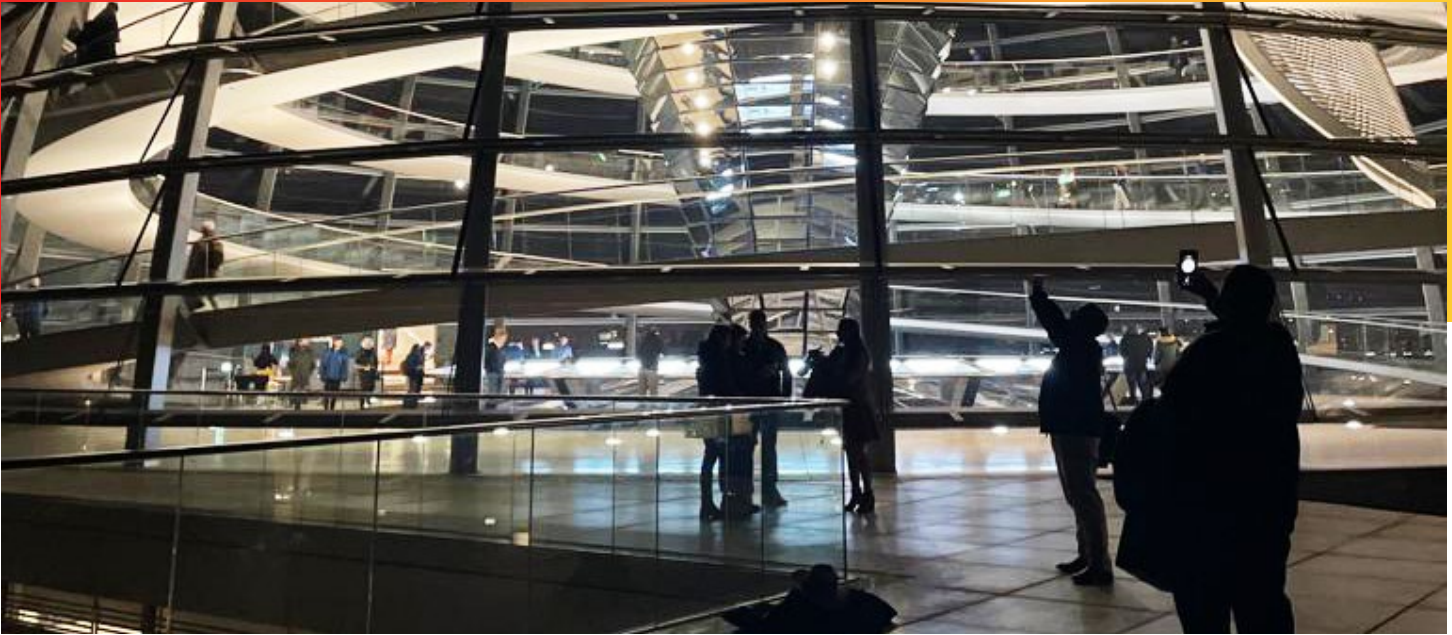
Founder & CEO
Allygat
Berlin, Germany

“It was so great to meet, get to know, and collaborate with such a variety of high-caliber individuals across various disciplines I would otherwise not interact with. The intense agenda allowed us to create personal connections while exploring ways to strengthen the U.S.-German/transatlantic relationship for years to come.”

– **Nicholas Bossert**

Director – Business Management, Ethylene Oxide and Glycols, Europe
BASF SE

STUDY TOURS AND LEADERSHIP MISSIONS



The American Council on Germany conducts in-depth fact-finding missions so practitioners and experts can travel across the Atlantic to look at key issues on the transatlantic agenda and meet with their professional counterparts and exchange best practices. Launched more than 30 years ago, the ACG's Study Tours and Leadership Missions give professionals the opportunity to engage in dialogue with officials, business leaders, journalists, and other experts – and one another – to gain a better understanding of the political, economic, social, and environmental landscape on either side of the Atlantic.

In 2022, the ACG conducted nine Study Tours under the umbrella of the following initiatives:

- Study Tour on Social Cohesion
- Leadership Mission on Agriculture Policy and Resource Scarcity
- Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour
- Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow: Digitalization and the Future of Work
- Stronger Together Manufacturing Workforce Missions

Past Study Tours have also focused on immigration and integration, energy policy, the environment and sustainability, German elections, and German and European politics and foreign and security policy.

After the conclusion of each immersive exchange, participants are encouraged to continue their engagement in the issues analyzed and to apply lessons learned with their local communities.

“For me, this trip allowed me time to get out of my day-to-day grind and really take time to learn and think about big-picture issues. I believe that experience would be valuable to any manufacturing workforce professional. It was an exciting, invigorating experience that will help me in my future work with American manufacturers.”

– **Thomas McGraw**
Director of Sector Partnership
MAGNET Ohio

STUDY TOUR ON SOCIAL COHESION

The American Council on Germany launched the Study Tour on Social Cohesion in the fall of 2022 to bring together small groups of American and German experts and practitioners to explore how communities address diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) on both sides of the Atlantic. Each group of participants went on two Study Tours, each one week long, consisting of site visits and discussions on how communities in both countries can work to become more inclusive.

The first group of participants included seven Europeans and 10 Americans working for local government, nonprofits, think tanks, academia, and corporations. Together they traveled to Dresden and Nuremberg in September and Charlotte and Cleveland in December. Over the course of each week, the group had some difficult conversations about the hurdles social-cohesion efforts

face, but they also had inspiring discussions with others who share their commitment to making society more inclusive. In Dresden, the group met with Bundestag member **Torsten Herbst** (FDP) (2011 Young Leader), who talked about the local impacts of global challenges; visited the Parliament of the Free State of Saxony to meet with three Landtag members who serve on the Committee for Social Affairs and Social Cohesion; and met with **Rabbi Akiva Weingarten** for a tour of the Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Dresden (Jewish Community Dresden). The group met with members of the Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Selbsthilfe Sachsen e.V. (Self-Help Working Group for Saxony) for a discussion about the needs of people with disabilities in the state. The group also saw how Dresden's Technical University is addressing the needs of its students and striving to have a more diverse and representative student body.

