



: Crises as a Wake-up Call?

Prospects for a solidarity-based Europe

Last updated: 24.06.2022

Public Evening Event

Frauenkirche Dresden

30 June 2022, 19.00 Uhr

Organised as part of the Dresden Forum for International Politics

Conference languages

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

Cooperating partner



With financial support



The event is part-funded from tax revenue within the budgetary framework approved by the Members of the Saxon State Parliament.



THE TOPIC

The Treaty on European Union defines the promotion of solidarity among Member States as one of the EU's core objectives. However, how this is manifested in practice has become particularly apparent during the many crises which the EU has had to overcome over the past decade: the financial crash coupled with high youth unemployment, the treatment of refugees, and the United Kingdom's exit from the EU have been the focal point of European action during this period.

Since 2020, however, it has been the coronavirus pandemic and its impacts which have largely dominated the EU's agenda. As the first wave gripped the continent, many EU member states put their own national interests above European solidarity. A lack of coordination in the supply of healthcare equipment, an absence of joint measures to stop the spread of the pandemic and, not least, the closure of borders within the EU were the outcomes. Shared consternation at this lack of solidarity was followed by intensive efforts to agree a joint approach. The cross-border support in the provision of intensive care for COVID-19 patients and the joint procurement of vaccines are often held up as positive examples of European cooperation. However, the management of the (primarily) economic and social impacts of the pandemic will also reveal to what extent the European member states are willing to prioritise collective action over short-term national interests and thus safeguard harmonious relations within Europe on a lasting basis. With Russia's attack on Ukraine and the resulting flight, solidarity within the European Union is once again being put to the test.

What lessons can be learned from the handling of the coronavirus pandemic for solidarity-based action within the EU? What can be done to improve intra-EU crisis management from the outset in future? Might a restructuring of responsibilities between the nation-states and the EU be necessary, for example in the area of health policy? How can the economic and social impacts be overcome through cooperation? And what would a strengthening of intra-EU cohesion mean for the role of the EU on the world stage?

PROGRAMME

19.00 HRS MUSICAL PRELUDE

19.05 HRS WELCOME

Maria Noth

Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden

19.10 HRS OPENING SPEECH

Viola Klein

Deputy Chairperson

Development and Peace Foundation (sef.), Bonn

Geschäftsführerin der Saxonia Systems Holding GmbH, Dresden

Dr Jürgen Zattler

Director General International Development Policy; Agenda 2030; Climate
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Bonn/Berlin

19.25 HRS INITIAL INPUTS

Michael Kretschmer

Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony, Dresden

Manfred Weber MEP

Member of the Conference of the Presidents,
European Parliament, Strasbourg/Brussels

19.55 HRS IN DIALOGUE WITH

Dr Tomáš Jelínek

Executive Director

Czech-German Fund for the Future, Prague

FINAL WORDS BY THE ORGANIZERS

Viola Klein

20.45 HRS MUSICAL FAREWELL

*Organist: **Samuel Kummer***