In Nuremberg, the participants met with **Martina Mittenhuber**, Director of the Human Rights Office for the City of Nuremberg, and **Dr. Nilgun Massih-Tehrani**, Head of Diversity, Participation, and Integration for the city. The group also had a guided tour of the Nazi rally grounds in Nuremberg led by Geschichte für Alle (History for All). The group noted disconcerting historical parallels between then and now – including inflationary trends, lack of opportunity, and xenophobia. At meetings at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut (DAI), the group met with **Antje Rempe**, Chairwoman of the Charkiw (Ukraine)-Nuremberg Partnership, and **Dr. Nasser Ahmed**, a member of the City Council and Chair of the SPD in Nuremberg, who is the first person of African descent to serve on the Council. The group also toured the Way of Human Rights, an art exhibit that was erected in 1993.

From December 4 to 10, the cohort of 15 young professionals traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, and Charlotte, North Carolina, for a week of meetings surrounding the topics of social justice, equity, education, and accessibility.

In Cleveland, the group met with **Tyson Mitchell**, Director of Equal Opportunity for the city, and Study Tour participant **Keri Zipay** of the economic development agency Team NEO (North-East Ohio). **City Council President Blaine Griffin** (2019 Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow Study Tour participant) described how Cleveland's Black and Brown communities struggle to move above the poverty level and pursue career paths that allow for both social and economic mobility. They met with **Lindsay Wheeler**, Community Organizing and Engagement Manager for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, who described the lasting impact of red-lining. The group also went to Deep Roots, a Black-owned art gallery that has become a center for creative release and community engagement for many artists who otherwise do not have the opportunity to display their art.

Upon arriving in Charlotte, the group could see how the growing city contrasts with the shrinking city of Cleveland. The group met with **Lauren Rogers**, Director of Community Engagement



for International House, who shared how her organization serves Charlotte's growing international community. Study Tour participant **Caitlin Moen** gave the group a tour of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library System and outlined the library's commitment to addressing digital equity. Charlotte Warburg Chapter Director **Al Guarnieri** invited the group to his office for lunch with **Manuel Campbell**, President of Aspire Community Capital, to discuss racial inequity and accessibility in Charlotte. The group visited the Museum of the New South to see an exhibit of People of Color who have changed American society. The delegation met with **Federico Rios**, Assistant Director of the Office of Equity, Mobility, and Immigrant Integration for the City of Charlotte, and **Mayor Pro Tem Braxton Winston**. In addition, they met with other individuals who are working to bridge the digital divide within the city, including **Bruce Clark** (2019 Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow Study Tour participant), Executive Director of the Center for Digital Equity, and **Rachel Stark** (2019/2022 Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour participant). [Read more](#)

LEADERSHIP MISSION ON AGRICULTURE POLICY AND RESOURCE SCARCITY

Launched in the fall of 2022, the Leadership Mission on Agriculture Policy and Resource Scarcity gave German and American agriculture experts and practitioners an in-depth look at agricultural policies, farming, and food-supply conditions on each side of the Atlantic. Organized in partnership with the Deutscher Bauernverband (DBV – the German Farmers' Association), this project's goal is to give Germans and Americans a better understanding of common challenges in agriculture arising from climate change, lack of biodiversity, trade wars, the war in Ukraine, supply-chain disruptions and economic strains, new farming techniques, and regulations.

From November 13 to 20, 2022, nine American agriculture experts and practitioners from the State of Georgia took a one-week trip to Germany to meet with individuals within the agriculture industry, including policymakers and experts. The delegation began in Berlin with a series of policy discussions and visited farms and production plants to gain a firsthand look at farming in Germany. Throughout the week, conversations centered on food security as a national security concern with an eye toward the European energy crisis and the representation of farmers in politics.

Upon arriving in Berlin, the delegation learned about the impact of German unification on the country's agricultural landscape and ongoing disparities between east and west. To this end, the group met with **Anton Blöth** (2006 McCloy Fellow in Agriculture),



Co-Founder of FriedensBrot e.V., a nonprofit that promotes peace through farming, and visited the Berlin Wall Memorial. This was followed by an in-depth discussion with Deputy Secretary General **Gerald Dohme** and Secretary General **Bernhard Krüsken** of the DBV, the most significant representation for farmers in Germany and a crucial influencer in agricultural policymaking. Both the prevalence of the Green Party in the federal governing coalition and the 2023 European Union-wide Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) have been posing challenges for German farmers. They met with DBV members **Udo Hemmerling** (2002 McCloy Fellow in Agriculture), Deputy Secretary General; **Theresa Kräter**, Sustainability Policy Advisor; **Dr. Anni Neu**, Public Relations Advisor; and **Christian Gaebel** (2015 McCloy Fellow in Agriculture), Common Agriculture Policy Advisor. **Patrick Wettemann**, a Federal Government Advisor in the Department of Food and Agriculture, noted that there is often a disconnect between agricultural policy and practice because of policymakers' lack of practical farming experience.

Meetings with Agricultural Attaché **Kirsten Luxbacher** and Agricultural Specialists **Sabine Lieberz** and **Leif Erik Rehder** of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, and **Avril Gommard**, the Agricultural Attaché at the French Embassy in Berlin, further revealed the common challenges Germany, the U.S., and France face in terms of agricultural policies.

The group went on to Hannover to attend EuroTier, the largest European convention for animal farming, dairy, and ranching, showcasing cutting-edge farming technologies. In Jena, in Thuringia, the group learned about farming practices in the former German Democratic Republic with **Dr. Lars Fliege**, Vice President of the Thuringian Farmers' Association. In contrast to the larger, post-Soviet farms in eastern Germany, our nine experts visited two sustainable farms that put animal welfare and zero-carbon goals at the center of their processes and recycle the biogas produced by cows for electricity generation: the dairy farm Wöllmisse Schölben and the Agrargenossenschaft Teichel e.G.

Finally, the group headed to Hesse and learned about smart farming and new weather tracking systems from the representatives of Reichardt GmbH and Vereinigte Hagel, an insurance company specializing in crop insurance in the face of climate change.

The ACG is grateful for The Halle Foundation's generous support of this program. [Read more](#)

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STUDY TOUR

The American Council on Germany's Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour allows young German and American experts to exchange best practices on dealing with sustainability challenges in an urban context, including urban mobility, affordable housing, renewable energies, and resource scarcity. As an alternative to high-level diplomatic relations, this program gives urban professionals the opportunity to visit medium-sized cities instead of capitals on both sides of the Atlantic.

The first Study Tour took place in 2018, bringing 17 urban affairs experts – including urban planners, transportation and urban development experts, energy entrepreneurs, elected officials, and journalists – first to Berlin and Leipzig then reconvening in Pittsburgh and Denver to look at mobility, housing, water, structural change, demographic trends, and sustainability. The second Study Tour started in late 2019, taking 15 new participants to Düsseldorf, Heidelberg, and Mannheim to meet with officials and discuss the challenges of affordable housing, the diversification of neighborhoods, and attractiveness for startups and small and medium-sized enterprises.

While the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the program for almost three years, it was able to resume with the visit of 13 of the earlier participants to Atlanta, Georgia, and Detroit, Michigan, from October 9 to October 15, 2022. The biggest challenges in these cities include affordable housing and abandoned properties, green spaces, inadequate public transportation systems, and socioeconomic challenges such as unequally distributed demographics and “food deserts.” In Atlanta, the group met with **J. Olu Baiyewu**, Urban Agriculture Director; **Chandra Farley**, Director of Sustainability; and **Douglas Nagy**, Deputy Commissioner for Transportation and Sustainability for the City of Atlanta, who explained their long-term plans for the city. **Shaundon Moore**, the Lead Environmental Educator at WAWA (West Atlanta Watershed Alliance), discussed preserving the natural resources of predominantly Black and Brown areas of Atlanta and explained that many neighborhoods are food deserts with limited or no access to fresh food.

In Detroit, the group met with **Deputy Mayor Todd A. Bettison** and several other government officials, including **Mary Sheffield**, City Council President; **Antoine Bryant**, Director of Planning and Development for Detroit; and **Bruce Simpson**, Ombudsman of the City of Detroit. The meetings with **Noah Urban**, Director of DataDrivenDetroit (D3), a nonprofit working alongside the city to collect data and assess Detroit's challenges, and **Lisa Nuskowski**, President and Chief Operating Officer of the M-1 Rail, who launched a bike-sharing initiative, were particularly enlightening. [Read more](#)



TRANSATLANTIC CITIES OF TOMORROW: DIGITALIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

In early 2019, the American Council on Germany launched Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow: Digitalization and the Future of Work, a multi-year reciprocal exchange initiative for thought leaders in small and medium-sized cities in Germany and the United States. The goal is to develop solutions to common challenges resulting from digitalization and to identify innovative approaches to turning these challenges into opportunities for their local workforce and economies. The program aims to create a sustainable network of decision-makers and practitioners in the participating cities that can learn from and support one another. This includes rethinking education and workforce-training needs, fostering entrepreneurship and startup cultures, and making investments in digital and physical infrastructure. Engaging with citizens and community stakeholders is key to this process, as is examining social equity in a rapidly changing environment.

The initiative consisted of four separate rounds of reciprocal exchanges visiting each country starting in early 2019. It concluded with a two-day conference in April 2023 in New Jersey that brought together the participants from the entire project and external audiences to share the lessons gleaned and to highlight actions that have been or will be implemented in the participants' cities.

In 2022, the third round of exchanges took place from April 24 to 30 in Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Denver and June 19 to 25 in Heidelberg, Mainz, and Stuttgart. Highlights in the United States included visits to state-of-the-art training centers, a session with the Colorado Office of the Future of Work and the Colorado



Department of Higher Education's Collegiate Apprenticeship Program, and a meeting with the Denver Office of Economic Development and Opportunity, the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance, and Denver Smart City. The group also visited the St. Vrain Valley Schools Innovation Center. They toured the Catalyst Campus for Technology and Innovation and learned about its efforts to build collaboration between industry, small businesses, workforce training, entrepreneurs, startups, and venture capital to create community, spark innovation, and stimulate business growth. [Read more about the April trip to the U.S.](#)

Highlights in Germany included visits to startup incubators, universities, research campuses, a Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA. The group engaged in a conversation with **Alexander Schweitzer**, Rhineland-Palatinate Minister for Labor, Social Affairs, Transformation, and Digitalization, about the state's strategy for digital equity, infrastructure, transparent democracy, and education. [Read more about the June trip to Germany](#)

The fourth round of exchanges for practitioners from Philadelphia, Trenton, and Newark/Jersey City and Schwerin, Rostock, and Hamburg took place in the U.S. from November 6 to 12 and in Germany from December 4 to 10. In the United States, the group visited the City of Philadelphia's Office of Innovation and Technology and the Technology Learning Collaborative, centers that promote entrepreneurship, and innovation programs at Drexel and Temple universities and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The group also had a discussion about the State of New Jersey's innovation and workforce-development strategies with representatives from a variety of agencies and visited the Liberty Science Center, where the group explored its educational activities to promote STEM education. [Read more about the November trip to the U.S.](#)

In Germany, the group visited various startups, the Universität Rostock's Institute of Visual & Analytic Computing in the Faculty of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering and the Center for Artificial Intelligence in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, and multiple research centers promoting STEM learning and entrepreneurship, including Impact Hub Hamburg. The group also met with the Lord Mayor of Schwerin, **Dr. Rico Badenschier**, who shared his digital vision for the city, and with a representative from the MV Association of Towns and Municipalities. [Read more about the December trip to Germany](#)

Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow: Digitalization and the Future of Work is organized and administered by the ACG with generous support from the Transatlantic Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through funds of the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK).

STRONGER TOGETHER MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE MISSIONS: SHARING BEST PRACTICES IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES

In partnership with MAGNET: The Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network in Cleveland, the American Council on Germany launched the Stronger Together Manufacturing Workforce Missions as the American manufacturing industry faces a nationwide workforce shortage and talent crisis. The Study Tours seek to improve apprenticeship opportunities in the United States provided by Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST-MEP) centers, which help small and medium-sized manufacturers improve their quantity and quality of workers. The project supports three Study Tours for workforce-development professionals in the NIST-MEP network to travel to Germany and experience its cutting-edge techniques, programs, and tools as part of the dual system of apprenticeship training. These include apprenticeships, Industry 4.0 training, and bootcamps. The objective is for professionals to take home best practices from Germany and incorporate them into current American vocational education programs.

The first mission sent 17 American participants from eight different MEP centers and 10 states to Bonn, Koblenz, Mainz, and Frankfurt between October 23 and 29, 2022. Some of these professionals also represented the federal government, manufacturing and defense communities, and workforce investment boards.

The delegation traveled to Bonn and met with the Federal Institute of Vocational Education, which gave them an overview of the 325 standardized training occupations within the German dual system of apprenticeship training. Subsequently meeting with the owner, apprenticeship trainer, and apprentices of the Brück Maschinenbau, a typical medium-sized company and leading manufacturer of perforating presses, the group had the opportunity to learn everyone's motivation and perspectives on apprenticeship programs and experience one in practice.

Moving on to Koblenz, the delegation was received at the city's Chamber of Industry and Commerce and Chamber of Handicrafts, responsible for monitoring companies' training standards, conducting examinations, and issuing federally recognized diplomas. The group met with apprentices at Novelis, the leading producer of flat-rolled aluminum products.

In Mainz, the participants considered some of the challenges in the apprenticeship system with the Director of the ILW Mainz/Industry Institute for Teaching and Training, educating more than 480 apprentices a year for 80 industrial companies. Two apprentices, including a Syrian immigrant, explained they chose this education because of hands-on training and the potential for secure, well-paying jobs. The group visited HAHN Automation, an innovative machine manufacturer for assembly automation and testing processes.



Photo courtesy of Novelis



“This program truly shines a light on apprenticeships and there is so much knowledge to absorb. Personally, there were a few elements and concepts that I learned on this trip that I plan to start working on immediately.”

– **Larry Banks**
Manager
NJ Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Finally, they met with the Welcome Center Hessen in Frankfurt, which helps international employers recruit skilled workers. While facing similar challenges as in the United States, the German apprenticeship system demarcated itself through rigorous federal standardization; a strong collaboration of stakeholders, including the government, education, employers, and unions; as well as strong employer buy-in.

The Stronger Together Manufacturing Workforce Missions are organized and administered by America Works, a program of MAGNET: The Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network, and the American Council on Germany with generous support from the Transatlantic Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through funds of the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. [Read more](#)

FELLOWSHIPS

The American Council on Germany offers fellowships to give American and German experts, journalists, scholars, and other early career professionals from a variety of fields the opportunity to travel overseas to gain a better understanding of how issues are approached on the other side of the Atlantic. In the process, they forge lasting connections with their transatlantic counterparts. Since 1976, more than 1,100 individuals have traveled across the Atlantic to broaden their personal and professional horizons under the auspices of the fellowship programs.

MCCLOY FELLOWSHIPS ON GLOBAL TRENDS

The cornerstone of the ACG's fellowships, the McCloy Fellowships on Global Trends award funding to practitioners to research the most pressing challenges on the transatlantic agenda. Five McCloy Fellowships on Global Trends were awarded in 2022.

Dr. Ali Fathollah-Nejad, Research Fellow at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut (AUB), is researching a transatlantic foreign policy addressing "authoritarian stability." **Leah Hubbard**, Senior Associate at Estolano Advisors, is examining how climate-safe cityscapes and progressive social policy and inclusion efforts can better ensure a just future. **Dr. Timo Lochocki**, Senior Fellow at the Mercator Foundation, is researching Germany's national interests vis-à-vis Russia. **Triá Raimundo**, Director of Global Development Programs at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, is researching feminist foreign policy and what it means for the transatlantic relationship. **Dr. Kristin Shi-Kupfer**, Professor of Contemporary China Studies at Trier University, is researching China's influence on transatlantic relations.

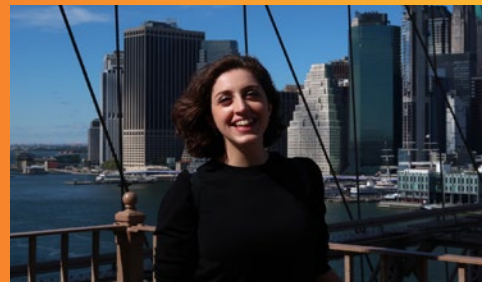
CARL DUISBERG FELLOWSHIPS FOR FUTURE GERMAN TRANSATLANTICISTS

The Carl Duisberg Fellowships for Future German Transatlanticists offer young Germans the opportunity to spend two months working with the ACG while conducting research on a critical concern for German-American relations. In 2022, two Duisberg Fellowships were awarded. **Zeynep Alraqeb**, an economist in the Banking and Finance Research Group for the Deutsche Bundesbank, is researching how the image of America has changed abroad, and **Laura Christen**, a Specialist in Corporate Customers Communications for Infineon Technologies AG,

is investigating the impact of the global supply-chain challenge. Funding for this fellowship is provided by the Carl Duisberg Stiftung für Internationale Bildung und Zusammenarbeit.

KELLEN FELLOWSHIPS

For more than 20 years, the Anna-Maria and Stephen M. Kellen Fellowships have provided young Berlin-based journalists the opportunity to travel to the United States to explore current trends in transatlantic relations. In 2022, the ACG awarded two Kellen Fellowships, to **Vladimir Balzer**, a journalist and moderator at Deutschlandfunk Kultur, who is researching the waning of public trust, and **Carmen Maiwald**, a freelance journalist who is investigating the apparel industry in Western industrialized countries. This program is generously funded by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.



"My fellowship at the ACG has been shaped by four words: diversity, density, creativity, and connection. All of these elements are reflected in the vibrant city of New York, which has provided me with the opportunity to connect with a diverse range of people and perspectives on geopolitics, economics, and culture. Through my interactions, I have gained a deeper understanding of past, present, and future German-American relations, and the importance of collaboration in overcoming the challenges we face. I have been inspired by the innovative approaches and ideas of various initiatives and projects. Now, I have been encouraged to think in more entrepreneurial, creative, and bold ways about how we can strengthen ties between Europe and the United States."

– **Zeynep Alraqeb**
2022 Carl Duisberg Fellow

RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE



ACG Board member Frances A. Devlin (2012 Young Leader), Senior Director for Global Policy and Public Affairs at Pfizer Inc; former German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, Atlantik-Brücke Chairman and former Vice-Chancellor; and Dr. Steven E. Sokol, ACG President and CEO

As 2022 opened, a new German government had been in office for mere weeks and was only beginning to get settled in. The COVID-19 pandemic remained a focal point, but the death rates were down significantly and the worst of it appeared to be in the rear-view mirror. Russia was being closely watched as troops approached the Ukrainian border. The American Council on Germany's programming throughout the year looked closely at these topics and much more.

Ukraine was a major flashpoint in 2022 – starting with tensions as Russia approached the Donbas and then outright war. The ACG began its programming looking at Russian aggression in the region as early as January 14, holding a virtual discussion on the talks with Russia with **Dr. Stefan Meister**, Head of the Program on International Order and Democracy at the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP), and **Dr. Angela Stent** (1982 Young Leader), Senior Adviser to the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies and Professor Emerita of Government and Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

The ACG and Tennessee World Affairs Council's discussion series In Focus: Russia's War in Ukraine encompassed six discussions looking at the situation on the ground. Former ACG Board member and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany **John Kornblum** shared his insights into developments in Ukraine on numerous occasions, including as part of two of the events in the series. On July 7, Ambassador Kornblum examined the state of the conflict and asked if Ukraine had reached a "new normal." A virtual discussion with **Anna Novosad**, former Ukrainian Minister of Education and member of the Ukrainian Parliament, on July 21 looked at the potential for postwar recovery, and on August 18 Vanderbilt Distinguished Historian **Professor Thomas Schwartz** (1989 Young Leader) analyzed the

history of Ukraine and the legacy of the Cold War. A discussion on October 10 with **Dr. Liana Fix**, Council on Foreign Relations Fellow for Europe, and **Lieutenant General Ben Hodges**, former Commanding General of the United States Army Europe, examined how the conflict might end, and on November 14 journalist and author **Katja Gloger** (1991 Young Leader) and **Andrew S. Weiss** (1997 Young Leader), James Family Chair and Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, shared their insights on what makes Russian President Putin tick. Closing out the series, on December 6 Ambassador Kornblum examined the new phase of the war.

A number of other online discussions and in-person events looked at conditions on the ground throughout the year. On March 29, the ACG held a Breakfast Briefing with Atlantik-Brücke Chairman **Sigmar Gabriel**, former German Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor, on "What's at Stake? Russia, Ukraine, and the Future of the Global Order."

Early in the year, on January 28, the ACG held a virtual discussion with **Metin Hakverdi**, Bundestag member (SPD), to hear his impressions gleaned during a visit to Kyiv. On February 10, the Council heard from another Bundestag member, **Nils Schmid** (SPD), about the multilateral responses to the growing crisis. On March 1, ACG members and friends heard insights from **Dr. Claudia Major**, Head of the International Security Research Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP), in a virtual discussion. A hybrid event with Bundestag member Metin Hakverdi on April 1 also looked at Germany's response to the war in Ukraine. The event was held in partnership with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS) and hosted by Deutsche Bank's Innovation Lab.

On April 21, ACG corporate members and members of the Chairman's and President's Circle met with **Dr. Norbert Röttgen**, member of the German Bundestag (CDU) and former Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, for a dinner and discussion on "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: A Watershed Moment for the International Order and a Critical



Journalist and author Katja Gloger (1991 Young Leader) and Andrew S. Weiss (1997 Young Leader), James Family Chair and Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Challenge for Global Leadership.” The discussion was held in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. On April 28, a virtual discussion with Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, former Commanding General of the United States Army Europe, and Dr. Claudia Major of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) looked at Russia’s renewed offensive in Ukraine and next steps for Western allies.

A hybrid event on May 13 with senior German diplomat **Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger** (1978 Young Leader), who served as Chairman of the Munich Security Conference from 2008 until 2022, and is now President of the Foundation Council of the Munich Security Conference Foundation, looked at the Russian invasion of Ukraine and asked if this is a crisis or an opportunity for German foreign policy. The event was hosted by Deutsche Bank.

At a Breakfast Briefing on May 27, **Dr. Ellen Ueberschär**, Co-President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, discussed the Greens’ strong support of Ukraine and Germany’s dependence on Russian energy. The event was held in partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation. **Omid Nouripour**, Bundestag



Andrea Ostheimer de Sosa, Director of the New York Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation; Bundestag member Dr. Norbert Röttgen (CDU); and Dr. Steven E. Sokol, ACG President and CEO



Young Leader alumni Abbas Elegba (2019), Partner at American Industrial Partners; Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger (1978), President of the Foundation Council of the Munich Security Conference Foundation; David Gill (1992), Consul General of Germany in New York; and Joerg Landsch (2014), Head of Central Corporate Venture Capital at Deutsche Bank AG

member and Co-Chairman of Alliance 90/The Greens, shared his insights on the impact of the war on Germany and Europe at a Breakfast Briefing on September 13. The event was held in partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and hosted by AllianceBernstein. **Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger** (1985 Legislative Aide Fellow), former Foreign Editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, looked at the war as a shock for Germany at a discussion and luncheon on September 30 hosted by Alston & Bird LLP. Lieutenant General Ben Hodges of the Center for European Policy Analysis gave an analysis of the war at a discussion and luncheon on October 25. The event was hosted by AllianceBernstein.

Many events looked at the war from the perspective of the energy landscape, since the war has had unique repercussions for Germany in light of its decades-long reliance on Russia for oil and gas. On March 3, the ACG held a discussion and reception on Nord Stream 2 and Germany’s dependency on Russian gas with **Sascha Müller-Kränner**, Executive Director of Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. The event was held in partnership with 1014 Inc. On May 23, **Alexander Radwan**, member of the German Bundestag (CSU), looked at the war in Ukraine, along with climate protection and inflation, at a discussion and dinner held in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation. And on September 15, Politico’s Energy Policy Correspondent, **America Hernandez**, looked at Europe’s energy challenge in a virtual discussion as the winter drew closer.

The ACG held multiple virtual discussions looking at the war in Ukraine delving into issues beyond the security developments in the headlines. On March 10, **Christina Brause**, Managing Editor of the Investigative Team at *WELT/WELT AM SONNTAG*, and **Cristina Gonzalez** (2014 Young Leader), Politico Europe’s Executive Producer for Audio, discussed media coverage in Ukraine and strategies to avoid fake news.



Cristina Gonzalez (2014 Young Leader), Politico Europe’s Executive Producer for Audio, and Christina Brause, Managing Editor of the Investigative Team at *WELT/WELT AM SONNTAG*

On May 6, Berlin-based cybersecurity experts **Tyson Barker**, Head of the Technology and Global Affairs Program at the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP), and **Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar**, Director of the Digital Society Institute at the European School of Management and Technology, focused on the cyber and technological dimensions of Russia’s war in Ukraine.

THE NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ZEITENWENDE

The new German federal government – led by the traffic-light coalition, made up of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), the Free Democratic Party (FDP), and Alliance 90/The Greens – was the subject of numerous ACG discussions in 2022. The new government was in the limelight on the world stage when Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced Germany’s dramatic shift in foreign security policy, which became known as the Zeitenwende, or sea change.

Kicking off the year, **Markus Blume**, Secretary General of Bavaria’s Christian Social Union, shared his perspectives in a virtual discussion on the traffic-light coalition from the point of view of the opposition. The discussion was held on January 21 in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation. A special virtual discussion on January 28 looked at the new German government’s domestic and foreign policy priorities, featuring former U.S. Ambassador to Berlin and ACG Chairman **John B. Emerson** and Atlantik-Brücke Chairman **Sigmar Gabriel**, former German Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor. The discussion was moderated by **Juliane Schäuble**, U.S. Correspondent for *Der Tagesspiegel*. When Chancellor Scholz came to Washington, DC, in February, some analysts described his visit as a “salvage mission” and an effort to restore Germany’s reputation as a reliable partner. A virtual discussion with **Ines Pohl**, Washington Bureau Chief for Deutsche Welle, on February 9 looked at what we learned from the visit. Then on February 14, the ACG held a virtual roundtable with Bundestag members **Dorothee Martin** (SPD), **Frank Müller-Rosentritt** (FDP), and **Dr. Konstantin von Notz** (Alliance 90/The Greens) on priorities and challenges for the new German government and the Bundestag.

On February 27, Chancellor Scholz announced the Zeitenwende, a major pivot in German energy, foreign, and defense policy. The ACG took a close look at this watershed at a Breakfast Briefing with German Ambassador to the U.S. **Dr. Emily Haber** on March 8. A virtual discussion on March 18 with **Johannes Leithäuser**, Political Correspondent in Berlin for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and **Dr. Anna Sauerbrey** (2018 Kellen Fellow), Foreign Editor at *Die Zeit*, looked at the new government’s first 100 days, including this historic shift.

Isabel Cademartori, Bundestag member (SPD), met with ACG members and friends on May 2 for a discussion on the new faces in the Bundestag and its collective agenda. The luncheon was held at 1014 Inc. in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. A virtual discussion with **Paul-Anton Krüger**, Parliamentary Correspondent in the Berlin Bureau of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, on May 18 looked at power politics

in the governing coalition and considered how recent state elections in Schleswig-Holstein and North Rhine-Westphalia factor in. And on October 12, a virtual discussion with **Claudia Wohlsperger** of Norddeutscher Rundfunk looked at the election in Lower Saxony and its implications.

Two events with Bundestag members in July looked at the Zeitenwende and the evolving shape of German leadership: a discussion and luncheon with **Metin Hakverdi** (SPD) on July 12, held in partnership with 1014 Inc. and with support from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and a discussion and luncheon with **Peter Beyer** (CDU) on July 28, hosted by Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. At a Breakfast Briefing on October 14, **General Markus Laubenthal**, Deputy Inspector General of the Bundeswehr, discussed what could be next for the Bundeswehr. The event was held in partnership with the German Consulate General of New York.

Two additional in-person events with Bundestag members in November looked at the Zeitenwende and its implications for the German-American partnership: a discussion and luncheon with **Michael Georg Link** (FDP), who also serves as Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation at the Federal Foreign Office, on November 14, and a discussion and luncheon with **Lars Klingbeil**, SPD Co-Chair, on November 16, held in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

As the traffic-light coalition reached the one-year mark, the ACG held a virtual discussion with **Stefan Kornelius**, the Political Editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, on December 15.



Bundestag members
Frank Müller-Rosentritt (FDP);
Dr. Konstantin von Notz
(Alliance 90/The Greens);
and Dorothee Martin (SPD)

ALLIES NAVIGATING A TIME OF CRISIS

As 2022 opened, tensions were rising in Ukraine, and these tensions escalated into full-blown war only two months into the year. While the situation on the ground became dire, ACG discussions early in the year underscored that the crisis was putting on public display how much German-American relations improved over the past year. It had become clear that Germany and the European Union more broadly are partners of first resort for the United States when addressing common challenges like the current crisis – but also climate, energy, cyber and digital, as well as China.

The American Council on Germany began the year by holding a hybrid event on January 20 in Berlin with U.S. **Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken** together with Atlantik-Brücke, the Aspen Institute Germany, and the German Marshall Fund of the United States, along with other partners. As Russian forces were mounting along the border with Ukraine, Secretary Blinken said: “It’s no accident that I’m offering these thoughts here in Berlin. Perhaps no place in the world experienced the divisions of the Cold War more than this city. Here, President Kennedy declared all free people citizens of Berlin. Here, President Reagan urged Mr. Gorbachev to tear down that wall. It seems a time that President Putin wants to return to that era. We hope not. But if he chooses to do so, he’ll be met with the same determination, the same unity that past generations of leaders and citizens brought to bear to advance peace, to advance freedom, to advance human dignity across Europe and around the world.”

[Read the full address here](#)



U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken

The ACG held a wide array of events throughout the year looking at the transatlantic partnership as allies drew closer at a time of crisis. In a virtual discussion on January 24, **Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook**, Director of the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP), and **Dr. Stefan Mair**, Director of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP), sought to answer the question “Is America Back?” and looked at the Biden administration’s initiatives to build multilateral cooperation. **Professor Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers**, former German Federal Minister of Education, Science, Research, and Technology and former Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia (CDU), looked at the German-American partnership through the lens of balancing national interests and common values at a dinner and discussion on February 24.

On February 25, the ACG co-hosted a virtual discussion with Atlantik-Brücke and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress to look at the dire situation unfolding in Ukraine. **Molly Montgomery**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Eurasian and European Affairs, spoke with **Charles Boustany**, President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress and former Republican Congressman from Louisiana.

Two virtual events in October looked at public sentiment in these volatile times and on the cusp of the midterm elections in the United States. On October 19, **Bruce Stokes**, Visiting Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, gave an overview of the public opinion poll Transatlantic Trends 2022. On October 20, **Annett Meiritz**, U.S. Correspondent for *Handelsblatt*, and **Juliane Schäuble**, U.S. Correspondent for *Der Tagesspiegel*, discussed German views of the United States before the elections.

On October 26, **Hermann Gröhe**, Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, Deputy Chairman of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and former Federal Minister of Health, discussed whether Europe can remain a strong ally for the United States at a discussion and dinner held in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation New York. At a Breakfast Briefing on November 4 hosted by Alston & Bird LLP, Atlantik-Brücke Chairman **Sigmar Gabriel**, former Foreign Minister and former Vice-Chancellor, also looked at how the transatlantic partnership is navigating multiple crises.

Taking a look back at 2022 while looking ahead to 2023, the ACG held a roundtable discussion on December 10 with Bundestag members **Thomas Erndl** (CSU) and **Andrew Ullmann** (FDP). The event was moderated by Juliane Schäuble of *Der Tagesspiegel* and hosted by Microsoft.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

2022 continued to see the aftershocks of the COVID-19 crisis and the supply-chain issues that came with it. The uncertainty was compounded by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The ACG hosted two events with members of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank in the first few months of the year. On February 22, **Professor Dr. Johannes Beermann** discussed the future of money and the notion of digital currency, and on April 27, **Professor Dr. Joachim Wuermeling** discussed strategies for financial stability in an unstable world.



Professor Dr. Johannes Beermann, a member of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank; ACG Board member Christiana Riley, CEO of Deutsche Bank USA Corp. and a member of the Management Board and Head of the Americas of Deutsche Bank AG; and Dr. Steven E. Sokol, ACG President and CEO

The U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council had been established to coordinate approaches to trade, technology, and security. On May 18, the ACG held a discussion and luncheon with **Dr. Daniel S. Hamilton**, a nonresident Senior Fellow at the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution, to hear an update on the transatlantic economy, from the war in Ukraine to the Trade and Technology Council meeting. The discussion was hosted by Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., and held in partnership with the European-American Business Organization, Inc. The following day, a virtual discussion analyzed the work of the Trade and Technology Council with perspectives from **Dr. Laura von Daniels**, Deputy Head of the Research Division The Americas at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP).

Transatlantic economic cooperation – and specifically the case of Intel establishing a presence in Magdeburg – was the focus of a virtual discussion with **Sandra Yvonne Stieger**, Deputy Mayor for Economy, Tourism, and Regional Cooperation for the City of Magdeburg, and **Greg Slater**, Vice President and Senior Director for Global Regulatory Affairs at Intel Corporation, on May 25.

[Watch here](#)



Sandra Yvonne Stieger, Deputy Mayor for Economy, Tourism, and Regional Cooperation for the City of Magdeburg, and Greg Slater, Vice President and Senior Director for Global Regulatory Affairs at Intel Corporation

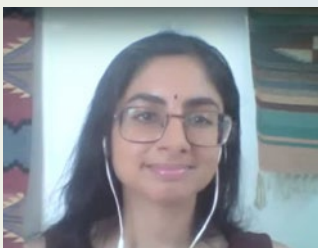


On May 27, the ACG held a special virtual discussion with ACG Board member **Michael Heinz**, Chairman and CEO of BASF Corporation and a member of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE, who shared his unique perspectives at a multinational corporation coping with today's geopolitical challenges in connection with Russia, energy, and the German economy. [Watch here](#)

A discussion on June 20 featured **Dr. Bernd Althusmann**, Lower Saxony Minister for Economics, Labor, Transportation, and Digitalization and Deputy Minister-President, and looked at transatlantic relations in a period of crisis from a state level. The meeting was held in partnership with Wirtschaftsrunde Deutschland and Wirtschaftsrunde: CEO Roundtable of German-American Companies in the United States and hosted by Bertelsmann Inc.

The future of German foreign and economic policy after the Zeitenwende was the focus of a virtual discussion on September 13 with ACG Board member **Tara Hariharan** (2016 Young Leader), Managing Director for Global Macro Research at NWI Management LP, and **Timo Lochocki** (2022 McCloy Fellow on Global Trends), Senior Fellow at the Mercator Foundation. The discussion was held in partnership with the Council on Foreign Relations. [Watch here](#)

Dr. Andreas Dombret, a former Executive Board member of the Deutsche Bundesbank, shared his perspectives on “The Three I’s: Invasion, Inflation, and Interest Rates” on October 18 at a discussion and luncheon hosted by Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

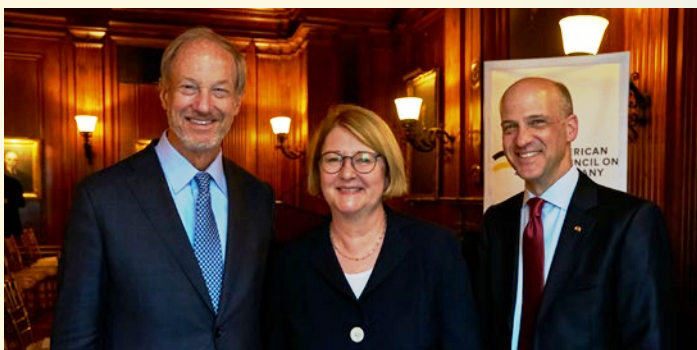


ACG Board member Tara Hariharan (2016 Young Leader), Managing Director for Global Macro Research at NWI Management LP



ACG Board member Michael Heinz, Chairman and CEO of BASF Corporation and a member of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND OTHER MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS



ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson; Ambassador Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations; and Dr. Steven E. Sokol, ACG President and CEO

Europe marked the 30th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty in 2022. In a virtual discussion on February 11, the ACG examined the ideals and hopes that went into the Maastricht Treaty, and reflected on which of those have been successfully realized in the three decades since.

The Council held a virtual discussion on April 27 with **Jacob Ross**, Research Fellow in the Franco-German Relations Program of the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP), for a view from Berlin on the French federal election and what to expect from the next French President.

The ACG convened its Annual Meeting of the Members on May 10 with special guest speaker **Ambassador Antje Leendertse**, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations. In an address to the 80 members and friends gathered, she discussed multilateralism in times of crisis. Ambassador Leendertse outlined three ways the UN is attempting to bring an end to the hostilities between Russia and Ukraine: first, by getting Russia to withdraw its troops; second, by providing aid to Ukraine and its people; and third, by supporting other countries indirectly affected by the war.

On June 17, the ACG held a discussion and luncheon with **Katharina von Schnurbein** (2009 Young Leader), European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, to look at antisemitism in Europe and how the EU is addressing this challenge. The event was hosted by Alston & Bird LLP.

Investments in Germany and the restructuring of energy supplies were the focus of a discussion and luncheon with **Dr. Jörg Kukies**, State Secretary for Economics, Finance, and European Affairs at the German Federal Chancellery, on the sidelines of the UN General

Assembly meeting in New York on September 21. The event was hosted by Morgan Stanley.

On November 1, the ACG held a virtual discussion on building European sovereignty in times of geopolitical turmoil with **Dr. Jana Puglierin**, Senior Policy Fellow and Head of the Berlin Office of the European Council on Foreign Relations.



Dr. Jana Puglierin, Senior Policy Fellow and Head of the Berlin Office at the European Council on Foreign Relations



ACG Board member Ludwig Willisch, Head (ret.) of BMW Group Region Americas; Gunther E. Greiner, President of International Corporate Consultancy, LLC; and ACG Board members Michael Heinz, Chairman and CEO of BASF Corporation and a member of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE; Stanford S. Warshawsky, Chairman of Bismarck Capital, LLC; and Joseph McLaughlin, Partner (ret.) at Sidley Austin LLP

OTHER SPECIAL TOPICS

Social cohesion was not only the subject of one set of the ACG's Study Tours but also the focus of some of the Council's virtual discussions. On February 25, ACG members and friends looked at "Black Lives in Germany and the U.S. from 1933 to Today" and met virtually with **Professor Robbie Aitken**, a historian of Black Europe at Sheffield Hallam University, who led the effort to place the Stolpersteine for Martha Ndumbe and Ferdinand James Allen; **Dr. Tiffany Florvil** (2015 Hunt Fellow), Associate Professor of 20th-Century European Women's and Gender History at the University of New Mexico; and **Alice Hasters**, a journalist, blogger, and author who identifies as a Black German and publishes about her experience in today's society. The discussion was moderated by **Dr. Nicholas Boston** (2006 McCloy Fellow in Art), a sociologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the City University of New York at Lehman College. The event was held in partnership with 1014 Inc. and the German Consulate General in New York, along with other partners. A virtual discussion on March 28 featuring a Co-Chair of the Green Party, **Ricarda Lang**, also looked at social cohesion and the Green Party's impact on Germany's new government. [Watch here](#)

Other special topics included a look at the court systems of the United States and Germany, in a virtual discussion on February 17 with **Caroline Fredrickson**, Senior Fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice and a Visiting Professor at Georgetown Law School, and **Russell Miller**, Head of the Max Planck Law Network and J.B. Stombeck Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University. The speakers considered whether the U.S. Supreme Court and the German Federal Constitutional Court serve as models or if they are in need of reform.

Health issues were the focus of other events, including a discussion and reception on September 12 on lessons learned from the pandemic and how cities can protect public health and fight climate change. **Silke Gebel**, Chair of the Green Party in the Berlin House of Representatives, shared her perspectives at the event, which was held in partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and hosted at 1014 Inc.

A virtual discussion on September 30 looked at lingering German (dis)unity 32 years after unification with **Vladimir Balzer** (2022 Kellen Fellow), a journalist and moderator at Deutschlandfunk, and **Anja Heyde**, a television host and journalist.

On May 12, the co-hosts of the podcast "Women in War," journalist **Cosima Gill** and war reporter **Julia Leeb**, discussed war and conflict from a female perspective.

Relations between Iran and Russia were the subject of a discussion with **Dr. Ali Fathollah-Nejad** (2022 McCloy Fellow on Global Trends), author of *Iran in an Emerging New World Order: From Ahmadinejad to Rouhani*, on July 26. [Watch here](#)

On November 2, a Breakfast Briefing with **Professor Dr. Christoph Meinel**, CEO of the Hasso Plattner Institute and Dean of the Digital Engineering Faculty at Potsdam University, focused on fake news, deepfakes, and the potential for election manipulation. The event was held in partnership with the Hasso Plattner Institute.

Relations with China were a theme addressed at events throughout the year, and **Noah Barkin**, Senior Visiting Fellow at the German Marshall Fund and Managing Editor at Rhodium Group, shared his perspectives on how the Zeitenwende affects these relations in a virtual discussion on November 8. [Watch here](#)



Dr. Ali Fathollah-Nejad (2022 McCloy Fellow on Global Trends), author of *Iran in an Emerging New World Order: From Ahmadinejad to Rouhani*



Ricarda Lang, Co-Chair of the Green Party

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ACG President and CEO Dr. Steven E. Sokol; McCloy Award recipients Ola Källenius, Chairman of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG, and ACG Board member Christiana Riley, CEO of Deutsche Bank USA Corp. and a member of the Management Board of Deutsche Bank AG; and ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman of Capital Group and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany

Each year, the American Council on Germany holds its John J. McCloy Awards Dinner to bring together thought leaders, decision-makers, and stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic to celebrate the longstanding partnership between Germany and the United States and to honor business leaders for their work to promote deeper transatlantic economic ties. The proceeds provide crucial support for the programs offered by the ACG.

The 29th annual dinner honored **Ola Källenius**, Chairman of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG, and ACG Board member **Christiana Riley**, CEO of Deutsche Bank USA Corp. and a member of the Management Board of Deutsche Bank AG, on December 9, 2022, at the Mandarin Oriental in New York City. Both Mercedes-Benz Group and Deutsche Bank USA and their leaders were honored for their strong commitment to sustainability as well as their work to strengthen transatlantic economic relations. The gala was also a celebration of the American Council on Germany's 70th anniversary. About 325 members of the German-American community came together for the occasion.

ACG Chairman **Ambassador John B. Emerson** served as the master of ceremonies for the evening. He welcomed those

gathered and underlined that "While the challenges we face today are different, transatlantic cooperation remains just as relevant today as it was in 1952." He also read greetings from President Joe Biden. **Ambassador Emily Haber**, German Ambassador to the United States, likewise stressed the importance of the partnership between Germany and the United States, particularly during these volatile times. In addition, she shared a letter from German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. New Jersey **Governor Phil Murphy**, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and First Lady and ACG Board member **Tammy Murphy** also sent greetings via video.

ACG President and CEO **Dr. Steven E. Sokol** shared an overview of the ACG's work over the past year and indeed its first seven decades. As the Council returns to holding more in-person activities, he noted that that very week, the ACG conducted two Study Tours, one in Hamburg, Rostock, and Schwerin to discuss digitalization and the future of work and another in Cleveland and Charlotte to discuss equity and social cohesion. In his words: "After nearly three years of online discussions, there is no substitute for in-person gatherings to have conversations like the ones you are having tonight and to network and build new relationships."



ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson; Kimberly Emerson, a Board member of Human Rights Watch; David Gill (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York; Sheila Shrivastava; Max Gundlach, a student at Georgetown Walsh School of Foreign Service; and ACG Board member Andrew Gundlach, President/CEO of Bleichroeder LP



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McCloy Award recipient Ola Källenius



ACG President and CEO Dr. Steven E. Sokol and panelist Dr. Tobias Lindner, Minister of State in the German Federal Foreign Office

Dr. Sokol moderated a fireside chat with **Dr. Tobias Lindner**, Minister of State in the German Federal Foreign Office, together with Mr. Källenius and Ms. Riley. They discussed the importance of the transatlantic partnership today, global economic trends, and the importance of sustainability now and for the future.

The American Council on Germany is very grateful to the numerous companies and individuals who supported the dinner.



ACG Board members Dr. Charles A. Kupchan, Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University and Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and Elke Rehbock (2017 Young Leader), Partner at Dentons US LLP, with ACG President and CEO Dr. Steven E. Sokol

All gala photos by Karsten Staiger

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The ACG has moved! New address as of June 15, 2023:

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